



International Journal of Innovations in Liberal Arts

Decline of Sanatan Values During Corona

Sanjay K. Jha

Amity School of Liberal Arts
Amity University Haryana, India

Received: DEC. 14, 2020

Accepted: DEC. 18, 2021

Published: JAN. 01, 2021

Abstract

Combatting the deadliest Corona carnage of the human history, the surviving countrymen must have heaved a big sigh of relief to see themselves with their near and dear ones after undergoing regular panic attacks of mistrust like - whether my oximeter is real or fake, whether my medicines are original or fake, whether will I get bed with adequate oxygen in hospital or not, whether will I die or will be killed, whether my last rites will be performed sacredly or not, etc. Under this horrendous shroud of mistrust in the caretakers, this article (a perception survey of 150 respondents comprising 50 relatives of the deceased, 50 Covid survivors, and 50 intellectuals of Delhi-NCR) firstly delves into identifying types of value crisis that the country and the countrymen underwent in the past 18 months. Secondly, the study reflects on the striking facts emanating from the elicited perceptions of the respondents about human value (henceforth → *Sanatan value*). **The Sanatan value is a prescriptive cum proscriptive belief system that transcends all frontiers of religion, nationality, culture, and race and is purely universal as it pertains to all for their intellectual, physical, and emotional wellbeing.** Finally, the article forwards seven remedial measures to restore and instill Sanatan values in our kinfolk.

Only a dormant soul can be oblivious to the heart-wrenching value crisis that the country witnessed during the ongoing pandemic. It is hard to forget how our values substantially crumbled and the commoners were left in a myriad of

problems while facing the pandemic. The black marketeers came in their elements by hoarding and selling medical equipment at exorbitant prices. The migrants, losing all means of livelihood and fearing starvation, wailed for helping hands but seeing no help from any quarter, they set off for their homes on foot for a safer life. But luck did not favour all as many died in road and rail accidents; many died of hunger; and some died of fatigue.



Deplorably, many in power aggravated the sufferings of the commoners for flouting half-baked Covid protocols. The migrants were made hop and crawl in the scorching heat for taking roads to their homes. It also reminds us of the ill-fated day of 8th May 2020 when 16 migrants for not being caught by police took railway track to reach their homes. But luck was not on their side as all of them were run over by a speeding goods train. Appallingly, society also distanced itself from Covid patients showing almost no compassion, empathy, and remorse towards them. For fear of being socially stigmatized and treated like criminals and untouchables, many Covid suspects and patients ended their lives.

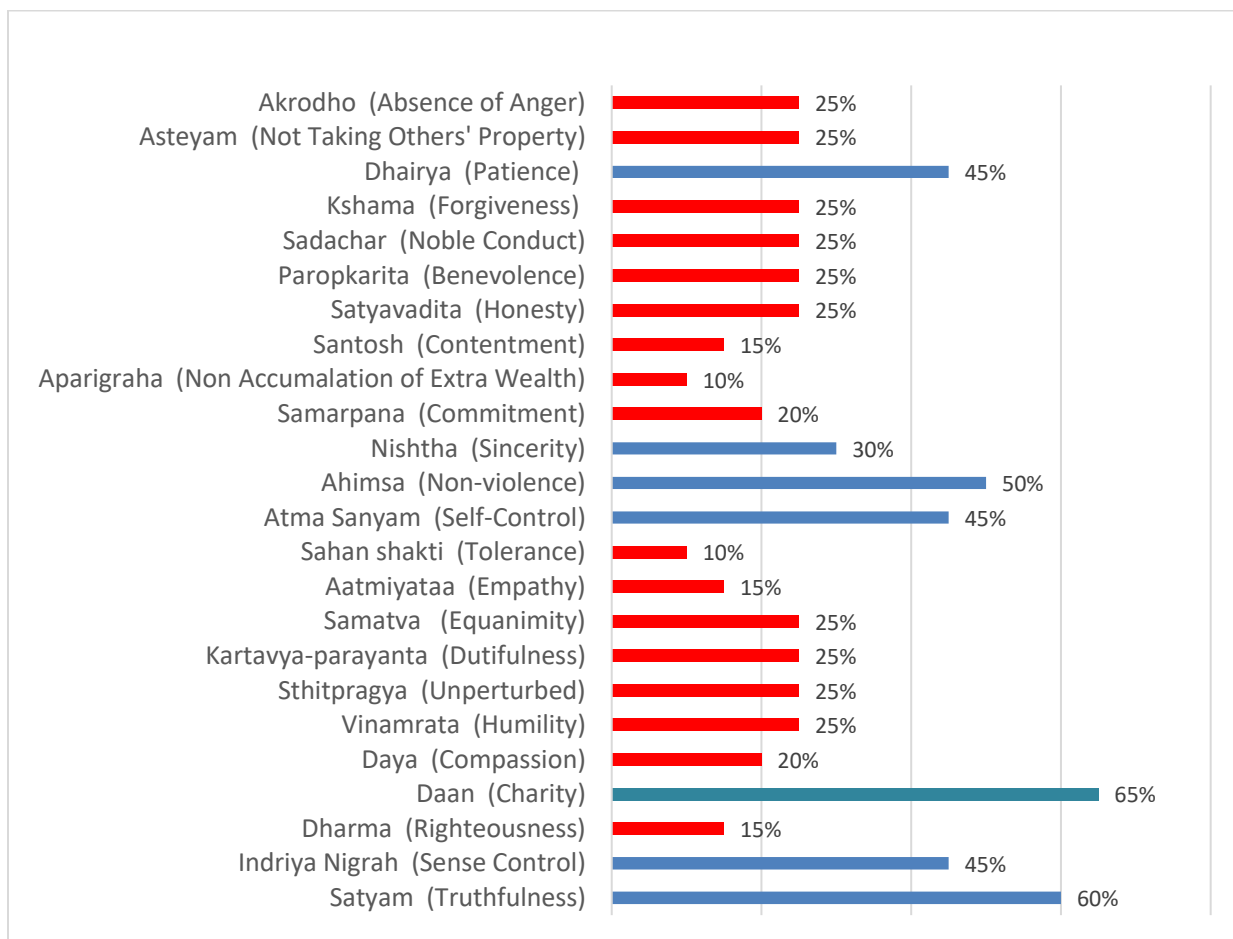
Unaware of the fact that any congregation becomes the chief cause of mass infections, it was Jamatis in the 1st wave who became the source of mass spread of Corona and it was Naga Sadhus of kumbh in the 2nd wave who surged Covid cases and deaths in the country. So did the people involved in the election rallies.



