



CORE CONCEPT OF EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The basic concept of education is to give knowledge. Comprehensive knowledge creates overall, fundamental understanding. This in turn provides wisdom which paves the path of peaceful and harmonious living. So the core concept of education is to fulfill the basic need of awareness about an appropriate lifestyle evolving joy, peace and harmony in the society. There is a dire need to include in the education system a diversity of opinion, and the tools to develop ethical, moral values among students besides training them in critical thinking and research. The paper is a modest attempt to draw some conclusion to prove how education can impart peace and harmony in the age of Globalization.

KEYWORDS : Education, Peace, Harmony, Teacher, Globalization

INTRODUCTION

Education is the only means for the all-round development of humans. The pathway to human development and prosperity in an inevitable state of peace and harmony follows the trends of education with the condition that its direction should be right and founded on values. Reformers, thinkers and philosophers of repute, who were also the great teachers in their respective times, guided humanity in the right path. Most of them on the basis of their thoughts and experiences gave exemplary suggestions to make education a prime focus. This chain of thought emphasizes a desire for the complete physical and mental development of man through value education imparted by well trained, committed teachers for self-reliance, which could pave the way for true development even in current perspective by ascertaining peace and harmony in society.

Teachings and practices of Peace and Harmony are always relevant and significant for ensuring mutual cooperation, fundamental freedom, peace, humane conduct and co-existence. People found advantages in participating and cooperating with order of nature and society to achieve peace and harmony. Across the world, as well as in the Asian countries peace, values, morals, character and ethical education are gaining popularity, as nation-states, international organizations, global corporations and civil society organizations increasingly recognize the importance of such education. In the changing global scenario the main aim of education will be to help people to develop themselves as global and local responsible citizens who shall make with conscientious efforts for building a humane world with peace and harmony. The focus of education would be the values of peace and harmony, based on the human mindset, human rights, mutual respect, mutual trust, cooperation and respect for life, social justice, open-mindedness and co-existence. Keeping this in view it is necessary to reorient and restructure the education curricula to include education for peace and harmony. Content of educational curricula and teaching methodologies for moral, ethical, value, peace and harmony education for the development of human values need to be designed and strengthened.

CONCEPT OF EDUCATION

The English word education is derived from the Latin word *Educare*, which further relates to *Educere*, and is the symbolic of manifestation or expression. If we analyze education from the Indian viewpoint, education (*Shiksha*) is one of the six *Vedangas*. Clarity of understanding and systematic method or the orders, which are the basics for the all-round development of one's personality, are within its domain. Hence, the educational process is fully dedicated to continuity; it is for growth or for accumulation; it is the means to lead a human

being on the pathway to prosperity in prevailing circumstances on the basis of knowledge and accomplishments. Essentially, education is the sole basis of achieving one's purpose in life. The essence of all the ancient scriptures, messages of scholars and thinkers have always emphatically expounded the significance of education in human life.

The utility, significance and importance of education are thus inevitable at all levels in all walks of life. Education is the key to integrate nations, bringing human beings closely together. Value based teaching which practices peace and harmony are extremely relevant and significant for building society that is characterized by mutual cooperation, fundamental freedom, peace and good conduct. The emphasis on education for peace and harmony is based on the fact that education peace and harmony are inseparable aspects of civilization. In the changing global scenario the main aim of education is to help people to develop themselves as responsible citizens of society and the world. The focus of education would be to find and evolve ways of inculcating value of peace and harmony based concept of healthy living, mutual respect, trust, cooperation, social justice, broad thinking and fruitful co-existence. Hence, education for peace and harmony stimulates critical thinking about social issues of the world.

PEACE AND HARMONY

Generally, a situation free from tension, struggle, dispute or conflict, particularly in socio-economic spheres, is considered the state of peace. This phenomenon signifies the absence of fight or war between or among the nations and is generally the accepted notion of peace at the international level. It is almost the same in the Indian perspective. Though there's the similarity between the Western and Indian perspectives, peace is not a motionless state even according to ancient philosophical thought.

