Peace Education: Why need of today's Education?

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Abstract

The industrial revaluation took a wrong turn promoting consumerism and militarism. The militarism encouraged the promotion of armament industry, which indirectly influenced to war. The reality of war is created by cultural and educational manipulations by reinforcing group identification and creating images of the enemies and the possibilities for them. The tendency to dehumanize the enemy is due to the denial of the human values resulting in killing of innocent civilians including children and women. It is Peace Education which inculcates and builds love. Friendship and international understanding. Education for peace is different from peace education. In the latter, peace is a subject in the syllabus. In the former, peace becomes the shaping vision of education. Education for peace is education for life, and not merely training for a livelihood. Equipping individuals with the values, skills, and attitudes they need to be wholesome persons who live in harmony with others and as responsible citizens is the goal of education for peace. Peace education is a remedial measure to protect children from falling into the ways of violence in society. Learning for peace really deals with learning the skills, attitudes and values in order to create and sustain peace.

Keyword: Peace, Peace Education, Peace Curriculum, Teachers

Introduction

"Peace is not the absence of war. Peace is a virtue, an attitude, tendency to good, trust and justice."….Spinoz

The term 'education' in this context refers to any process – whether in schools, or in informal or non-formal educational contexts – that develops in children or adults the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values leading to behavior change.

The term 'peace' does not merely imply the absence of overt violence (sometimes referred to as 'negative peace'). It also encompasses the presence of social, economic and political justice which are essential to the notion of 'positive peace' (Hicks, 1985). 'Structural violence' is a term that is used to refer to injustices such as poverty, discrimination and unequal access to opportunities, which are at the root of much conflict. Structural violence is perhaps the most basic obstacle to peace, which by definition cannot exist in a society in which fundamental human rights are violated. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, like other major human rights treaties, calls for the elimination of all forms of both overt and structural violence, and the creation of a society based on the principles of justice and peace.

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identification and creating images of the enemies and the possibilities for them. The tendency to dehumanize the enemy is due to the denial of the human values resulting in killing of innocent civilians including children and women. It is Peace Education which inculcates and builds love. Friendship and international understanding. Education for peace is different from peace education. In the latter, peace is a subject in the syllabus. In the former, peace becomes the shaping vision of education. Education for peace is education for life, and not merely training for a livelihood. Equipping individuals with the values, skills, and attitudes they need to be wholesome persons who live in harmony with others and as responsible citizens is the goal of education for peace.

20th Century a great transition

The 20th Century marked a great transition for the mankind.20th Century man achieved remarkable things. At the same time it also witnessed two world wars the likes of which were never fought previously; however, 21st Century, would mean a lot more for him. He has, although, made a lot of progress in consolidating the benefits of science and technological progress, lot more would have to be done in the years to come, although 21st Century with push button technology would open new vistas of development, it would pose several problems which the mankind is not yet prepared to face.

 Unfortunately the animal behavior of individuals is becoming more prominent. Orderly development is at stake. Man is becoming more and more ambitious. Also he wants to realize his ambitions through short-cut methods and by not making commensurate efforts. This is causing tension and unrest in the society everyone. The need of the hour is that he disciplines his 'animal' instincts and becomes a 'social' creature in real séance fully realizing the social responsibility cast upon him. Man has to coexist with others. He cannot remain alone. Hence, whatever he does should promote common cause in addition to his own. By harming others one can never get real peace as peace lies in collective peace and prosperity.

 All combined efforts of all well-intentioned people, institutions and the State should be directed towards helping every individual in attaining peace and making his life meaningful and purposeful. Although the task is not very easy sincere efforts should continue at all levels.But every one cannot get peace as there are there are many obstacles in getting it.some of these are Perception, Selfishness, Materialistic and Circumstances. There may be several other difficulties in securing precious peace. The lack of motivation, understanding and unwillingness if an individual also may keep him at bay from peace. Peace is not just the absence of war and conflict. It goes well beyond that, Peace must be fostered within the individual, within the family and society. Simply transferring the world's nuclear weapons to a museum will not in itself bring about world peace. The nuclear weapons of the mind must first be eliminated.

Concept of Peace

 Peace is a state of mind. This is beautifully expressed in the Preamble to the UNESCO Constitution: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of the defense of peace must be constructed."Peace means being one with life itself-that is having no fear or bitterness. Peace is more than merely sitting still or in silence. Former President Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam linked nation's prosperity with peace. He perceived the message received from a Buddhist monk in a statement, 'If you want peace, remove 'I' and 'Me'. When you remove I and Me you remove Ego. When you remove Ego, you remove hatred. When you remove hatred you have Peace. "There is no way to peace. Peace is the way" this perception of peace by Mahatma Gandhi,

which represents a pragmatic understanding of peace. Peace shares the fate of problems in society, which are not suppressed or forgotten, but which are not seen for what they are .Peace is always being talked about, be it in politics, the media, in public and in the peace movement. "Peace is the absence of physical and structural violence".-*Johan Galtung*

