

Impact Analysis of Universal Human Values and Ethics Course on the Understanding of B.Tech. Students

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Abstract

The importance of values in shaping personal identity and achieving a fulfilling life is undeniable. Human values and professional ethics form the foundation for harmonious coexistence and sustainable living. Recognizing this, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University introduced a credit course on Universal Human Values and Professional Ethics (UHVPE) to promote self-exploration, reflective thinking, and holistic development among students. This paper examines the impact of the UHVPE course on B.Tech. students, focusing on its role in fostering right understanding, emotional resilience, harmonious relationships, and environmental awareness.

A survey conducted among 120 second-year students revealed significant positive outcomes, including the development of a holistic perspective on life, enhanced motivation, improved interpersonal relationships, and better emotional regulation. This study underscores the need for integrating value education universally across higher education curricula to nurture responsible and ethically aware citizens, thereby contributing to long-term societal progress. Future efforts should aim to expand such initiatives globally, ensuring that education transcends skill acquisition and fosters holistic, value-driven living.

I-Introduction

Values are very important aspects of our life which form a significant part of our personal identity. Our values are important because they develop us to achieve our full potential. They help us to carve the future we dream for our self. Each one of us wants to live a fulfilling life. The basic human aspiration of every human being is continuous happiness and prosperity.

Exploring the meaning of happiness, we find that happiness is to understand and to live in harmony at all levels of living. So we have to devise a programme that transcends mere skill acquisition and integrates value-based learning. Two critical questions should be addressed holistically:

1. **Understanding Human Reality:** Education should guide every student to independently explore and comprehend the essence of human existence, free from reliance on dogmas or pre-existing beliefs.
2. **Achieving a Fulfilling Life:** This understanding should help individuals live a balanced and harmonious life within themselves, their families, society, and the natural world.

At a societal level, such education fosters a humane culture and civilization, ensuring the continuity of meaningful traditions across generations. Value-based education, which includes skill education as a subset, forms the foundation of this transformative approach. It aims not just to prepare individuals for professional success but also to cultivate moral, ethical, and holistic development.

II-Human Values and Professional Ethics

Value is the act of participating in the larger order. As human beings, each of us naturally participates in systems such as the family, society, and nature, and this participation reflects our values. Human values are the essence of being human and serve as guiding principles for life. They are fundamental to fostering positive human behavior.

These values are often regarded as universal, transcending differences in religion, nationality, culture, and personal history. They form the common foundation for harmonious living and coexistence, connecting all human beings regardless of their individual circumstances.

In our relationships with other human beings, we naturally strive to embody feelings of trust, respect, and love, which are the core values of human interactions. These fundamental human values are universal and apply to every individual, regardless of time, place, or situation. They define the role of a human being within existence—whether in relation to oneself, other individuals, or the natural world.

In essence, Universal Human Values (UHV) focus on enabling human beings to live with happiness and prosperity in a sustainable way, in harmony with society and nature. While these values are universal, their expression may vary across cultures. For instance, the value of respect might be expressed through an embrace in one culture, a handshake in another, or a bow in yet another. However, the underlying value of respect remains constant and universal.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, the State University of Uttar Pradesh, started the course titled A Foundation Course in Human Values and Professional Ethics in the year 2009 as an Audit Course. This course was introduced in all the colleges of Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow as a 3-unit course in 2nd year. The students are also exposed to the content during the mandatory 21 days Induction Programme. A credit course on Universal Human Values and Ethics has been introduced in numerous universities across the country in recent years. This course addresses fundamental issues essential to achieving a happy and prosperous human life. The content is presented as a proposal for self-exploration, allowing students to engage in self-verification and self-validation.

Students are encouraged to reflect on the material based on their natural acceptance and validate it through their day-to-day experiences. The course content is carefully designed to be universal, rational, and verifiable, ultimately guiding students toward harmony within themselves, with others, and with nature. The impact of the credit course on UHVPE needs to be assessed to be able to develop right understanding among the engineering students so as to equip them to face the challenges of life smoothly.

III- OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the present study is to study the impact of UHVPE credit course on the B.Tech. students.

