



## EDUCATION FOR WORLD PEACE: NEED OF THE HOUR

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### ABSTRACT

Peace is a natural state of mind and everything begins in the minds of men. War and peace, love and hatred, sorrow and happiness, doubt and conviction etc. all these begin in the heart of a man. Peace is wholeness. Peace can be understood as a circle with dynamic qualities of inclusiveness, equity, and harmony. So, Peace is not only the absence of violence conflict, it is the life force of interconnectedness. Violence is a means of misguided thought leads to an end. Violence, discrimination and exclusion cause suffering for millions of people across the world today, affect people in every corner of the globe, endangering health, lives and livelihoods and limiting human potential. Changing a culture of violence into a culture of peace requires a transformation of problems into creative and constructive solutions. Peace is a common desire for people in the world. National Curriculum Framework 2005 proposes the integration of peace education and the building of peace-seeking mindsets across the entire curriculum, not just in a weekly 'moral science' class. To commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations of the world, the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 proclaimed the opening day of its regular session as the International Day of Peace (September 21st), a day dedicated to create a sustainable future, sustainable peace. It's each of our duty to practice, feel, and experience self-awareness to maintain peace within and all around.

**KEYWORDS:** Peace, Education, Montessori, Curriculum, Human Progress.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Peace is a state of mind. Peace is simply having a feeling of security, calm and restfulness. We often tend to think of peace as being an international issue, far from our daily life, but we do not realize that global peace can only be achieved if each country is settled and at peace. The peace and happiness of each country can only be achieved if every citizen is at peace. Though the world may be full of problems and distress, we must seek for peace. When there is no peace among the persons, then peace in society is threatened. Tagore rightly said "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, into that kingdom of freedom my father let my country awake". Lack of peace destroys the identity of a country and creative energies are diverted from useful activities to destructive one. The need of the hour is to develop the young generation with peace consciousness and the importance of conflict resolution. It may not be possible to change the attitude of the present generation but it is possible to mould the future generation for the good of the nation and for mankind. We should think the ways and means to inculcate the spirit of unity and integrity which may lead to peace. Dr. Rodrigo Carazo president of the University for Peace, Costa Rica states that "Peace and human progress do not come about by themselves. It entails a will for peace. At the dawn of disarmament as the basis for the establishment of peace in the world must be accompanied by a new vision of peace". Each of our daily routine should reconnect and experience with our natural state, with the spirit and the natural world. Live our daily life which is a time of renewal and rejuvenation, with a sense of peace and well-being. Spirituality should start within along with moral values and the importance of connecting to nature and the world around us. There is a lot of negative

energy in this world, but we can all have peace naturally within each of us, the need is to understand and learn to live with inner peace to accept, feel and experience regardless of the challenges in life.

Education plays a vital role in equipping the nations in being more humane. Peace education only can extend a real peace in this world. It has been well said by Mahatma Gandhi that "if we are to reach real peace in this world we shall have to begin with the children". People think that peace is not just the absence of war; it is the practice of love. In a peaceful society people would work together to resolve conflicts, develop morally, treat each other with fraternity and justice, satisfy basic needs, and respect each other. In essence, they would live in unity. Our aim is to achieve a perfect world full of peace and compassion which can only be achieved by imparting peace education in school curriculum. It has been found that there is no happiness greater than peace and that peace links with the practice of love.

Peace education would not exist unless people throughout the world believed that world peace is attainable through a multifaceted effort but starting with the education of children and youth. One such was Maria Montessori. Peace education is strengthened through the will-power and efforts of those who actively promote it, for they are aware of the terrible consequences if they do not. The horrors and suffering within our society and worldwide can be reduced if we have the strong will to act. In the words of the Indian thinker and philosopher Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan "We must will peace with our whole body and soul, our feelings and instincts, our flesh and its affections".

## **2. MEANING OF PEACE EDUCATION**

Peace education is education humanity. It is manifestation of seeds of integral culture of body, vitality, mind, intellect and spirit. These elements constitute every man and woman without any discrimination of race, caste, creed, language, nationality and other differences. And this education would continue perpetually till the end of life of every man and woman unfolding integrally the treasure of physical, vital, mental, intellectual and spiritual cultures within leading them to be just, peaceful and nonviolent.

Peace education is broadly defined as the educational policy, planning, pedagogy, and practice that develop awareness, skills, and values toward peace. Peace education may serve as the nucleus, but each co-discipline interlinks and interconnects with others directly.

## **3. AIMS OF PEACE EDUCATION**

Several countries are suffering from the terror of activists, fear of terrorists and unlawful activities creating unrest in the society so the need of time is to inculcate tranquility in the mind of people through peace education. In the past, peace education centered on the causes of war, an issue that grew as nations developed the capacity of destroying the whole human race many times over. But today the scope of peace education includes not only the causes, the nature, and the terrible consequences of war but also the study of violence in all forms. Such forms of violence include conflict, threat to life, ethnic hatred, discrimination, prejudice, racism, injustice, genocide, poverty, violence in the home and family, destruction of the environment, and so forth. A basic aim of peace education is to save humankind from destroying a large portion or all of itself. As H.G. Wells put it, human beings are embarked upon "a race between education and catastrophe." More and more countries are

waking up to the need, and international organizations such as the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization continue to promote peace education. To seek to educate for social and ecological peace, active participation of people along with the students is required.

National Curriculum Framework 2005 proposes the integration of peace education and the building of peace-seeking mindsets across the entire curriculum, not just in a weekly 'moral science' class. NCF 2005 recommends varying approaches to different subjects, curriculum, teaching methods and examination. With regard to peace education, the NCF recommends creating an environment that builds sensitivity to others' cultures, perspectives and rights, clearly stating that education must be oriented towards values associated with "peaceful and harmonious coexistence" (NCF 2005: 9).

