



ETHICS IN DAILY LIFE

What can be better than a hot cup of tea and a newspaper on a bright pleasant morning? But what do we read in the paper, news about greed, corruption, discrimination, robbery, injustice and many similar incidents. This often leaves us worried about our security and safety. India has always been regarded as a country of high moral and ethical values. Have we lost our value system or is it just a phase that we as a nation are going through? Doesn't it set you thinking about the changes happening in our society, country and ourselves?

All of us imbibe the same set of ethics and yet some of us discover unjust and unethical shortcuts to success. Is it always important to be ethically right? You shall find answers to these and many such questions in this lesson.



Fig 21.1



OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson, you will be able to:

- describe the terms 'values' and 'ethics';
- explain the need for values and ethics in everyday life;
- explain the importance of respecting both rights and responsibilities;
- recognize and value the dignity of labour;



Notes

- apply the learnings to develop tolerance, empathy and positive attitude in life, and
- develop a personal code of conduct that balances your rights and responsibilities.

21.1 VALUES AND ETHICS

Asif was a taxi driver in a city. One day a passenger left his briefcase in the car. Asif noticed it only when he was going home for lunch. He did not know what to do. He thought of opening it to see if the name and address of the owner was given. When he opened the briefcase he was surprised to find many valuable documents and cash in it. He found a card with a name and address of the owner on it. He drove straight to the owner's house and returned the briefcase. The owner was grateful and rewarded Asif for his honesty.

This is a very rare quality. He could have kept the cash and thrown away the documents. It was his conscience that did not approve of this act and made him make the right decision. Honesty is the value that Asif holds. You must be wondering what are values? Where do they come from? Are values different from ethics and so on? You will get answers to your questions.



Fig. 21.2

Now you know that Asif is an honest taxi driver. Apart from being honest, he was also truthful and responsible. He was known not to have cheated his passengers. So, we can say that value is something which an individual holds to be an important one and its helps in the development of his conscience. Your conscience is your internal policeman. This policeman helps you to choose the actions that are guided by your value system.

Suresh was Asif's colleague holding a different set of values. He would often behave unethically and cheat his passengers. He would take them from a longer route or fix the meter reading to charge more. Many times, he would argue with Asif about his honesty. Asif would often tell Suresh that one should always follow the path of truth in personal and professional life. Every work place and profession has its own sets of ethics which should be followed by all. So we can conclude that it is on the basis of the values we hold, that we can understand the ethics of the workplace.

Values are ideas and beliefs we hold and are learnt from childhood. They are imbibed from our parents and immediate surroundings. Caring for others, for

example, is a value. Whereas, **ethics** test our values, it is the way we behave in difficult situations.



ACTIVITY 21.1

As we go along the lesson, we will be evaluating some of the values we observe. Answer truthfully (Yes or No) how you feel in the following situations

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Returning what belongs to others upsets me. | Yes / No |
| 2. Picking money from my friend's bag adds to my pocket money | Yes / No |
| 3. Honesty is rewarded in the long run. | Yes / No |
| 4. If I have some rights, I have responsibilities too. | Yes / No |
| 5. My values help me to make correct decisions. | Yes / No |
| 6. Doing my chores myself gives me satisfaction | Yes / No |
| 7. I do not like my elders to advice me on every issue. | Yes / No |
| 8. It does not bother me to see other people in trouble. | Yes / No |

VALUES OF LIFE

It is important for each one of us to possess a set of values in order to maintain conducive atmosphere. A few of them are:

- Honesty and loyalty
- Respect for work
- Punctuality, regularity and discipline
- Courtesy and politeness with others
- Judicious use of resources
- Taking initiatives
- Efficiency in completing tasks

VALUES AT WORKPLACE

It is very important for an employee to possess a set of values in order to maintain a conducive atmosphere at the workplace. A few of them are mentioned below:

- Honesty and loyalty for the organization
- Respect for the work assigned
- Punctuality, regularity and discipline
- Judicious use of resources
- Courtesy and politeness with co-workers
- Efficiency in completing tasks
- Willingness to take up new tasks



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You may like to expand the list

Don't you think that the choices we make in our everyday life are based on our personal ethics? It is the values that are the guiding factors for all our decisions. They are the basis for our actions and behaviour. Let us understand how important ethics are for a just and peaceful society.

