

BOOK REVIEWS

RONALD WILLIAM MORRIS. *Values in Sexuality Education: A philosophical study.* Lanham (MD), New York, London: University Press of America (1994).

111 pp. C\$38.95 (paper). ISBN 0-8191-9557-X.

How can sexuality education facilitate, support, and critically assist persons in their search for moral integrity and coherence? Morris, p. 84

The value of sexuality education is determined by its capacity to be celebrational, hospitable, meaningful, and life-enhancing. Morris, p. 93

Do we teach values in sexuality education? Whose? Do we remain neutral? The answers to these questions differ with each generation and sometimes with each area of the country. Ronald Morris, in his *Values in Sexuality Education*, has brought great clarity and understanding to the debate. In Part I he takes us through the earlier struggling years of educators trying to find the right place for dealing with the subject of sexually transmitted diseases, and presents the pro's and con's of what was considered a breakthrough in the subject – the Values Clarification Approach. Morris also brings us through the other hopeful approach launched in the '60s, namely Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, and, again, sets out both how Kohlberg advances the cause, and where his contribution was found wanting. The twenty or so years of implementing these two approaches has allowed their shortcomings to surface and be duly documented. More was needed.

It is here that Morris makes his ground-breaking contribution to the field. In Part II of his work he places the issue of values in human sexuality where it belongs – in the ongoing process of human development. And the theory that Morris finds most receptive to a holistic approach to sexuality education is Robert Kegan's Theory of Human Development, a theory that grows out of a synthesis of Piaget's work on

intellectual development, and Erikson's work on psychosocial development. Kegan's main thesis states that meaning-making is foundational to human development. It is that which underlies "the cognitive and affective, as well as the individual and the social." Kegan's approach is spiral rather than linear, and recognizes the need for integrating the new or the important into what he calls "cultures": "mothering culture" in infancy, the "culture of mutuality" in adulthood (six stages altogether). These cultures are "holding environments" which give meaning to our experiences. Morris examines the sexual and moral themes of each stage and identifies both the sexuality that is developing and the opportunities present for fostering values in sexuality education.

As the subtitle of the book – *A philosophical study* – shows, this is not a "how to" for sexuality education courses. Yet it is a must for both teachers in the classroom and those teaching teachers since it brings great clarity to the field and gives a framework within which they can proceed with confidence in this very important but complex field of human development. In Chapter 6 (Educational Principles and Issues Arising) Morris puts forward the important role that the narrative and storytelling can play in the classroom. He also presents Kegan's six stages with accompanying suggestions as to Modes of Teaching and Educating in Sexuality Education. It is here that teachers will find helpful hints in designing their courses.

Those involved in directing the young, whether in the classroom or the pastoral setting, will find Morris's text a lucid and comfortable read, based on a reference bibliography of some fourteen pages. At the present time Morris's *Values in Sexuality Education* appears to be the book that will carry the teachers of this field into the new millennium.

LEO PURCELL *McGill University*

BARBARA LEVINE (EDITOR). *Works About John Dewey: 1886–1995*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press (1996). 526 pp. Cloth: US\$49.95 ISBN 0-8093-2056-8; Paper: US\$24.95 ISBN 0-8093-2058-4.

*Language, fourth dimension of the mind,
Wherein to round square things are curled;
Or turn unbroken inside out;
Firm certitudes melt to doubt,
And doubtful things, a fertile seed
Tho not existent, pregnant breed*