IV- Challenges Addressed by the Course

1. **Decline in Human Values:** There's a recognized decline in human values across various societies, including issues like corruption, abuse, and moral crises. This decline necessitates interventions in education to nurture and reinforce positive values among students.
2. **Educational Role:** Schools and colleges are highlighted as critical environments for imparting value education. They play a pivotal role in supplementing the values taught at home and in shaping students' ethical foundations.

V- The Credit Course on Universal Human Values and Ethics

1. **Course Design and Content:** The course aims to instill values through self-reflection and validation by students themselves. It emphasizes universality, rationality, and harmony, promoting a holistic perspective on life and relationships.
2. **Pedagogical Approach:** The course includes exploration techniques, open discussions, and practical sessions at individual and group levels. These methods encourage students to internalize values actively rather than passively receiving them.
3. **Transformational Impact:** The course has been noted for initiating a process of self-exploration and reflective thinking among students. It helps them understand their needs, relationships, societal participation, and emotional management more effectively.

VI- Methodology-

A survey was conducted on a sample of 120 II year students to analyze the impact of the UHVPE course on the thinking process of the students. Total 20 questions were framed to assess the impact – 08 questions were framed to see the development of right understanding, 05 questions were to assess their awareness about health, 04 questions were designed to assess their willingness to contribute for the society and 03 questions were asked to see their awareness about nurturing /protection of nature.

VII- Present Study

The survey indicates that the course has been transformative, sparking a process of self-exploration and reflective thinking among students. It has initiated the development of a holistic perspective on life, helping students recognize the need for physical facilities, fostering harmonious relationships, establishing a bond of co-existence with nature, and cultivating self-regulation to manage negative emotions and lead a healthy life—all within a relatively short period.

The findings also highlight that values can be effectively inculcated in higher education students through structured classroom inputs, provided the pedagogy incorporates exploratory techniques, open discussions, and creative individual and group practice sessions.

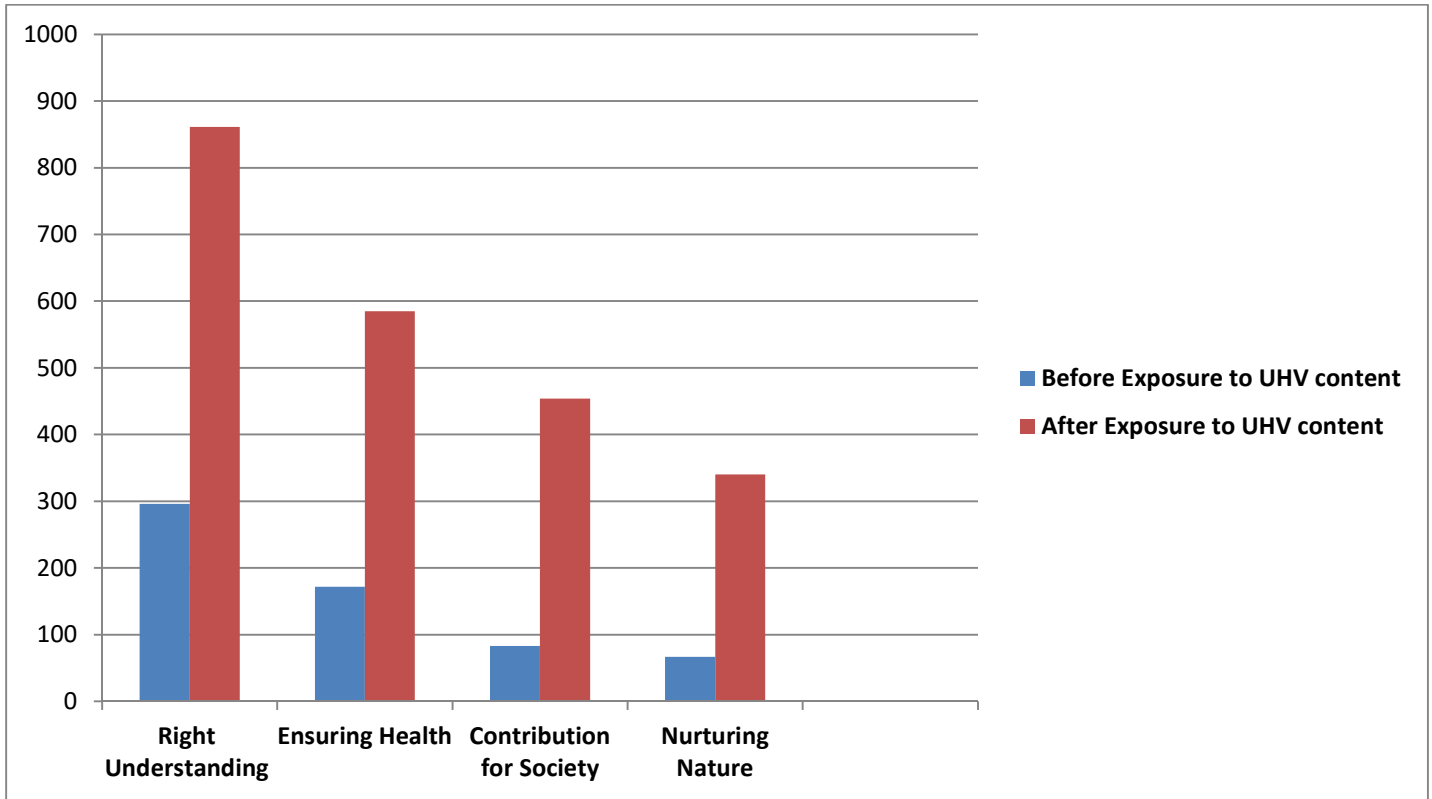
These outcomes underscore the vast potential for higher education, starting with value education as a foundation, progressing toward value-based education, and ultimately fostering value-based living.

