



Strengthening the Forth Pillar of Learning through Peace & Value Education

Puja Mishra

Affiliation: Faculty of Education (K), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005, (U.P.), India Email:- m.poooh@gmail.com

Abstract: Today's world is so fast and progressive due to advancement of science and technology which has made this world a global village. Like any other change, this advancement has its good and bad effects as well. Any event or happening occurring in one part of the world has quick effect on another. This might be positive or negative. However mutual sharing of concerns of human being, it has resulted in social, political, economic imbalances and socio-cultural crises. In this rapidly changing society, the fading values, increasing intolerance, and widening gap between people has adversely affected the philosophy of learning to live together with harmony and peace. This has led to an urgent need of rejuvenating the spirit of life to live together. And as it is considered that our schools are the social laboratories where the future of the country is shaped by the educators through proper and correct education. Therefore it is quite essential for the teachers to know and use various skills, strategies and activities for promoting peace through education and fostering values in children. This paper discusses about the peace and value education, its nature and concept, aims of peace and value education as well as various skills and strategies are recommended for peace and value education.

Keyword: global village; peace education; learning to live together

Introduction: According to the founding charter of UNESCO, "war begins in the minds of men." If this is true then it is the change in mind and thought processes which could lead to the culture of peace rather than culture of war. Albert Einstein said, "the problems we have cannot be solved at same level of thinking that created the." So for solving the problems of humankind there should be an upgraded level of thinking and so is the aim of peace education i.e. to raise our levels of thinking to be able to solve these problems. Education is the key factor for shaping a child's behavior. It is factor which affects the way of looking the world. Education gives a broader perspective to the learner. However many factors affect our behavior, consciousness and worldview such as genetics, home environment, religion and community but one factor which is most important is our formal schooling. Schools are the social subsystems which represent the population and it contains the diversity within classroom. And when there are differences it gives rise to conflicts and chaos. So peace and value based education is the need of our society because school is the place where we spend most of our time as children. 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 [1].

Peace- is a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there's no fighting or war, everything coexists in perfect harmony and freedom. Peace is a kind of constellation of needs desires, wishes and values which are imprinted in human consciousness both individually and collectively.

Value-values reflect a person's sense of right and wrong or what "ought" to be.

Education-It is the act or process of acquiring or imparting general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgement, and generally preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life. Education is process that occurs not only in human communities but also within the whole earth community.

NATURE AND CONCEPT OF PEACE EDUCATION-

Lennart vriens (1989) identified five different categories for peace education:

- Peace education is the education for the peaceful people who will make peace on earth. Education is a powerful means for bringing about peace.
- Peace education is a type of education which introduces pupils into political backgrounds of war and identifies factors that interfere with peace.
- Peace education is particularly effective education and has therapeutic dimension as well. People get relief from troubles which bother them.
- Peace education has strong relations with religious education. Before referring to particular religion, we must stress that major religious philosophies of the world lay stress on individual or personal peace.
- There is only indirect relationship between education and peace. Education is one of the other factors of peace. So education has to act along other agencies of peace.

AIMS OF PEACE EDUCATION-

There are numerous aims of peace education but it is not possible to achieve all of them through one single curricular approach. The achievable aims are identified below from the work of vriens who conducted a reach study.

- The schools should encourage solidarity and involvement with other groups and individuals.
- The school should teach children to deal with conflicts in a just and peaceful way.
- The schools should make children aware of prejudices and also teach them to combat these prejudices through educational means.
- The schools should eliminate injustice, distrust, fear, and feelings of hostility.
- The schools should teach children to work and play together and group activities.
- The school should encourage among children an attitude which is opposed to violence and acts of war.
- The school should teach the children to deal with aggression in a responsible way.
- The school should acquaint children with democratic 'rules of games' and then guide them to think independently

- The schools should introduce to children the major global problems and let them know that things can be changed for better.

The above aims of peace education could be realized through a proper school curriculum and also curricular activities

STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

Education for peace seeks to nurture the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that comprise a culture of peace. It is a long-term proactive strategy to nurture peaceful persons who resolve conflicts non-violently. Education for peace is holistic. Education for Development is the term used in UNICEF to describe an approach to teaching and learning which builds a commitment to global solidarity, peace, acceptance of differences, social justice and environmental awareness in young people. Its aim is to empower children and youth to participate in bringing about constructive change, both locally and globally it embraces the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth of children within a framework of human values. Peace involves all aspects and dimensions of human existence in an inter-dependent way. Only those who are at peace with themselves can be at peace with others and develop the sensitivity it takes to be just and caring towards nature. Spiritual and psychological peace is neither stable nor viable without social, economic, and ecological peace. Peace implies reciprocity. Values like love, freedom, and peace can be had only by giving them to others. Peace for oneself that excludes peace for others is a dangerous illusion. Education for Peace, hence, has a two-fold purpose: (a) to empower individuals to choose the path of peace rather than the path of violence; and (b) to enabling them to be peacemakers rather than the consumers of peace.