The state of peace provides man the pathway to progress in a tension-free atmosphere. Within a state of peace, efforts are made for healthy co-existence to extend the welfare of the people. Therefore, the state of peace is in fact dynamic. It fills people with enthusiasm and inspires them to move forward. Similarly, harmony signifying human unity, urges man for stepping forward to do concrete for the welfare of one and all. Hence, it is quite similar to peace; it is also dynamic and undoubtedly for the establishment of peace. New benefits are expected in the states of peace and harmony. They are the pathways to progress without any fear and confusion. Therefore, it can be said that education, peace and harmony are linked with each-other; they contribute to the development and welfare of each and every human being on this planet. All

constructive and welfare conditions that may be expected for the purpose are also inherent in this process.

TEACHER'S ROLE

About the role of a teacher in imparting education and through it creating all-round-development of personality is well evident. We are all well aware of the truth, how the great teachers –Acharyas and Gurus in Indian terms, creating an atmosphere of harmony among people and in the state of peace contributed to the larger welfare of society and the nation. The examples of Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, Socrates, Kung Futsi (Confucius), Chanakya, Plato, Shankaracharya, Paramahansa Ramakrishna and so many others who were the Gurus, Acharyas and teacher par excellence are before us. To quote Mahatma Gandhi:

“A teacher is not only the nuclei of the education system, but is also the backbone of the system and the success or failure of this system depends to a large extent on the community of teachers. A teacher, if works with sincerity, honesty and a sense of duty, raises students to their all-round development on the one hand and contribute unprecedentedly to harmony and peace in society and the nation on the other.” (Ravindra Kumar, *Essays on Gandhism and Peace*, Meerut, India, 1999, page 10)

Teacher has important role in peace and harmonious education. The teacher should know the meaning of peace, to inculcate values like honesty, dignity, humanity, equality in growing children. A teacher's prime responsibility is to help students to become good human beings, motivated to fulfill their true potential not only for their own benefits but also for the betterment of society and humanity. Teacher's role is to establish harmony towards diversity, cultural differences, tolerance and human dignity and directing their efforts towards achieving fundamental changes.

Peace education is based on tolerance so students should get training of tolerance. Teacher's duty is to develop good communication skill, healthy interaction between students and parents, development of problem solving skills. Teacher's role is to incorporate feeling of peace among students, develop social interaction skills to promote peaceful relations. To encourage for participation in scout and guide, NSS and NCC and other social clubs as they help to inculcate team work, develops qualities of sportsmanship to do work in a group. The role of teacher is just like a catalyst to promote social sensitivity, tolerance, cooperation, democratic and secular values and national integration.

Thus peace education should seek to transmit such relevant information and other methods of peaceful living in the family, school, work place, society and everywhere. Peace is all comprehensive supreme value that can be broadly classified as individual and social. Its social aspect includes political, social, economic, cultural, religious or spiritual as well as scientific or technological. The concept has local, national and philosophical dimensions. Peace at individual level is inner peace in which there is perfect harmony among various psychic forces which otherwise become a source of conflict and tension. It is a psychological state when the mind is free from tension, stress, strain, passion, desires and conflicts. The fundamental meaning of peace is totally a perfect state, free from any imperfection. Peace once achieved may not remain stable. It can't be meaningful if it is not related to values of life.

CONCLUSION

The ultimate goal however, according to many philosophies could be the attainment of the *Moksha*, or *Nirvana* (salvation) that it is considered as the highest stage of peace. The system of education besides working for the well-being at local-regional and national levels must with the sole spirit of co-

operation and harmony go forward to the global level. The peace and harmony through education is essential for human survival. It is a participatory process which aims at changing society's way of thinking and which promotes learning of peaceful living. It needs a strong strategy to increase teacher's consciousness for peace and harmony. A more soul oriented education can calm the mind, warm the heart and awaken peaceful nature of students. The school and teacher together may provide a positive, faithful, progressive environment where students are encouraged to maintain inner state of calm and learn more about self-awareness, self-control and personal responsibility.

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