The worse came to the worst in the second wave when the land of great sages and seers that always echoed the welfare shloka like सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः। सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः। सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु। मा कश्चित् दुःख भाग्भवेत्॥) was on rampage today by

strangulating vital codes of ethics, morality, and values of Sanatan Bharat. With black-marketing of oxygen, oximeter, medicines, vaccines, ventilators, ambulance-service, the countrymen also questioned over the skewed data of death toll and the ways dead bodies were handled by burning them in streets and immersing them in rivers.

Most grievously, our values went deep down the drain when the country saw several cases of rape and molestation of female Covid patients and female attendants but they went unheeded in the commotion of Corona. **How can we call it a Corona pandemic? For me, it is a sinful pandemic because the corona-caused deaths could have been halved reduced had we not lost our Sanatan values.** For such heinous acts, no one should be blamed except us. Before any government or an administration, such a pervert belongs to our society and our family. The irony is most of us keep cherishing compromising with our values. And, this is the point of departure for the present study that tried to explore the degree of observing the following 24 Sanatan values during the pandemic.



The bar chart above shows a sharp decline in the observance of the stated values. It is also noteworthy that out of 24 values, 17 values are being observed or practiced up to 25% only (in red) and only 7 values are observed in the range of 30% to 65 %. The most notable fact in the bar chart is not even a single value is observed up to 100%. This finding is very disturbing as it can be deemed as the ~~death~~— absence of our core values like *akrodho*, *asteyam*, *Kshama*, *sadachar*, *paropkarita*, *satyavadita*, *santosh*, *aparigraha*, *samarpana*, *sahan shakti*, *aatmiyataa*, *samatva*, *kartavya-parayanta*, *sthitipragya*, *vinamrata*, *daya*, and *dharma*. Pertinently, I feel that ***the first wave of Corona came in India but the second wave was invited by us partly because of violating Covid protocol and partly because of compromising with our Sanatan values.***

From remedial perspectives, the study forwards seven suggestive measures for the restoration and inculcation of Sanatan values in us.

- There should be periodic audits of human values at workplaces to ensure the observance of Sanatan values.
- The modern education should result into producing value holders rather than mere degree holders. For this, values must be talked if not taught.
- Prioritize moral education in parallel with mainstream education and students should be conferred any academic degrees only after exhibiting desired ethical values in their personality.
- For stable internalization, values must be instilled from the age of 5 to 25.
- Follow the value of *aparigraha* above the rest and shun all the paradoxical stances to get rid of our current dystopian society.
- The valued people need to be acknowledged for the dissemination of values.
- The country needs to roll out value-based rewarding competitions at all levels which could help us live with desirable values in our social settings.

At last, I shall conclude with two broad concerns. Firstly, our purpose of education is not being served today because our purpose of education is **सा विद्या या विमुक्तये** meaning *a true education is one that liberates us from physical, mental, and social sufferings*. Today's education, on the contrary, multiplies our sufferings because it keeps acquisition of information and survival skills in the centerstage. Practicing Sanatan values is more important to live a harmonious life than hoarding an array of academic qualifications. Thus, a great paradigm shift is not only imperative but also inevitable. We need to bring Sanatan values to the fore because they are universal values that connect humans, societies, and civilizations across the globe and is also analogous to India's national identity and unity on socio-cultural front. Secondly, the need has arisen to transform a human into a better species of human endowed with Sanatan values. In doing so, we need to form an array of learning consortiums at both micro and macro levels of society and involve all the stakeholders especially teachers, parents, students, different regulatory bodies, and valued policy makers from judiciary, legislative, executive, and media on one platform and find

ways of humanizing our countrymen with Sanatan values for a new dawn of Sanatan Bharat.