21.2 NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS

There are certain things that you read daily in newspapers - corruption, bribery, food adulteration, kidnapping, violence and murder. What is happening to our society? Why are people running after money by killing their conscience? There is a gradual erosion of values from the society. Few of us are engaged in accumulating wealth and gaining power through unfair means. Why are we allowing this to happen in our society? We can join hands to prevent the degradation of values in our society.

It is important that each one of us follows values in every sphere of life. What will happen to our society if values are not practiced? You can think of so many answers to this question:

- loss of life and damage to public property;
- break down of families;
- no law and order;
- crime and corruption;
- alcohol and drug abuse;
- abuse of women, children and other vulnerable members of the society and
- indiscreet use and wastage of resources.

There will be total imbalance in the society, if all its members do not practice values and ethics. Crime and chaos will rule and life will become difficult. Hence, it becomes our responsibility as an individual to live ethically.

21.3 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN INDIVIDUAL

Ankita was a class ten student. She was rude and had no respect for her elders. She would neither help her mother nor would she listen to her father. Instead she



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always argued with them on small issues. She would also be very rude to her neighbours. Her parents always wanted her to act in a responsible and a mature manner.

We all live in a family which nurtures us as individuals. We develop our abilities, give and receive love and dare to dream. Family life provides an individual an opportunity to learn and to establish and maintain healthy relations. Important social skills like caring, sharing, tolerance and empathy are all learnt in our home.

One day Ankita's family decided to make her realize her mistake. Ankita woke up late and began rushing around for getting ready for school. She shouted at everyone for her things, but no one listened to her. She somehow managed to get ready and reached school late. She was scolded for being late to school.

When Ankita came home in the afternoon, her mother sat by her and asked her how she felt about the morning experience. Ankita realizes that if she was rude, disrespectful and uncooperative, others would treat her in the same way. Have you ever behaved like Ankita? How would you feel if your family members would behave the same way as they did with Ankita?

Ankita realized her mistake and promised her mother to act responsibly in future. Our responsible behaviour brings a lot of satisfaction to us and as well as others. Ankita helped her grandmother with all the little things she could do for her and in reward would get a lot of blessings from her. She took the responsibility of taking her grandmother to the dispensary for her monthly checkups. She started teaching the vegetable vendor's children to read and write. Hence, we understand that every individual has some rights and responsibilities as a member of a family as well as a community. Only when the rights and responsibilities are taken together, there will be peace and harmony all around.

Responsibilities and rights go together and help in creating conducive environment

21.4 CARING AND RESPECTING OTHERS

Answer the six questions given below to test yourself and see if you sometimes show disrespect to others. There is no score or marking system. You are your own best judge.

- Q.1 When you enter a room do you remember to greet every single person in the room?
- Q.2 When you visit a friend's home, do you remember to take leave from the elders of that house?



Notes

- Q.3 When your friends visit you, do you introduce them to your other family members?
- Q.4 Do you raise your voice when you argue with elders?
- Q.5 Do you make a plan to go out without informing your mother or change the channel to your favourite TV programme without caring about the other family members?
- Q.6 Do you always stay away on important days in the family?

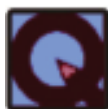
Remember: All these are signs of disrespect.

Ankita had heard her cousin asking a question, which she too asked, until a couple of years ago—“why should I respect somebody just because he/she is elder to me”? She has the answers now. Simply put, **one needs to be respectful to everybody, both elders and younger.**

RESPECT: TO GET IT, YOU MUST GIVE IT

Respect is one way of expressing our love and gratitude towards others. If we want others to give us respect, it is important that we respect them too. It does not mean that one needs to accept everything that others say. Sometimes you might not agree with their beliefs and views. It is important to know that even though it is alright to disagree it needs to be expressed politely. The younger generations often have disagreements with their elders and it is these differences that bring changes in human society. However we should always remember that **expressing your views is your right, but doing it respectfully is your duty.**

It is important to RESPECT ELDERS. But in case they make you feel uncomfortable, or take undue advantage of your respect, do not hesitate to confide in a trusted adult.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 21.1