Peace Education:

Peace Education is more effective and meaningful when it is adopted according to the social and cultural and the needs of a country. It should be enriched by its cultural and spiritual values together with the universal human values. It should also be globally relevant. Peace education could be defined in many ways. There is no universally accepted definition as such. " 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 societies."-*John Dewey* (1938), "Peace Education, broadly defined, is the cornerstone of a culture of peace."-*Michael Wessells* (1994), " Peace Education is defined as " the process of promoting the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to bring about behavior change that will enable children, youth and adults to prevent conflict and violence, both overt and structural; to resolve conflict peacefully; and to create the conditions conducive to peace, whether at an interpersonal, intergroup, national or international level".-*UNICEF.*
Peace education is a remedial measure to protect children from falling into the ways of violence in society. Learning for peace really deals with learning the skills, attitudes and values in order to create and sustain peace.

Aims of Peace Education:

The overall aim of Peace Education is to help build a peaceful world. To do so we aim to:
- Prepare the world for children and youth making it better, healthy, safe, peaceful and united; and to prepare the children for such a world.
- Create in children's minds desire to learn how nonviolence can provide the basis for a just and sustainable future.
- Create a better learning environment where conflict and relationship may be explored.
- Understand the nature and origins of violence and its effects on both victim and perpetrator.
- Contribute and help creating a world order which will ensure and safeguard the 'Right to a Safe Future' for world's children and generation yet unborn.
- Sharpen awareness about the existence of hostile relationship between people and within and between nations.
- Encourage the search for alternatives and possible nonviolent skills.
- Educate every new generation of students to become peacemakers and to devote their talents, capacities and energies towards the creation of a civilization of peace based on the twin pillars of a culture of peace and a culture of healing.

Why need of Peace Education?

Peace education is more important than ever in today's economy. Peace education is essential because it provides culturally rich inputs to every learner. That alone would generate respect for the institution of family and the society. Issues like social cohesion respect for traditions, belief and practices of others and advancement toward a well-knit society would be possible only in such situations. Peace education is essential for human survival in the New Millennium. It is

needed for individual, national and global peace. In the world of physical and structural violence, peace education has to be compatible with the idea of peace which excludes direct and structural violence, both. Peace education has relevance also in this age of exploitation because it teaches about altruism which is it peace. Peace education is also significant in today's world of xenophobia and intolerance because it teaches about tolerance which is understanding and respecting diversity and acceptance of differences. At present peace education has a great demand in the world of violation of human rights everywhere because it concretizes the learners towards their total situation, which enable them to fight for their liberation.

Roll of Curriculum and Teachers in Promoting Peace Education:
Curriculum is the only way through which one can transform the minds of the students. One should, however, remember that the students might now show much interest in peace education if they are introduced to the subject directly. On the other hand, if we make them to participate in different activities that include peace education, they would definitely realize the importance of peace and need for it. Mere statement like 'violence should be avoided' or 'violence leads to more violence' can never put an end to violence and result in peace. But if we succeed, through absorbing activities, in making the students understand the importance of peace and the ultimate of peace, then the chances of achieving the ultimate aim of peace are enhanced.

Merely integrating peace component in the curriculum, however, would not be adequate. To make process of peace education an effective one, we need competent teachers who can make the subject both interesting and effective. A teacher should not only be a symbol of peace but should also be endowed with competence and efficiency. In other words, for peace education to be effective. Two components are of paramount importance: suitable curriculum and efficient teachers. For the effective teaching of peace education, the following strategies can be adopted:

- Teacher should voluntarily accept the challenges of peace education.
- Teachers should work across the ideological boundaries.
- Extension lectures by experts on the theme og peace should organized.
- Curriculum should enhance the constructive qualities and values of students.
- There should be regular competitions like seminars, debates, essay-writing etc. on the theme of peace.
- The principal of "vasdhaiva kutumbakam" should be followed.
- There should be a model course in the curriculum on international understanding.
- The values of non-violence, cooperation, fraternity and patience should be taught at the school levels.
- Educational institutions should work in the direction of positive peace.

Conclusion

In the 21st century and beyond man would address the basic questions to himself and would seek answers for him. His life would become more meaningful and purposeful with his trial to find simple truths of life. Man would realize his illusions and weaknesses from which he suffers. He would try to build on his strengths. Thus he would get peace and happiness he deserves. It may not happen for majority of them but the trend would have set in. Simplicity of life would become a way of life. Hence, the path of truth would become easy. However, it would not happen automatically and for these systematic efforts are required to be made by those who are truth dawns on majority of people, it would be the happiest day for any peace loving creature in the world.

Education is rightly described as the dynamic side of philosophy. Hence in order to create a generation of peace loving people we must have a system of education which can reach masses and has capacity to train the people to understand, analyze and to evolve suitable solutions for the all the problems arise during their life time. Peace education can fulfill the above roles affectively to create harmony and peace loving environment.

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