



Foundation for Restoration of National Values

Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear Friends of FRNV,

Value Education has been seen as a way to inculcate values and morals in the younger generation. However there has been a big gap in the approach to implementing this in the school system.

In the current system of thinking, the focus of value education is the student and the student alone. And this is done through a curriculum, books, etc.

But children are faced with severe conflicts and contradictions when the people around them – parents, teachers, principal, the school management & administration – conduct themselves in a manner which does not in anyway reflect value-orientation.

For values to be inculcated in education, the entire schooling system (all the stakeholders in it) will have to together take up the cause. All stakeholders collectively will have to create an environment which is conducive to imbibing and living values. Let us remember: “value-based living cannot be delegated!”

Editorial Team

Book Release

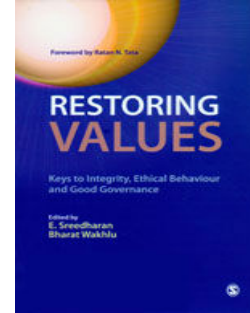
**“Restoring Values:
Keys to Integrity,
Ethical Behaviour &
Good Governance”**

Edited by:

**Dr. E. Sreedharan &
Sri Bharat Wakhlu**

Published by:

SAGE Publications



FRNV's new book titled '**Restoring Values – Keys to Integrity, Ethical Behaviour & Good Governance**' was released on 13th May 2010. This book presents a collection of articles, from some of the finest thinkers, which throws light on what we need to do to restore values in all walks of life.

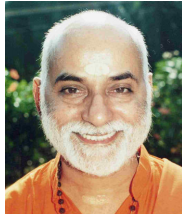
This volume is a wake-up call to Indians to shape their country as an ethical nation. The articles in the compilation have been written by some of the most eminent thinkers and leaders of India, in various fields, all of whom are known for their commitment to living and working with integrity. It addresses the reasons for the absence of honest, ethical and transparent dealings in all sections of the society, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government.

The articles present a credible and practical set of ideas and approaches to raise standards of integrity, ethical behaviour and governance in the institutions of our country. Some of the articles were presented at a two-day conclave organized by the Foundation of Restoration of National Values in New Delhi in November 2008. The compendium not only captures the essence of the conclave, but goes beyond it by providing a roadmap for initiatives that can be taken at the

individual and collective levels to transform India into an upright nation – free from corruption, deception and opaqueness in decision making.

Wholesome Leadership, Wholesome Life – Inspiration from Wholeness

[On January 8, Poojya Swamiji addressed (through video-conference) the participants of a 6-day programme “Ethics in Public Governance” held in, Panchgani, near Pune.



Twenty-eight officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), holding key positions in various Ministries and other Government Organizations, took part in the event. Excerpts from Poojya Swamiji’s talk is presented below.]

Understanding Paramount Potential of Administrators

When all the Administrators, appointed for their long tenure, stand together with National fondness, concern, and commitment, the entire Nation will not only notice it, but will surely appreciate and admire it with enthusiasm. If the intention is global welfare, none will resist it. In fact, we need such Administrative machinery. I am looking for the day, when our IAS will become a great nationally formidable force.

To become so, you need nobody’s permission. It is inherent in your selection, appointment and the trust reposed on you by the people. I ask you: Are you conscious of this fact? If you are, you must have no doubt about your potential, possibility and the need to achieve these during your committed career.

I would like you to remember always that the elected leaders are transitory, whereas the selected ones are lasting. Where then lie the Nation’s greater strength, stability, character and cohesion? Can any political head do anything good or bad in the country, without the active sharing and participation of the Public Administrators? You are holding the key to everything good and beneficial for the country. In any instance of wrong, denial or disorder, I cannot acquit the administrative

team. If you, Public Administrators, begin to buckle, for whatever reason, it breaks the Nation’s backbone. Are you conscious of this fact – especially when consequences are disastrous, and sometimes even irretrievable? If you are, then what except your own inner insufficiency can hinder you?

Nation First

I exhort you, on behalf of the Nation, of which you and I are devout citizens, to keep the welfare and stability of our country, above your own personal needs and flair. Be not subjugated by fear of losing your position. The character of an Administrator consists in his readiness and ability to act without fear or favour.

Fear is mostly personal or familial. Often, the lack of integrity and dedication is the sole cause for it. To rise above such fear, your own personal mind and heart alone will be the source of strength and inspiration. The question is thus: “Will you be able to instill and enhance this inner stock every time, faithfully?” This is where spiritual wisdom and its undeniable motivations count supreme.

Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha
Inspiration & Guide, FRNV

Leadership Sans Ego

It is essential to have leadership committed to ethical practices if corruption is to be combated, but again this is easier said than done. In our country, it is common practice for the political leadership to transfer inconvenient heads of public projects or at least pressurize them to do their bidding, even if the schemes themselves suffer as a result. The national highways project is a glaring example, so many of its chairmen have been transferred that it has put the project behind by years. The need is to identify the right person for the job based on merit, integrity and track record. Integrity is vital. It is believed that the cost of any project comes down 15 per cent the moment people know that no money can be made illegally from it. It is also important that such a person should be trusted and supported because there will be problems which he cannot surmount on his own. I believe that his

integrity will also give him the courage to stand up to overbearing politicians out to serve their own needs. An aspect that may not have directly contributed to corruption but has certainly had an ill-effect on the progress of the nation is the ego of our public authorities. The multiplicity of authorities has created a situation in which every scheme is subject to regulation by a number of bodies.

The government may take a decision to do some project but it has to go through many clearances. In many cases, various departments decide to question the entire project. I feel that this is mostly because of the ego of some administrators who attempt to derail projects of national importance only because they do not want credit to go to some other department. People often ask how things get done quickly in China unlike in India. The reason is that their own departments do not question the decisions of the government. While regulation is necessary to ensure that checks are maintained on unscrupulous administrators, this should not come at the cost of development. The overall picture has to be kept in mind and there should be some authority that can set aside opposition from various departments to get things done.

**Dr. E Sreedharan,
President, FRNV**

News

Delegation meets Union Home Secretary

In a major development, a delegation comprising members from FRNV, CHRI (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative) and Common Cause, met Sri Gopal Krishna Pillai, Union Home Secretary, Government of India on 7th May 2010 and submitted a draft of the Delhi Police Bill 2010 prepared jointly by these three organizations. He was very receptive to the suggestions on Police Reforms. Executive Summary of the recommendations is available at the FRNV website.

Feedback/Suggestions

If you have any suggestions or feedback, we would be happy to address them. Please email them to frnadmin@valuefoundation.in or frnvindia@gmail.com

For any further information about our programmes, please visit our website www.valuefoundation.in

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