1. Define the terms Ethics and Values?

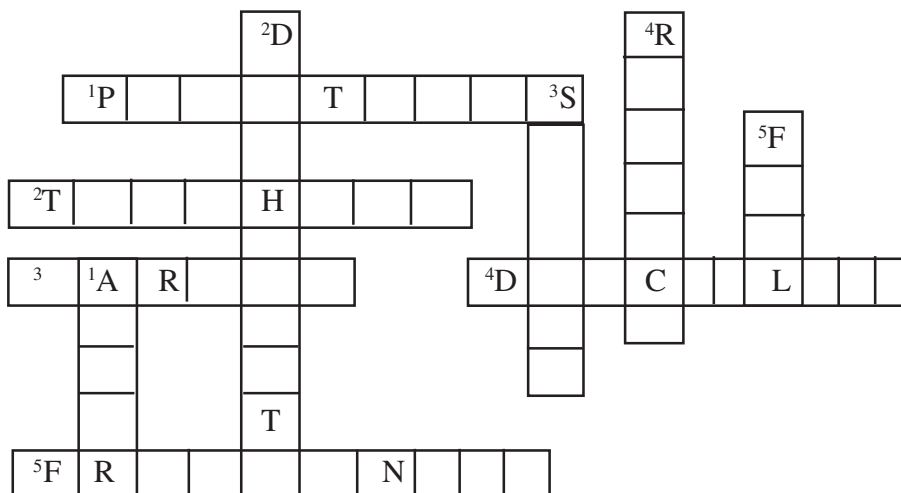


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2. Some good manners are listed below. Match Column A with Column B

1.	Speak to others	a.	when two people are talking
2.	Think before	b.	when talking to your parents
3.	Don't interrupt	c.	which can be understood by all in the group
4.	Never speak	d.	when talking about yourself
5.	Be respectful	e.	while sitting in a group
6.	Converse in the language	f.	ill of others
7.	Be humble	g.	you speak
8.	Do not whisper	h.	cheerfully
		i.	successfully

3. Solve the following cross word puzzle:



Down

1. Feeling when you loose your temper _____
2. The opposite of honest is _____
3. Sheena is _____, she does not like to share anything.
4. We should always show this to our elders _____
5. We should not use _____ language



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Across:

1. _____ in a person’s speech shows that he has good manners.
2. Mahatma Gandhi was always _____
3. A person with _____ attitude is liked by all.
4. We learn _____ in school.
5. Ask for this if you do something wrong.

21.5 DIGNITY OF LABOUR

Rajan was a fruit seller and Krishna, a seventy year old man was a road side cobbler who used to sit beside Rajan’s shop. Taking pride in his work, Krishna would challenge Rajan to inspect for any fault in the repair work. In case Rajan found any fault, Krishna would work with renewed vigour and present it again for inspection. Once Rajan asked him as to why he was working when he has three earning members at home. Krishna replied that he wished to earn his meal in a dignified manner.



Fig 21.3

All form of work manual or intellectual is called labour. **Dignity of labour means that all jobs are respected equally and no occupation is considered superior over other.** Unfortunately we start attaching value to intellectual work. We forget that respectability lies not in the kind of work we do but how well it is done. A sweeper who does his work well is more praiseworthy and hence is more honourable than a high placed official who neglects his duties or earns money through unfair means. All the religions of the world have talked about dignity of labour. The story of what Prophet said to a man who came to him expecting some charity clearly illustrates this. The prophet sold the man’s only belongings, a blanket and leather bag for two dirham. He gave this money to the man and asked him to buy an axe, cut and sell wood and return to him after fifteen days. When the man showed him the 20 dirhams (currency in several Arab nations) that he had earned for his labour, the Prophet (Pbuh) told him: “This is good for you rather than begging that leaves horrible scars on your face in the hereafter.” Similarly Guru Nanak, the first guru of the Sikhs, also spoke of the dignity of labor, and one of the first stories that began to circulate about him concerned his interaction with *Malik*

Bhago, the rich *zamindar* of Saidpur village and *Bhai Lalo*, a poor carpenter of the same village. Legend says that Guru Nanak chose dry bread at Bhai Lalo's over the sumptuous meal at Malik Bhago's because dry bread was bought out of the money earned with hard and honest labour.

Therefore, dignity of labour means that one respects all jobs equally and does not consider one superior to another. Rather than depending upon others it is better to earn one's own living and that too by honest means.



ACTIVITY 21.1

Often we take our loved ones for granted. We fail to value all the work that is put in by various members of the family in running a happy and fulfilling household. Have you ever thought about how much your parents and siblings do for you? Do this activity to see what family members do for each other and if we respond in the same way.

