



PEACE EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Education for peace is a holistic approach. It nurtures knowledge ,skill,attitude and values -so that the learner can leave in harmony with self and others and handle conflicts in a constructive way .peace empowers individuals to accept, create and enjoy the path of peace rather than only to be a consumer of it. It is a key tool for developing values , knowledge and life skills in a spirit of equality , empathy ,understanding and mutual respect among individuals.

KEYWORDS : Peace Education , Value Inculcation , Empathy, Equality

INTRODUCTION

Peace education plays an important role to mould the earth in accordance with humane perspectives . Sustainable peace also leads a sustainable future for human civilization. Peace education is a crying need for todays world to maintain sustainable mental health. To foster a peace culture , some external values, skills and behaviours are needed. Peace education involves the transformation of the hearts and minds of the children . Peaceful living is a life skill -art of living in this chaos of violence .

WHAT IS PEACE EDUCATION :

"Peace is a virtue , an attitude,tendency to good ,trust and justice "- SPINOZ

"There is no way to peace - peace is the way" – M.K. GANDHI

The concept of peace is related to harmony , truce, amity ,friendship, quiescence , tranquillity etc.it also encompasses social ,economic and political justice , environmental sustainability ,gender equality and human rights . it is based on values of quality ,respect and dignity. Peace education promotes multiculturalism. Peace education is being considered to be both a philosophy and a process involving multiple skills like co-operation , having patience, calm listening , and creating a safe rather than a better world with the environment that fosters non-violence ,love and compassion for all.

- Peace education is grounded in active citizenship preparing learners for assiduous participation in a democracy ,through problem-posing and problem - solving education and a commitment to transformative action in our society . – John Dewey , 1938
- Peace education is a mechanism for the transformation from a culture of violence to a culture of peace through a process of conscientization. – Freire , 2006
- National Curriculum Framework ,2005 has rightly pointed out , " Education in true sense should empower to clarify their values to enable them to take conscious and deliberate decisions taking into cognizance -the consequences of their actions ; to choose the way of peace rather than violence ;to enable them to be makers of peace rather than only the consumer of peace."

INITIATIVES OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE

The UN General Assembly passed the Declaration and Integrated Framework of Education for Peace ,Human Rights and Democracy (1995) , Declaration on a culture of peace and 2001-2010 as the UN International Decade on Education for Peace and Non-violence for the children of the world . Moreover , the UN took initiative to implement peace education through different educational bodies such as UNESCO , UPEACE to serve as a model for mainstreaming

peace education. The International Institute of Peace Education (IIPE) has been organising discourse every year on current theme related to peace , violence and war . The Earth and Peace Education (EPC) is dedicated to promote basic values related to peace . In India , initiatives have been taken to incorporate the ideas of Ahimsa , Peaceful -coexistence ,Gandhian ideas of peace and constitutional directions of justice ,equality ,national integration and democratic principles in the curriculum (Bera ,2016).

WHY PEACE EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT ?

As children grow , they form their own unique worldview and they learn how to interact with people around them – they learn to live together. Learning about peace is a wonderful opportunity for children to build peaceful perspectives of the world around them. Human being at their tender age are like clay models and they can be shaped easily in in needed proforma. If we can equip kids with the skills that they need to be human who build healthy relationships and solve problems in such a way that they can value the inherent dignity of others -our world will benefit now and in the future . Peace education not only helps to learn the learners about maintaining self -inner peace of mind but also peace education creates human right awareness ,educates for social justice , teach for cherishing human values ,encompasses with multicultural ,antibias and gender equality education, enables us to utilize our cognitive skills for taking care of our environment , equitable distribution of resources , well functioning of all parts of the society. True peace education enables a person for maintaining inner peace, social peace and environmental peace. Peace education among children also inculcates some basic humane values like trustworthiness ,honesty , courage ,caring , respectfulness ,fairness ,justice and equity.

HOW TO INTEGRATE PEACE EDUCATION IN TEACHING - LEARNING SITUATION :

In the present child-centric education system ,teacher's role is like a facilitator. Present education system puts importance on holistic development of a student .It puts emphasis on emotional (affective) development rather than partial intellectual(cognitive) development and material progress. The chosen curriculum should be goal oriented, creative ,innovative which can provide adequate instructional time for pedagogic practice.

- **TEXT BOOKS** should be designed from the perspectives of education for peace. Authors should take care in writing text books to avoid violence, discriminatory stereotypes ,prejudices based on caste ,creed ,gender in selecting contents and illustrations.
- As education for peace exists in the affective domain, then the present system of examination is not appropriate to evaluate the values and skills of learners related to it . In

this context , some indicators for qualitative evaluation at the classroom level are to be followed, such as co-operative group work , absence of discriminatory attitudes and practices ,mutual relationships etc.

- Education for peace needs the school environment comprising of interpersonal relationships based on co-operation and mutual respect.
- The successful implementation of the programme of education for peace depends largely on the vision ,attitudes ,skills and awareness of teachers and so teacher education programme should be redesigned.
- The episodes of violence including murder, rape and riot represented in the media induce students harmfully to favour violent and antisocial approaches as the most effective way of solving problems. So , media literacy for parents and awareness programmes against the harmful effects of media violence should be initiated.
- **Some other ways may be –**
- Establishing peace clubs and peace libraries
- Documentary and short films conveying the ideas of peace
- A handbook of guidelines
- Seminars ,workshops , debates on peace education and maintaining peaceful society.

CONCLUSION

Peace education can bring about a change in the society by changing the mindset of children .UNESCO HANDBOOK OF PEACE EDUCATION offers a model consisting of 10 themes as follows-

1. Think positive
2. Be compassionate
3. Don't harm
4. Discover inner peace
5. Learning to live together
6. Respect human dignity
7. Be your true self
8. Developing critical thinking
9. Resolve conflict non-violently
10. Build peace in community and caring for the planet.

The integration of peace perspectives in the teaching-learning process makes education humanise ,harmonise, creative ,democratic and life -centric. So , the government ,school management , and teachers would take sincere efforts to prepare the peace education programme and implement it effectively.

REFERENCES

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