VIII- Research and Findings

Survey Results: Indicate positive outcomes such as enhanced holistic perspective, emotional resilience, and a deeper understanding of harmonious co-existence with nature and society.

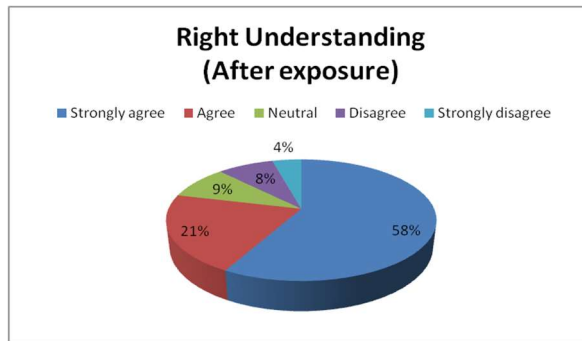
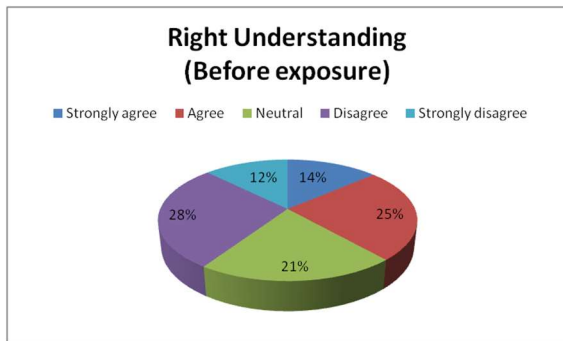
Educational Recommendations: Highlight the need for integrating value education into the broader curriculum of higher education institutions universally. This integration aims to promote value-based living and a more humane culture.