What do they do for you?	What do you do for them?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Can you write down five lines on how you feel when you do something for your family members?



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21.6 TOLERANCE, EMPATHY AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE

You must have known some people who may have excellent technical skills but find it difficult to get along with their team mates and the staff. They may face troubles in handling situations and problems of daily life in a positive and constructive way. Apparently they lack important skills like effective communication, problem solving, coping with stress and emotions, maintaining interpersonal relationships or even empathy for team mates and staff. All these and many more such skills are referred to as life skills.

Life skills are “the abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life” ‘Adaptive’ means that a person is flexible in approach and is able to adjust in different circumstances. ‘Positive behaviour’ implies that a person is forward looking and can find a ray of hope and opportunities to find solutions even in difficult situations.

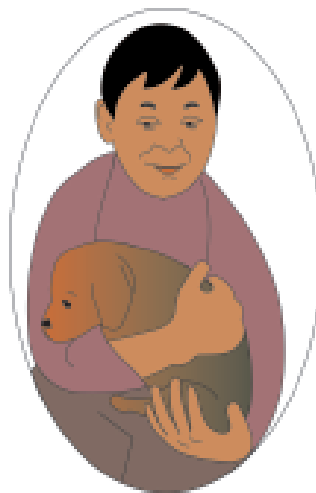


Fig 21.4

A farmer had some puppies which he wanted to sell. So he put up an advertisement. A little boy wanted to buy one of the puppies. The puppies were very expensive and the boy did not have enough money. Searching his pocket, he pulled out Rs. 10 and asked the farmer if it was enough to take a look at the puppies. The farmer agreed. The boy was delighted to see them. Suddenly, he noticed that one of the puppies was walking in an awkward manner. “I want that one,” the little boy said. The farmer informed that the puppy will never be able to run and play with him, since it had a limp. The boy paused for a while and insisted on buying that particular pup only. It was because those who are not able to run and play have less friends and he did not want that the pup to be lonely. The farmer was so

moved by the **empathetic gesture** of the little boy that he handed over that puppy to him.

The world is full of people who need someone to understand them. How good it would be if we start empathizing with people around us. **Empathy is the capacity to recognize and share the feelings that are being experienced by others.** **Tolerance** is another skill which helps us live peacefully in the society. **Tolerance is the ability to accept opinions and practices different from your own.** We can easily think of people who are intolerant and cause a lot of pain to others. Living in a society requires us to be tolerant towards the differences that exist among us. However, it does not mean that we should become indifferent to injustice and corruption or to accept evil around us. Infact, tolerance of the wrong things is a great evil.



Notes

Another attribute, along with empathy and tolerance necessary for living is positive attitude. **A positive attitude leads to positive events in your life.** Once Mrs. Gill an old and frail lady entered a restaurant and was greeted with lot of love and affection by the owner. Another customer looking at this could not resist himself asking the owner about her. The owner explained that during school years, his class was the naughtiest one the school had ever witnessed. Mrs. Gill, the science teacher, was their new class teacher. The class did everything they could to give her a hard time. But she never lost her temper, no matter what they did. At the end of the first month she brought a bunch of papers in her hand to the class. Everybody feared for the worst – a test. But no, it was something that surprised everyone. She called them one by one and gave them a paper each. Each paper had at least one good characteristic of the student in question. No teacher had ever done such a thing for them before. From then on Mrs. Gill did this every month emphasizing on their strengths and good work. The restaurant owner said that he was a class bully and could not think of anyone who would ever see something good in him. But by commenting on his courage and strength in settling arguments she gave him an opportunity to use his strengths positively. This is how Mrs. Gill moulded a bunch of misfits into great achievers – because now they believed in themselves. These students went on to fulfill their dreams. Instead of ruining their life with fights, alcohol and drugs they developed a positive attitude towards life.

Positive attitude helps to cope up with the day to day life. It brings optimism and makes it easier to avoid negative thinking and worries. It also helps to develop and maintain healthy interpersonal relationships

Empathy, tolerance and a positive attitude are also essential in understanding the requirements of people with special needs around us. These could be people with physical or mental disabilities, hearing or visual impairment. Even senior citizens deserve our love and care. Think of how you can help and/or work with them.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 21.2

1. Give short answers
 1. Do you think it was right for the farmer to take Rupees 10 from the little boy for just looking at the puppies?



