

Educational Values of the novel *Totto-chan: The Little Girl At the Window*

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Totto-chan is the heart of a child. It has everything that a student needs-laughter, innocence, happiness, warmth, hardwork, love, tears and realization. This novel is on the theme of education. *Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window* is an autobiographical novel; it tells about an ideal school during World War II in Japan. The extrinsic elements of the novel are some parts from the outside of the story, there are; biography of Tetsuko Kuroyanagi. The educational values are found in the novel are: Honesty, Bravery, Peace, Confidence and capability, Self-Discipline and Moderation, Purity and Pureness. Values of Giving are; Loyalty and Trustworthy, Respect, Love and Affection, Sensitive and Not selfish, Kind and Friendly, Fair and humanitarian. There are many educational values presented in the novel: a. Mother's wisdom for not telling Totto-chan who is expelled in the first grade. Imagine if mother blamed her, she certainly could not feel so excited when she entered the first day of school at Tomoe Gakuen. b. Founder and headmaster Tomoe Gauken, Sosaku Kobayashi. We can learn about his bravery to make something different based on his beliefs and principles. To the students, Mr. Kobayashi also as a good friend, it showed when he interviewed Totto-chan and he can be good listener. He knows what student want and what the curriculum want so he has his own method in learning; fun and interesting. Parents should give more attention to their children in education. Parents should give freedom to their children to choose anything what they want. Parent should teach to their children to be independence.

1. Values of Being:

The values of being are a value that is within evolved human beings into the behavior and the way we treat others. Such as these:

a. Honesty

Honesty means truthfulness and sincerity. Such as these: *Totto-chan found some money for the first time in her life. It happened during the train ride going home from school. She got on the Oimachi train at Jiyugaoka. Before the train reached the*

next station, Midorigaoka, there was a sharp curve, and the train always leaned over with a great creaking. Totto-chan would brace herself with her feet so she wouldn't go "Oops." She always stood by the right-hand door at the rear of the train, facing the way the train was going. She stood there because the platform at her own station was on the right-hand side and that door was nearest the exit.....What should she do, she wondered! Just then she remembered someone saying that when you found money, you should hand it to a policeman. But there wasn't a policeman on the train, was there? (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 54).

b. Bravery

Bravery is willingness you face danger with determination. As quoted : *After the headmaster had said, "Now you're a pupil of this school," Totto-chan could hardly wait for the next day to dawn. She had never looked forward to a day so much. Mother usually had trouble getting Totto-chan out of bed in the morning, but that day she was up before anyone else, all dressed and waiting with her schoolbag snapped to her back (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 9).*

c. Peace :

Mean of peace here; calm and patient attitude. As quoted : *The headmaster certainly knew how to make children happy. When the headmaster finished speaking and the light in the Assembly Hall had been turned out, all the children went into their own tents. Laughter could be heard from some; whispers from others; while from a tent at the far end came the sound of a scuffle. Gradually silence fell. It was camping without any moon or stars, but the children enjoyed it thoroughly. To them that little Assembly Hall seemed like a real camping ground, and memory wrapped that night in moonbeams and starlight forever (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 28).*

d. Confidence and Capability :

It believes in the self ability. As quoted : *At Tomoe, where the children were allowed to work on their subjects in any order they pleased, it would have been awkward if the children let themselves be disturbed by what others were doing. They were*

trained to concentrate no matter what was going on around them. So nobody paid any attention to the child singing aloud while drawing the hausfrau. One or two had joined in, but all the others were absorbed in their books (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 61).

e. Self-Discipline and Moderation:

Moderation; it is avoidance of unreasonably extreme views or measure. As quoted : *Now it was time for "something from the ocean and something from the hills," the lunch hour Totto-chan had looked forward to so eagerly. The headmaster had adopted the phrase to describe a balanced meal--the kind of food he expected you to bring for lunch in addition to your rice. Instead of the usual "Train your children to eat everything," and "Please see that they bring a nutritiously balanced lunch," this headmaster asked parents to include in their children's lunchboxes "something from the ocean and something from the hills."* (Kuroyanagi, 1982:13).

f. Purity and Pureness

Its mean purity of thinking. As quoted : *"That's it!" she said to herself "I'll say quietly, —Oh, I've dropped some money. I must pick it up. Then everyone's bound to think it's mine!" But immediately another problem occurred to her, "What if I say that and everyone looks at me and someone says, —That's mine!' What will I do?"* (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 54).