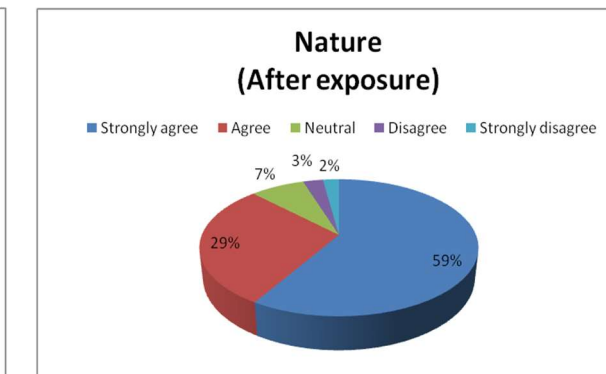
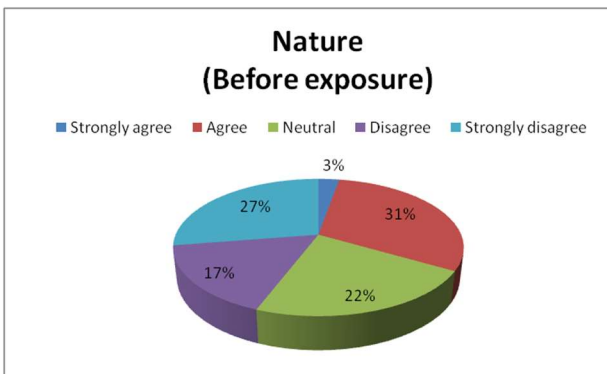
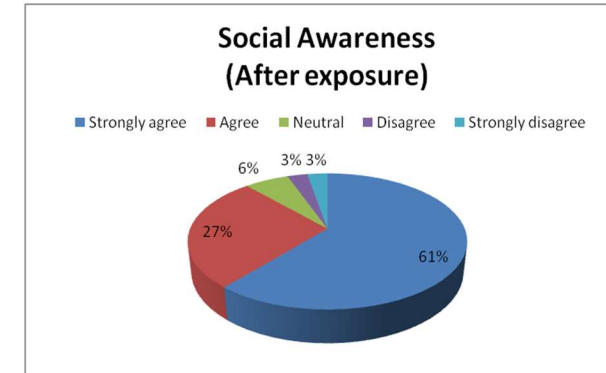
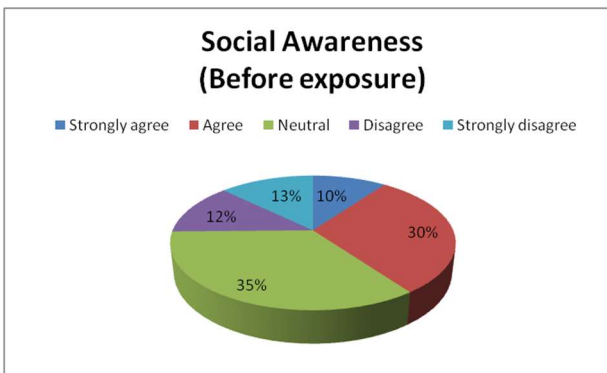
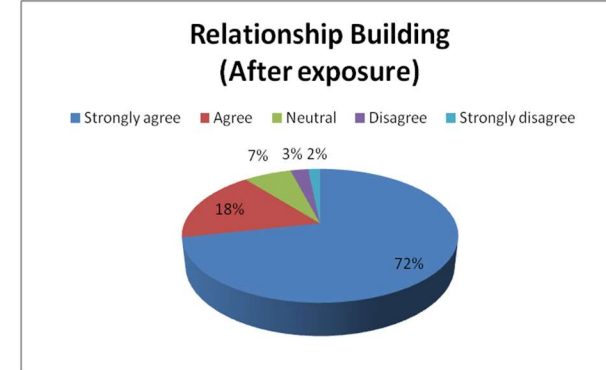
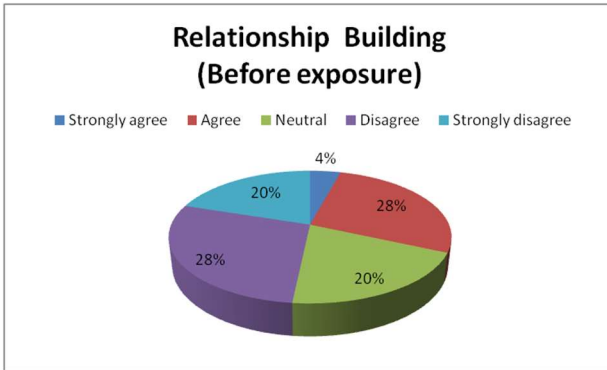
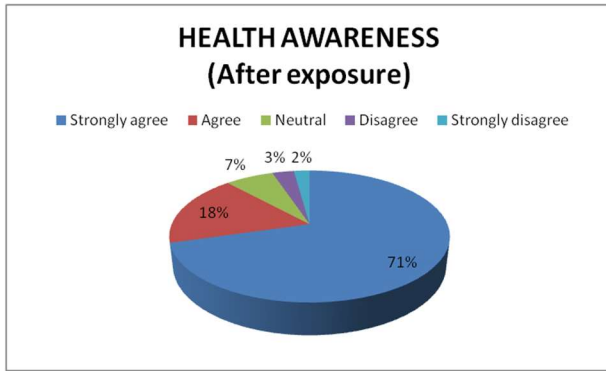
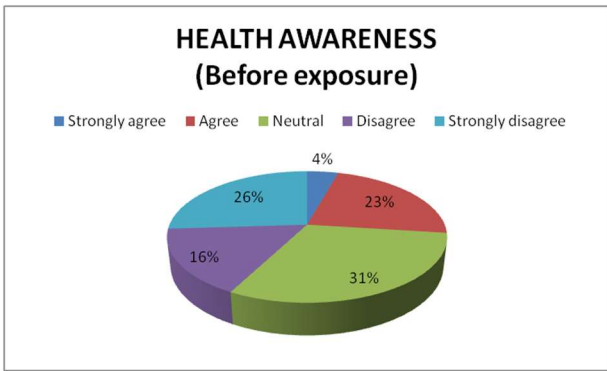
Discussion