Notes

2. What according to you must the little boy had felt when he came to know that the pup was suffering from a physical defect in his limbs?

3. Do you think that it was brave of the little boy to accept the pup with such a defect?

2. State if you agree or disagree with the following statements. Give reasons for your answer.

1. We can care for others as long as we are happy and contented. **Agree/disagree**

2. Only intolerance and aggression can give us what we want. **Agree/disagree**

3. Education and good upbringing promotes values. **Agree/disagree**

4. Children from poor families cannot have values. **Agree/disagree**

5. Showing tolerance and empathy are the keys for leading a peaceful life. **Agree/disagree**



ACTIVITY 21.2

Identify people with special needs in your environment. Observe their constraints and challenges. Ask any one of them how you could facilitate their day-to-day activities. Prepare a role play based on your understanding of people with special needs. Perform that role play in your neighbourhood and conduct a discussion to create awareness about the issue.



INTEXT QUESTION 21.3

1. From the grid given below find one word for the following sentences, which you have already read in this chapter. The words may be found diagonally, horizontally, vertically or reversed.
 - a. The ideas and beliefs which we hold.
 - b. We should show this not only to our elders but to our youngsters too.
 - c. The ability to accept opinion and practices different from your own.
 - d. Being sensitive to others needs.
 - e. The ability to understand, recognize and share feeling that is being experienced by someone else.

V	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	U
A	R	D	E	E	G	H	O	I
L	F	V	F	E	Z	X	L	C
U	H	S	C	I	H	T	E	A
E	M	P	A	T	H	Y	R	R
S	A	M	L	A	I	D	A	E
W	Y	K	E	V	L	B	N	J
D	I	R	N	P	T	Y	C	B
T	P	O	V	U	L	D	E	S

21.7 YOUR PERSONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

After reading this chapter, let us see if there has been a change in the way you think. Answer the same set of questions which you have already done in this chapter, Compare it with the previous one and note down the change. Answer truthfully about how you feel in the following situations

1. Returning what belongs to others upsets me. Yes / No
2. Picking money from my friend's bag adds to my pocket money Yes / No



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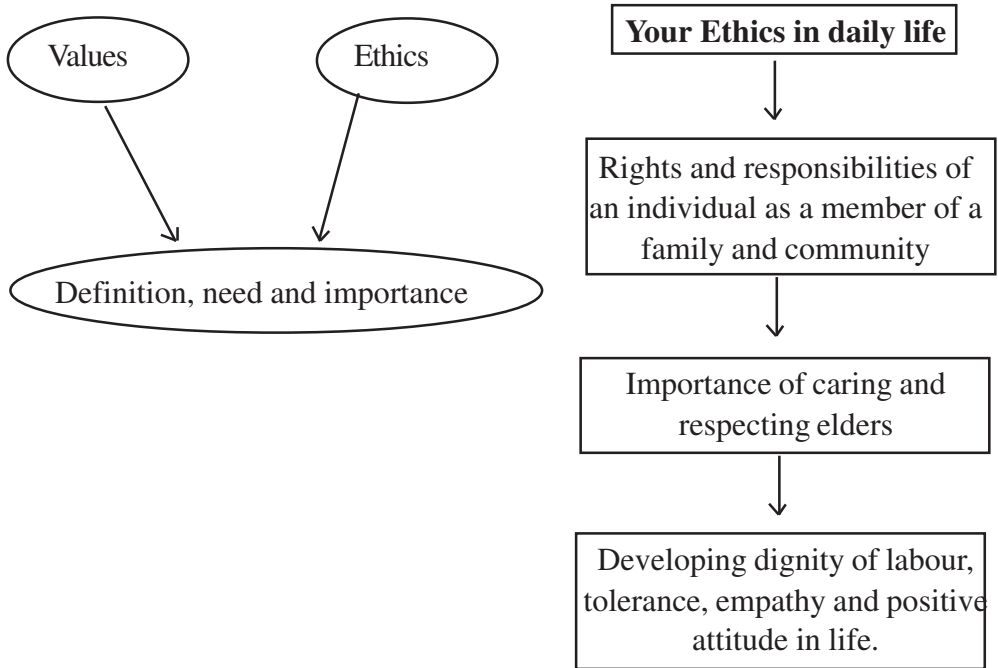
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- | | |
|--|----------|
| 3. Honesty is rewarded in the long run. | Yes / No |
| 4. If I have some rights, I have responsibilities too. | Yes / No |
| 5. My values help me to make correct decisions. | Yes / No |
| 6. Doing my chores myself gives me satisfaction. | Yes / No |
| 7. I do not like my elders to advice me on every issue. | Yes / No |
| 8. It does not bother me to see other people in trouble. | Yes / No |

