

# **DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT CHARACTER THROUGH PRINCIPALS' SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP PRACTICES BASED ON BANDURA'S SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY**

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## **Introduction**

Education aims at the all-round development of a person. All-round development means intellectual, physical and moral development. These three aspects of development are equally important. The moral development of a person is essential for the development of a society. Only when a person is morally developed, can he be called a productive citizen. Moral development of a person is attained through character development.

Character is not taught, but caught. It begins at home, through the good examples of parents and other relatives. When a child enters the school this responsibility is extended to the school. There the teachers and the principals have to provide students with good examples to follow. Teacher- student interaction used to play a very significant role in the formation of character in the mind of the pupils. However, in our present society, this interaction is not found to be effective (Sobhana, 2006). So there is a great responsibility vested with the principals in the development of the student's character. Nair (2008) stated that modeling which youth can reproduce through observation can provide valuable information and direction while educating young people. Bandura's work has done a good deal to increase the awareness of the importance of models in child-rearing and education. According to Vijayasree (2006), it is the duty of the teacher to guide, inspire and illumine his/her students to enrich their discipline and to inculcate values which are in consonance with cultural heritage and social objectives.

Deterioration of values among the younger generation is a universal phenomenon. A lot of research has been conducted about the factors influencing the decline of values. Many reasons have been identified. Three main reasons for the decline are: 1. the disintegration of the family, 2. a materialistic outlook, 3. the lack of effective moral education in schools. According to Wardekker (2001) these problems are caused by a decline in the functions of moral education in the family and schools. Researchers found a change in the structure of society and family as the root cause for this decline of morality.

There used to be traditional families where many family members lived together. In India, it was called the joint family system, in which all members of the family were living together. In this context, younger ones could learn good habits from the older ones. But at present, this joint family system has broken up and the nuclear family has arrived. In the nuclear family, there are only a father, a mother and one or two children. In the nuclear family, since both parents are working, they have no time to spare for their children, to teach them good habits. In the nuclear family system, with both parents working, the parents lose their role as a model. This responsibility of the parents is now taken over by the role models and heroes from television and the internet.

So, as many parents believe, this responsibility of inculcating good habits among the children is shifted from home to schools. Now it is seen as the responsibility of the teachers, principals and other educational leaders to teach the students to develop their character. However, the present educational system neglects this aspect of character development of the students. At present, principals, teachers and parents stress only the academic achievement of the students. Teachers are concerned only about how the test score of each student can be increased. Principals are engaged in upgrading the name of the schools through good results. Parents are concerned only about the production of good grades, irrespective of the inability of the students. In such a situation, it is no wonder that the younger generation is misled by the wrong models and concepts.

In this context, the researcher has developed a model to enhance the development of student character in the Indian context.

## **Research Questions**