ROLE OF TEACHER IN INCULCATION OF PEACE AND VALUES-

Education is a mean of value development. The end product is development of moral character, personality and good human being. The teacher has a great role in making the students good human beings and this is possible only if he himself is a good human being.

Educational values are those activities which are good, useful and valuable from the point of view of education. These contribute to every sphere of life. The teacher should help in making understand the various principles of life to the students and thereby inculcate educational values among students. These values signify a code of principles which are essential for leading a noble life. It helps in building of character. The moral values which need to be inculcated among the students by the teacher are honesty, truthfulness, moral stability, good character, kindness, purity, sympathy and humility. It would help in developing the capacity of earning, vocational efficiency, character, healthy personality, use of leisure time. It promotes social efficiency by developing skills of social adjustments. The teacher has a great role in the process of a child's growing socialization. The role of a teacher during a child's early years of development is vital for children's physical and mental growth at this time. The teacher observes how the prepared environment works for a child, how children engage in materials and then the teacher adjusts the environment to their needs. This is very important in supporting a process of socialization through which the true

nature of a child is revealed. Teacher has a great role in giving peace education to the students and thus promoting communal harmony among students. Peace education is the process of acquiring the values, the knowledge and developing the attitudes, skills, and behaviors to live in harmony with oneself, with others, and with the natural environment.

Teacher has a great role in Nation building which is a constructive process of engaging all students in building social cohesion, economic prosperity and political stability in an inclusive and democratic way. It is important to note that the priceless resource of any country is its human resource. There is no other resource that matches the human being, because mankind is the foundation or the corner stone of any development and civilization. Out of the human intellect, a nation is built. Education for peace is, in this sense, an essential component of holistic basic education that aims at the comprehensive development of persons. Since imparting knowledge is responsibility of the teachers and therefore it is also his way of teaching which influences the minds of learner. So given below are some strategies or activities for giving education for peace and value:

- **Helping the students to rise above self-**The students must have understanding of relationship among human beings and for that schools must organize programmes on women's day, parents day, community day etc. these activities will enhance harmony in human relationships and make children aware of joy of living for others.
- **Helping the students in building relationships with plant and animal kingdom-** activities such as celebration of world Environment day, preparation of albums and scrapbooks containing pictures of animal and plants, visits to zoos and wild life park and sanctuaries may be organized to let students explore the creatures around them. And to discover how animals help in maintaining the ecological balance.
- **Nurturing the relationship with inanimate world-** the existence of human beings is dependent on and conditioned by physical world that is earth, air, water, fire etc. In India various religion worship these physical entities as a mark of respect, Students should be given group projects on environmental education so that they may form concepts about diversities interdependence and relatedness.
- **Students should be encouraged for writing diaries-** students may be encouraged to maintain diaries of important events and good deeds done by them for needy persons. They should also be encouraged to record the self-confessions of whatever wrong they might have committed such as stealing, showing disrespect to someone, telling lie etc.
- **Yogic way of life-** Yoga is considered to be significant for self confidence and concentration of mind .it reduces body tension and one gets sound sleep which is also necessary for self harmony.
- **Group harmony-**the development of "we" feeling instead of "I" feeling should be promoted through various group activities. Camping in NCC, Scout and guides is one of the beneficial ways to help students to rise above narrow

thinking. Community singing, games and common meals should be encouraged for better mental health. Visit to orphanage and other welfare institutions should be organized. Group living encourages harmony and leads to realization that good of individual and that of a group are mutually interdependent.

- **The students should be suggested to read the biographies of eminent persons all over the world-**There is no substitute to good education which comes only from having read more, studied more and suffered more. Biographies of scientists, writers, and other world-class eminent personalities are the important ways to know the contribution of those people towards peace.
- **Developing the skills for international Understanding-**Students when enter school they have little understanding of the current world affairs and also of the geographical aspect. In order to achieve the global or international understanding the most appropriate exercise to use is “international parliament”. In this mock parliament each students could represent a country and there could be discussion in the latest happenings around the world.
- **Promotion of multiculturalism and multilingualism-**This strategy would help in making the students competent for living in a diverse society without any tension and rivalry. They will understand their culture as well as the culture of others. Children have to be taught and encouraged to use their potential in positive creative and productive ways.
- **Curriculum reforms-**There is a need of reforming the curriculum which should be based on the idea and values fostering peace and harmony. The hidden curriculum of schools should be such that every student becomes a responsible citizen and is able to live with others.

CONCLUSION- Now a days there are so many major issues across the world which gives rise to tension and rivalry, violence, racial discrimination and hatred. So it is necessary that people in different part of world should learn to live together on the basis of mutual understanding helping one another. And since schools are the social laboratories where the nation's future is build by the teachers. Teachers are social actors of change and have a great role in giving peace education and thus promoting communal harmony among students which is significant for national integration. Time is not evaluated by what has been harvested, but what has been planted. Teacher can plant the seeds of harmony and integration among students' minds. So by employing several strategies among schools and using some skills and activities for educating students about peace and values, will lead to realization of a great concept of regarding the ' world as one big family' (*Vasudhaiva kutumbakam*).

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