Based on what you have learnt make a personal code of conduct for yourself. Check periodically if you are following the plan. After practicing it for three months assess if your outlook towards life has more positive.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT



THIS CAN HELP YOU TO DEVELOP





TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. Define the terms Values and Ethics with the help of examples from your daily life?
2. Where there are rights there are responsibilities too. Comment.
3. Why do you think there is a need for ethics in our daily life?
4. List down all the values you have learnt in this chapter.
5. How can the ethics of work-place benefit the employee?
6. How can we show respect to our elders?
7. Why is it important to appreciate/respect all jobs equally?
8. We should not be tolerant of everything that happens around us. Discuss.
9. How can our positive attitude help us in our daily life?
10. How has this chapter helped you to develop your personal code of conduct?



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

21.1

1. Values are the ideas and beliefs we hold as special and those that we imbibe from our parents and immediate surroundings. Ethics are how we actually behave in a difficult situation that tests our values.
- 2.

1	h
2	g
3	a
4	f
5	b
6	c
7	d
8	e

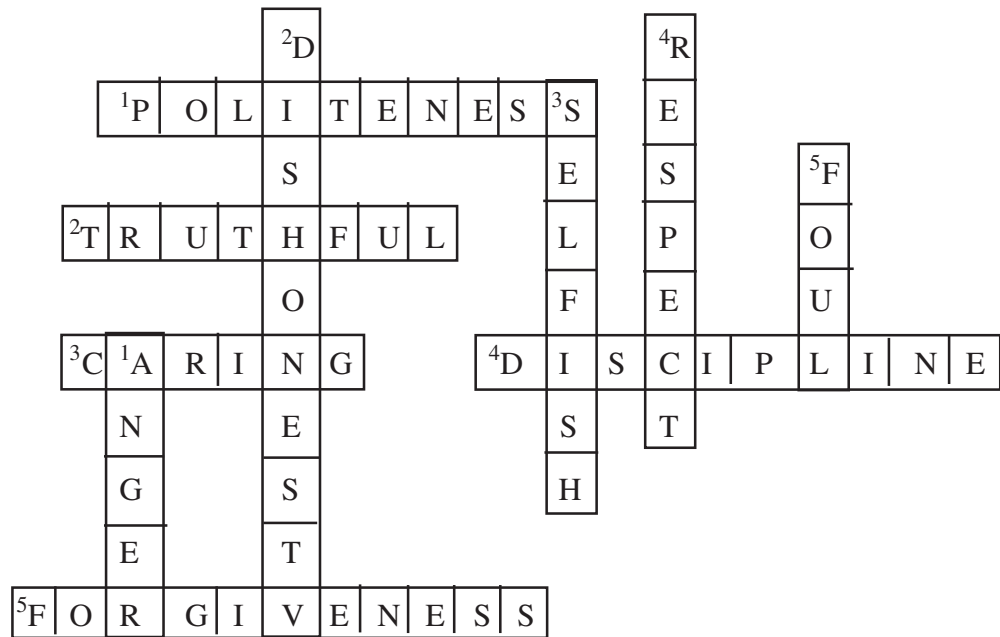


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3.



4. The students can write their own experiences

21.2

1. The students have to write from their own answers
2.
 1. Disagree. Caring for others is a value that does not depend upon mood or situations.
 2. Disagree. Aggression may result in negative consequences.
 3. Agree. Both education and good upbringing have a big role in developing values.
 4. Disagree. Values are based on what we think is right or wrong, it has nothing to do with the amount of money we may have.
 5. Agree. Tolerant rarely fight with others, which helps in building peaceful environment.

21.3 1

^a V	^b R	E	S	P	E	C	^c T	U
A	R	D	E	E	G	H	O	I
L	F	V	F	E	Z	X	L	^d C
U	H	S	C	I	H	T	E	A
^e E	M	P	A	T	H	Y	R	R
S	A	M	L	A	I	D	A	E
W	Y	K	E	V	L	B	N	J
D	I	R	N	P	T	Y	C	B
T	P	O	V	U	L	D	E	S