VALUES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A REFLECTION

by

Marilyn Artezuela
Teacher III, Bayview Elementary School

The 21st century marks the beginning of the new lifestyle, with Internet and social media being the center of most activities. It changes everything; the way people behave, interact, and even the way values are viewed and the value system.

What are values? Values are the standards and the norms of the society in which people are following. These serve as the guiding principles that determine the goodness or badness of an act.

They say that values vary every generation, but actually it is not the values that change, it is the people that change and eventually forming new value system. There are things or situations that become usual to many that alter the way they act in the community. There are things which are common to everyone and embraced by many that transform them.

According to Dr. Dolosa, a psychologist, people, especially millennials are dependent on social media. They want to look good all the time in different social networking sites (SNS) that they are logged in. They are after on what others will say/comment than being simple and true. Indeed, they beautify themselves for others in order to make them attractive and good-looking than maintaining positive attitude despite unattractiveness. This event changes the way people value appearance. They also like to communicate using these virtual communities rather than face-to-face interaction. They also prefer to talk with their friends and loved ones on SNS than to interact personally. In this way, they lose the real essence of communication. They even use foul language on social media. Words that are unusual to say in public and not normally discussed in the platforms like fuck, shit, fucboi, and sex become evident on the conversations among millennial, students, and the youth. This event loses the value of modesty.
In one of the episodes of Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho (2017), people who want to change physical feature or some physical features of themselves are getting younger and younger as days pass by. Teenagers are aiming to change at least their nose, color of the skin, eyes, or chin. There are few people who deliberately undergo operations to modify parts of their face and body. These people lose the value of self-respect and the virtue of contentment. They did not preserve and protect their body, but instead they are the ones who are destroying it.

Furthermore, men are using technologies like text, chat, and video call to court the woman they like than visiting her at home and meeting the parents. They even get into relationship without meeting each other in person and using the networks as avenues to get to know each other. As a result, they lose the value of courtship. Some teenagers are used to have more than one relationship at the same time rather than being faithful. This situation elucidates infidelity at the very young age.

These are some of the situations that changed people’s values. The actions that humans do, new things that they follow, and the materials that they use, can change their lives. Therefore, people must carefully weigh these things.

References:


Dr. Randy Dollosa, Psychologist.
