Is Moral Policing Necessary?

Culture is something that is constantly transforming. Nobody can preserve it as it is. It is evolving all the time. There is nothing wrong with that. If it is evolving naturally, people make choices and make certain changes in their lives. But when your culture is being engineered by commercial forces and certain very aggressive religious forces, some amount of stopping and preserving also needs to happen. If it is evolving naturally, people make their choices to eat differently, to dress differently, to do things differently—it's perfectly okay. But commercial forces are engineering culture for their benefit. If you don't stop it, then when you open your tap tomorrow, some soft drink will flow from it instead of water. It is already happening in India. In restaurants today, they will not serve you water, they will serve you some soft drink instead. When this is the case, you should also have a strategy not to allow that to happen.

There need not be moral policing, but education about the significance of doing what we have been doing for these thousands of years is definitely needed. If culture is just a social norm, just a certain way that people live because of climatic conditions or other influences that is different. But Indian culture was engineered to gradually lead people towards their spiritual process. Always, right from ancient times, every aspect of your life—how to sit, how to stand, everything was engineered to slowly lead you towards a spiritual process. There are many aspects of this culture which are essentially yogic science implanted into people's lives, so that without even knowing it, you are practicing yoga. This was done thousands of years ago. These practices and norms were brought into your life because of the benefits they have for human wellbeing. Now, some commercial force is attempting to replace everything for their benefit. If you don't stop it in some way, they will take everything away.

So, some amount of control is definitely needed. If people are making their choices and slowly evolving into something else, that is nobody's business. Every human being has a right to choose and change his life the way he wants. But right now, most human beings are not choosing. They are being forced to make choices.

But unfortunately, because saner voices in the society never speak, the crude ones get on to the street and do the job.

(Sadhguru, a yogi, is a visionary, humanitarian and a prominent spiritual leader, www.ishafoundation.org)