IX- Analysis of the Survey

The survey results clearly show the visible impact of the various proposals discussed during the teaching of UHVPE course. The detailed analysis is as follows-





The survey analysis of the Human Values course reveals several key insights:

1. **Teachable Nature of the Course:** The course is largely teachable, as students are able to grasp its concepts within a semester, suggesting the material is understandable and can be conveyed effectively within the timeframe.
2. **Independent Opinions:** The survey results show that students express strong opinions (either strongly agreeing or disagreeing), suggesting that their views are authentic and not unduly influenced by the faculty. This indicates the course encourages independent thinking and personal reflection on the material.
3. **Practical Application of Concepts:** A significant percentage of students agree or strongly agree on the practicability of the proposals presented in the course, showing that the course effectively conveys how to apply human values in daily life, emphasizing real-world relevance.
4. **Positive Impact on Relationships:** The course has had a considerable positive impact on students' relationships, both within their families and in wider social interactions, underscoring its success in fostering interpersonal growth and understanding.
5. **Holistic Development:** The course also contributes to the overall well-being of students. It improves their motivation in studies, enhances their happiness and sense of prosperity, helps reduce negative emotions, and initiates self-exploration, which supports personal and professional development across various aspects of life.

Overall, the course is effective in both theoretical understanding and practical application, with a tangible positive influence on students' personal growth and well-being.

X-Conclusion and Scope for Future Work

In conclusion, the course has demonstrated significant effectiveness in fostering self-exploration among students. It has enabled them to gain a deeper understanding of their physical needs, nurture healthier relationships with family and friends, and recognize their active role in society. Furthermore, it has enhanced the purpose of higher education, elevating it beyond the confines of skill acquisition to make it more purposeful, holistic, and value-driven.

To maximize its impact, such value-based educational inputs should be made accessible to all institutions of higher education, not only in India but across the world. The course on Universal Human Values and Ethics has demonstrated its effectiveness in higher education settings by fostering introspection, empathy, and a deeper appreciation for ethical conduct among students. Future efforts should focus on expanding such courses across all educational institutions to ensure broader societal impact and sustainable value-based education.

In essence, the course not only addresses the immediate educational needs but also contributes significantly to the long-term societal well-being by nurturing responsible and ethically aware citizens.

References:

1. A Foundation Course in Human Values and Professional Ethics, Second Edition, R R Gaur, R Asthana, G P Bagaria, Excel Books