## **4. THE NEED FOR PEACE EDUCATION**

The root cause of war is conflict. The Conflicts may be as personal conflict, interpersonal conflict, communal conflict etc. The concept, Peace Education goes hand in hand with Conflict Resolution. This can be considered the primary approach for peace education. We must train our children for peace. We must create positive attitude towards peace in our young minds. The existing curriculum should include peace education in order to promote peace in the world. We should encourage co-operation with competition. We should organize group projects and teamwork. Education should be infused with aims and purposes set forth in the charter of the United Nation, the constitution of UNESCO and the universal declaration Human Rights as Articles 26 states, "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human

rights and fundamental freedom. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace". The Industrial revolution took a wrong turn promoting consumerism and militarism. The militarism encouraged the promotion of armament industry, which indirectly influenced the war. It is peace education which inculcates and builds love, friendship and international understanding. We intend to teach the young minds valuable contribution towards peaceful society. The society which upholds the values of equality, solidarity, freedom, democratic inclination, tolerance, care and respect for others and willingness to change. We have to change our outlook towards society. For the sake of argument, people may say that the moral education and religious education adequately covers the principles of peace education but in fact it gives glorification of only one religion or the other.

The need for value-based education is clear in order to inculcate peace in the world as value based education:

- ♣ Helps in developing positive social attitudes in new generation which prompt them to raise their voice against social evils.
- ♣ All-round development of the learner. The optimal development of the moral, spiritual and aesthetic aspects of personality needs enrichment and refinement in the form of value education.
- ♣ The harmonious co-existence of different ideologies in society requires respect for moral and ethical values. Value education inculcates these virtues in a systematic manner.

- ♣ For developing democratic qualities such as dignity of the individual, social justice, liberty, equality, fraternity etc.
- ♣ To strengthen students' self-esteem, optimism and commitment to personal fulfillment, and help students exercise ethical judgment and social responsibility.
- ♣ Help students to understand and apply values such as care and compassion, fair go, freedom, honesty and trustworthiness, integrity, respect, responsibility, understanding, tolerance etc. in their daily life
- ♣ Help the individual to resolve value conflicts and give direction to one's social, moral and spiritual development, thus to bring quality to life.
- ♣ Needed for developing moral qualities such as humility, truthfulness, honesty, courtesy, tolerance, sacrifice etc. among the youth.
- ♣ Needed to strengthen social harmony, to encourage cultural development, to instill democratic qualities and to combat social evils and injustice.

Value education would lead us to attain our ultimate goal of peace on earth. World peace can only be achieved if we first establish peace within our minds. The idea is that anger and other negative states of mind are the cause of wars, terrorism, fighting and other acts of destruction. People can live in peace and harmony only if we abandon negative emotions such as anger.

## **5.FOSTERING PEACE EDUCATION**

Peace education can be fostered by using topics that raise issues related to peace and cultural understanding in our classrooms. This helps teachers to accord students the basic information to help them develop positive attitudes and values related to peaceful living.

Engaging students in activities which encourage cooperation, consensus building and reflective listening in them in order to meet and resolve conflicts and create love, fraternity and compassion.

Issues and problems related to the topics related to conflicts will undoubtedly provide opportunities for pupils and students to develop conflict solving and critical thinking skills along with language skills to express themselves clearly and convincingly. At the center point of all this, is the desire to make learners negate their inbuilt biases against other groups.

**a. Peace through Co-Operation:**

There is only one way to get peace through cooperation. Non co-operation will only create tension, anger, resentment and revolt. It is necessary to have a homely atmosphere, an atmosphere that is conducive to thinking about the meeting of minds and heads. If there is no co-operation then each one will seek faults in others and no progress will take place. Power does not bring peace.

**b. Peace through Love:** It is not true that sparing the rod spoils children. Love should not be possessive, selfish or demanding. Love should be spontaneous, unconditionally showered all the time. Love generates faith, true cooperation and this is what is essential for peace.

Educating for peace is concerned to help students develop a rich vision of peace which should form part of his/her personal life. Educating for peace is also concerned with:

- i. Developing values and skills to assist the students in striving for the fullness of life that embraces all people.

- ii. Helping the students to recognize the many forms and causes of violence and to promote values and skills for living in society.
- iii. Helping students to the awareness of peace and to find ways of keeping peace by conflict resolution.
- iv. Helping students to be aware of interdependence, compassion and sensitivity for the needs of others and to encourage them to help in building a nation and not in destroying it.
- v. Helping students to enjoy the environment, to value the relationship of man and environment, to work individually and collectively for the betterment of the world.
- vi. Providing students the vision towards a peaceful, loving and just world. Peace Education should be a part of the school curriculum.

**6. CONCLUSION**

Today we have a situation where the 'educated' are impudent, habitual rule flouters/ breakers, totally unmindful of the rights of anyone but themselves because we have restricted the task of education to the cognitive development at the cost of moral education. For the culture of peace to become established, it is necessary to accept the principles of uniqueness in diversity and to establish the social norms of respect, dignity, and the rights of every individual. Peace education need not be an additional academic subject in the existing system, but it should be as the general orientation that we introduce in the existing subjects, textbooks and teacher discourses. It is, however in today's world, there is a gradual erosion of these qualities. This loss of morality alienates one individual from the other, wearing away the mutual faith and trust among fellow men. Through the fostering of a new Peace

Education and Culture System we can be bring to achieve World Peace and Culture. By joining hands of all peace forces and researchers, we can indeed bring peace in the world. In December 2014 Malala from Pakistan and Kailash Siddharth from India were awarded with noble prize for peace. Such activities inspire people to work in the field of peace.

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