2. Values of Giving :

The values of giving is that values need to be practiced or provided which would then be accepted as a given. Values of giving include: a. Loyalty and Trustworthy: Loyalty; it is defined as steadfastness or faithfulness to a person, institution, custom or idea to which one is tied by duty, pledge or a promise. As quoted : *In the midst of it all, the headmaster stood in the road and watched Tomoe burn. He was dressed, as usual, in his rather shabby black three-piece suit. He stood with both hands in his jacket pockets. "What kind of school shall we build next?" he asked his university-student son Tomoe, who stood beside him. Tomoe listened to him dumb founded. Mr. Kobayashi's love for children and his passion for teaching were stronger than the flames now enveloping the school. The headmaster was cheerful* (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 94-95). Trustworthiness; it means simply as worthy of confidence. This is states as: *And, besides, it would have amazed Mother and her homeroom teacher to think that a seven-year-old child could find enough to talk about for four hours nonstop. Totto-chan had no idea then, of course, that she had been expelled and that people were at*

their wit's end to know what to do. Having a naturally sunny disposition and being a bit absent-minded gave her an air of innocence. But deep down she felt she was considered different from other children and slightly strange. The headmaster, however, made her feel safe and warm and happy. She wanted to stay with him forever. That's how Totto-chan felt about Headmaster Sosaku Kobayashi that first day. And, luckily, the head-master felt the same about her (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 8).

b. Respect to other : It is mean respect for the beliefs and others right. *Hearing her screams, Mother came rushing from the kitchen to find Totto-chan in the corner of the room with Rocky, holding her right ear with both hands. Her dress was splattered with blood. Daddy, who had been practicing the violin in the living room, came rushing in, too. Rocky seemed to realize he had done something terrible. His tail hung between his legs and he looked pathetically at Totto-chan. The only thing Totto-chan could think of was what would she do if Mother and Daddy got so angry with Rocky they got rid of him or gave him away. That would have been the saddest and most dreadful thing as far as she was concerned. So she crouched down beside Rocky, holding her right ear and crying out repeatedly, "Don't scold Rocky! Don't scold Rocky!"* (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 48-49).

c. Love and Affection

It is mean more than just a loyal and respectful to another. *Ryo-chan, the janitor at Tomoe, whom all the children liked so much, was finally called up. He was a grown-up, but they all called him by his childish nickname. Ryo-chan was a sort of guardian angel who always came to the rescue and helped when anyone was in trouble. Ryo-chan could do anything. He never said much, and only smiled, but he always knew just what to do. When Totto-chan fell into the cesspool, it was Ryo-chan who came to her rescue straight away, and washed her off without so much as a grumble. "Let's give Ryo-chan a rousing, send-off tea party," said the headmaster. "A tea party?"* (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 92).

d. Sensitive

Learn to feel the togetherness and compassion toward others. Empathy, tolerance, and brotherhood. *"Now then," said the headmaster, "first of all, let's divide into groups and make stoves with the bricks the teachers have brought. Then some of you can wash the rice in the stream and put it on to cook. After that, we'll start making the pork soup. Now then, shall we get started?" The children divided themselves into groups by playing "stone,*

paper, scissors." Since there were only about fifty of them, it wasn't long before they had six groups. Holes were dug and surrounded with piled-up bricks. Then they laid thin iron bars across to support the soup and rice pots. While that was going on, some gathered firewood in the forest, and others went off to wash the rice in the stream. The children themselves allotted their various tasks (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 69).

e. Kind and Friendly : Capable of making new friends and maintain friendships. "I'm sorry I pulled them," he said in a loud, flat voice. "I've been scolded by the headmaster. He said you've got to be nice to girls. He said to be gentle with girls and look after them." Totto-chan was somewhat amazed. She

had never heard anyone before say you had to be nice to girls. Boys were always the important ones. In the families she knew where there were lots of children,-it was always the boys who were served first at meals and at snack time, and when girls spoke, their mothers would say, "Little girls should be seen and not heard." In spite of all that, the headmaster had told Oe that girls And then she thought how nice that was. It was nice to be looked after. As for Oe, it was a shock. Fancy being told to be gentle and nice to girls! Moreover, it was the first and last time at Tomoe that he was ever scolded by the headmaster, and he never forgot that day (Kuroyanagi, 1982: 59).

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