PREFACE

Values of Indian youths are undergoing a rapid change owing to technical, economic and social development in the country. What we cherished as 'Permanent Values' once are no more laudable to the present day youths. That is why various commissions have emphasized value education and recently the New Education Policy (1986) has also stressed the need for inculcation of values mentioned in our constitution in our students. But a clear-cut programme for such an education, through which values of a democratic society and qualities of a responsible citizen could be developed in our students, is still needed. Jurisprudential Inquiry Model of teaching has been proposed to develop students ability to inquire into social issues and to resolve conflicts through intellectual confrontation.

A big part of Jurisprudential Inquiry Model is, "helping people understand that there are various ways of resolving social and public issues, so that they can begin to see the different priorities, assumptions and value systems that create a particular world view". In developing a sensitivity towards controversial issues, it is not enough that people simply know a hundred different ways of resolving them. What is important is that they have some way of understanding complexity, of understanding other peoples
assumptions without pre-judging them, and then finally, understanding that it is not all relative, rather that their own values inform their decision-making, and that they need to make a decision and come to take a stand about what is best appropriate. A crucial part of process of reaching judgement is to make judgements that are open to being changed by new information. In a general sense, "as citizens in a democracy we need to be encouraged to go ahead and act on our own views".

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