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## MORAL CORRUPTION: Through a literary lens.

Seerat Baji  
India, J&K

### INTRODUCTION:

Moral corruption is one of the major global issues that are being faced by the world community in today's times. Be it in the economic sphere, political sphere or social sphere; Moral corruption is leading to the complete deterioration of the society on the whole. It is only the moral values which enable us to see the difference between right and wrong. These values keep us intact to the very essence of humanity which otherwise goes haywire with the high tech. development, the digital world and the faster modes of transport.

The human resource which is considered to be the greatest of all the resources turns out to be a mere burden when it gets corrupted on the moral grounds. As a great French philosopher, Albert Camus, once said, "A man without morals is like a wild beast plundering this earth and bringing anarchy everywhere."

### IN PRACTISE SINCE AGES:

Since times in memorial, we have witnessed, how this corruption has paved way to all the other malpractices, which exist in the world. History is replete with many such examples. If we go back to the medieval English Literature, in 'The Canterbury Tales' which is the magnum opus of Geoffrey Chaucer, we find that how this moral corruption made the people of church totally self-centred, thus, drastically effecting the whole society of 14<sup>th</sup> century England.

When life becomes completely dependent on materialistic pleasures, the contentment vanishes like it never existed. It is also evident from F. Scott Fitzgerald's outstanding novel, 'The Great Gatsby', written in 1925, where the author very beautifully explains how the 'American Dream' is shattered by the moral corruption of people. For the lead female, Daisy, he says that "Her voice is full of money". This shows the level of desperation she holds for wealth, which eventually leads her astray. In fact, the ultimate fall of the Gatsby himself, is a result of the immoral acts being performed for the sake of materialistic growth.

Even, in 20th century, Adolf Hitler ordering his men to torture and execute Jewish people, is another reckless example of moral corruption. And all this also applies in today's world, as we witness everything being exploited around us on the name of money and muscle power.

This issue is so serious that, in 2015, John Hawkins, an American writer, wrote for his country that "Our country's lack of morality has real consequences that are capable of eventually sinking us as a nation."

### CURRENT SCENARIO AND CONSEQUENCES:

Today, we live in a world where all that matters is to reach the pinnacle, then, be it at the stake of anything. We are more focussed on getting namesake qualifications, while, we lack to understand that education is not only to get aware, it is to get

awakened. We are drifting away from the basic ethics and morals, thus, bringing ruin and destruction. Every now and then, we hear about rapes, murders, theft, mob lynching, communal riots and what not. If we critically look into all this chaos, we realize that all this is somewhere guided by the loss of moral values. There is human trafficking. The most devastating aspect is that many of them are used for prostitution, pornography, crime and armed conflict, hazardous child labour and ultimately domestic servants. 'Money Mantra' has become our greatest temptation and for this one can go to any extent.

We also find this in Chapter 9 of a book written by, former RA&W Chief, A.S.Dulat, "Kashmir- The Vajpayee Years", that how money forces people to shift their loyalties so easily. The abandoning of our elders into the old age homes, the insurmountable corruption, dirty politics and biased media are all various forms of moral corruption only. The human beings have turned into mere economic beings and education system has become just a financial institution. According to a 2018 UN based report, the 'Happiness and Peace Index' of India is decreasing with each passing year, which is another consequence of social discontentment caused by the moral corruption.

The modern materialistic world raises our standard of living but declines our standard of life i.e. the value of life. The colleges and universities have become battle grounds where the young minds are being swayed by the waves of different political and religious ideologies. As a result of which, our well educated youth is indulging into malpractices and many of them even join terrorist organizations. The social media is used in a very destructive manner and the life and peace of people is put to risk on the name of trivial feuds. Friends have betrayed friends. It has promoted identity crises and the value of human relationships is lost. The sick, the destitute, the old folks have been subjected to inhuman violence.

The compassionate connection between individuals is no more seen and hefty bank accounts are given way more importance than the actual asset of social contentment. Life has become a mere stage where everybody is busy in show casing his worth in terms of wealth. The beauty of togetherness seems to be a distant dream for all of us in today's ever-competing world.

#### WAY FORWARD:

The seed of evil germinates in a heart that has lost its grip of the basic ethics and values of humanity. While, the one who stands firm on the moral ground won't ever leave the right path, no matter how many digressions he comes across. Take for example, the character of Nick Caraway in 'The Great Gatsby', sets an example of honesty and dignity amidst grave situation of immorality.

Each member of the society is required to do its bit. The moral education needs to be given more importance. Value based complete education should be our goal. The time is now to tighten our hold on our ethical and moral values if we really wish to make this world a better place to live. For these are the guiding beacons and steering virtues of human existence without which mankind would revert back to stone age and barbarianism.

As Leo Tolstoy, a Great Russian writer, once said, “How can one be well, when he/she suffers morally?”