



TOPIC: Vyaktitva Nirmana

| Value | Age Group | Type of illustration |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Dignity | G3: 6, 7 & 8 | Classroom Discussions |

The teacher enters the class. Today she wanted to talk about dignity. Teacher says “students I want to talk to you people about an incident and I want you people to identify the value in it. That’s a test for your introspective intelligence. Shall we do it?”. Students will say “yes teacher”.

Teacher: So, let me narrate an incident to you. Once there was a sales boy called Govinda. He was working in a very big shop. He was a very hard-working person, working to support his family and also to support his studies, which he was completing in the evening College. He was very sincere and hard-working too.

It was a Sunday evening and the shop was filled with a lot of people. Since it was a holiday, lot of people had come to do the shopping. Many men and women were picking up various things. Many children were also running around, trying to pick up chocolates or something attractive to them or dropping somethings on the floor. Govinda had to attend all this and keep his composure too at the same time.

Then it happened. A small kid of maybe 5 to 6 years, picked up a chocolate and also spilled a glass jar full of cookies which broke into pieces. Govinda immediately tried to catch the glass jar and stop the kid, but he was late by few seconds. Immediately the mother of the child rushed to the spot and started scolding the kid. Seeing Govinda standing there in shock, she started scolding Govinda too, for not attending to the situation. Govinda was more shocked, that too for none of his mistakes. He was being abused by that woman, that too in a very bad language. He tried to explain to her very calmly, that he did

put effort to stop the kid, but was late by few minutes.. But then she flared at him and said that, you are just a dumb sales boy, who is inefficient and so on.

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Here, the teacher pauses the narration of the incident and starts asking questions:

1. Do you think the mother of the kid was right in scolding Govinda?
 2. Why do you think she started scolding Govinda?
 3. Whose responsibility is it to take care of the child's mischief?
 4. How do you think Govinda should respond to the scoldings of the lady?
 5. Do you think Govinda should tolerate the scoldings of the lady silently?
 6. Do you think the woman would have scolded Govinda, if he were the owner of the shop or her friend?
 7. What do you think the crowd around would be thinking about the woman who was abusing Govinda?
 8. Do you think the woman displayed a dignified behavior?
 9. How do you think a dignified person would have behaved if they were in the lady's place?
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Then hearing all this drama, the owner of the shop entered the place and enquired about what was happening. He overheard the woman scolding Govinda. Immediately he asked Govinda about what had happened. Govinda fully explained the owner about what ever had happened. The owner was a sensible person. He understood the situation. He asked the woman to stop abusing the sales boy, as it was not his mistake to take care of the mischiefs of the child. He said "the sales boy is hired there to take care of the transactions. And even if it was his mistake, she can't abuse him the way she's doing now, as he is a human being with dignity. He has self-respect too". So, the owner said "you can't blame anybody with an abusive language or corner them even if they have done any mistake". He said "you have to give opportunity to him to explain his

version and respect him for whatever he says". The owner also said that just because a person of less education or a small job does any mistake, anybody can't insult them in front of the crowd for anything, for that matter. Because everybody has a dignity of self and dignity of labour too. No job is small that they can be insulted for whatever reason it is".

He also turned towards Govinda and asked Govinda "how he could have avoided such a situation?". Govinda said, "Sir, may be if we had few more hands, I could have been able to manage things better". The owner smiled and said, "Yes sure Govinda, I will take care of this". The crowd which was around applauded and appreciated the sensibility of the owner. The sales boy thanked the owner for his understanding and the respect given to him, otherwise he was feeling so low and sulking because of the woman abusing him in front of so many people.

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Teacher again asks questions.

1. Do you think it was right to stop the woman from scolding? If yes, why?
 2. How do you think the owner handled the situation?
 3. What do you think was the mindset of Govinda when he was being scolded by the lady?
 4. How do you think Govinda felt when the owner handled the situation with understanding?
 5. How do you define dignity?
 6. How do you define dignity of labour?
 7. Do you think Govinda respects himself? If yes, why do you say so?
(because he handled the situation calmly instead of screaming like her)
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8. Do you think Govinda handled the situation in a dignified manner? If yes, how?
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Quotations:

1. A person does not become rich through his wealth but through his dignity.
2. Don't lose your dignity and self-respect trying to make people accept love and appreciate you, when they just are not capable.

Activity

1. Quote any situation where you have come across an incident where a person is not respected for his education or financial status or looks etc.
2. Explain dignity in your own words with respect to many parameters.