

## Education for the World Peace-Need of the Hour

**Jyotpreet kaur**

Assistant Professor, Khalsa College of Education, Amritsar, India

### Abstract

Peace is a natural state of mind. Peace is possible for life at all stages and it is up to man to choose his destiny or to suffer from the horrors of war. Today mankind is at the cross-road where he has to choose with courage, and imagination.(**Fedrico Mayor,1995**). Peace is a state of wellbeing that is characterized by trust, compassion and justice . Peace is not absence of conflicts it is the ability to handle conflicts by peaceful means. Peace should mean not only absence of war, but also violence in all forms ,such as conflicts ,threats of life, social degradation ,discrimination, oppression, exploitation ,poverty, injustice and so on. Peace is a feeling of security.

**KEYWORDS:** Peace, Peace Education, Conflict Resolution, Importance of Peace Education

In today's world everyone is worried about world peace but no one is realizing that global peace can only be achieved if every nation will be settled at peace. Violence is emerging in an unprecedented manner in human society. Though the world is at the state of distress, frustration, conflicts, non-corporation but everyone should seek for peace. Lack of peace destroy the identity of a nation and convert the positive energies into the negative which ultimately harms the future of a nation. The future of a nation depends upon the kind of education being provided in a country as it plays a vital role in the whole development of a nation. The need of the hour is to develop the young generation with peace consciousness and the importance of conflict resolution peace education has the potential to become a major motivation to avoid Conflits and war. Peace education is not a modern invention or an innovation of the modern age of the science and technology. As far back as five thousand years ago, the Rig Veda has ushered in the new area of enlightenment and the concept of peace education came into existence. Peace education means to learn about knowledge and understanding of what goes on different levels and what contributes to the peace, what damage it. It is for learning the skills, attitudes and values that one needs in order to contribute to peace and to help maintain it. Education for peace means;

- Examining and discussing our values and attitudes towards diversity, cultural differences, tolerance and human dignity and directing our efforts towards achieving fundamental changes within societies.
- Developing language and social interaction skills to promote peaceful relations among people, among nations and between human beings and the natural environment.
- Learning to solve problems and to think critically regarding issues of conflict and violence.

## **IMPORTANCE OF PEACE EDUCATION**

Peace education focuses on creating mental changes or conditions. It is a kind of education which enables people to live together in a peaceful way, to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner. 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. 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. Article 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". It is peace education which inculcates and builds values, 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. If we intend to create a peaceful society we must renew our educational society, which has no scope for inculcating the human values. Our examination system needs to be re-examined which in fact fosters cutthroat competition; rather it should test of right type of the potential of the individual. Our environment the school, playground, home and our media focus more on violence rather than peace. We want our children to go beyond the four walls of religion and spread the human values to build a peaceful world.

## **AIMS OF PEACE EDUCATION**

The goal of peace education is to build a lasting foundation for inter-group and inter-ethnic peace in those regions where the ravages of war, terrorism, prejudices and cultural changes have created conditions of insecurity. The objectives of peace education are as follows:

- ❖ To understand the nature and origin of violence and effect on both victims and perpetrator
- ❖ To create framework for achieving peaceful and creative societies.
- ❖ To sharpen awareness about the existence of non-peaceful relationships between people and within and between nations.
- ❖ To investigate the cause of conflicts and violence embedded within perceptions values and attitudes of individuals.
- ❖ To encourage the search for alternatives or possible non-violent skills.
- ❖ To equip persons and adults with personal conflict resolution skills.
- ❖ To develop the attitudes for having concern for others and environment.
- ❖ To have the respect for other cultures, religion and lifestyle.
- ❖ To think independently and critically
- ❖ To take part responsibly in decision making.
- ❖ To solve problems in an effective way including negotiation and meditation.
- ❖ To develop tolerance, generosity and compassion to solve problems.

- ❖ To develop attitudes and skills like self-respect, strong self concept, tolerance and acceptance etc.
- ❖ To build public awareness and political support for introduction of peace education into all spheres of education including non-formal education, in all schools throughout the country.
- ❖ To promote the education of all teachers, civic leaders and partners to teach and advocate for peace.

## **FOSTERING PEACE EDUCATION**

Implementing peace education can be achieved in the following ways:

- (a) Using topics that raise issues related to peace and cultural understanding in classrooms. This will help teachers to accord students the basic information to help them develop positive attitudes and values related to peaceful living.
- (b) Engaging in activities that encourage cooperation, consensus building and reflective listening gives students skills they need to meet and resolve conflicts
- (c) Analyzing conflict involves examining the situations for the causes of conflict or misunderstanding. Through this, pupils, students and communities can develop a vocabulary that is needed to discuss the concept of peace and conflict and to deepen their understanding of these issues. As they explore the concepts of peace, they discuss their own attitudes and values; they improve their social interaction skills as well as their language skills.
- (d) The theme of conflict resolution in peace education presents the opportunity to all pupils to acquire peace-making skills for dealing with conflict in their personal lives and make them aware of the processes of peace making at national and international levels.
- (e) The language of non-violence involves developing effective communication skills in order to carry out positive interactions in everyday social situations as well as conflict situations. It involves an understanding of pro-social behavior such as cooperation, collaboration, affirming others and expressing feelings clearly in such a way that do not accuse others in other words, speaking the language of peace.
- (f) At the student level, experiences in cooperative learning, conflict resolution, structured controversy and mediation will be identified as the of any comprehensive effort to create peace. Following characteristics should be developed among children through education
  - Promoting self-esteem, dignity for oneself and respect for feelings and rights of others.
  - Speaking about oneself instead of the other person
  - Speaking with positive emotional expressions
  - Understanding possible barriers to effective communication and how to diffuse them.
  - Teaching the language to students at a personal level is intended to equip them with skills that they can use to cross barriers of ethnicity, nationality, religion and other in-built prejudices.

- Developing cross-cultural understanding provides knowledge necessary to enhance awareness of cultural patterns among different cultures.
- (g) Empathy has been defined as **“the mental identification of the ego with the character and experiences of another”** Emphatic communication connotes extending oneself into another person’s space in order to see things from the viewpoint of that person .Students can undertake awareness of empathy and to use language skills to send appropriate messages that communicate shared understanding of others through role taking tasks.
- (h) Importance of the “The 4 R’s in school curriculums – reading, (w)riting, (a)rithmetic and reconciliation should be discussed in classroom which will help children confront their biases, redirect their aggressive behavior, learn to negotiate, and discover non-violent peaceful means to relate to one another.
- (i) Peace education needs to be included in school curriculums and it needs to be rated at the same importance as common subjects such as mathematics or science. Children need to learn about peace to be able to live and interact in our world, and peace education teaches valuable skills for their futures, as well as the future of our world. It is through peace education that a culture of peace and non-violence can be reached.
- (j) Teachers act as role models each day in the classroom. Learning in the classroom should be by doing, teaching should be done in an instrumentalist way, as opposed to authoritarian teaching methods.
- (k) Teachers need to demonstrate peaceful living and behavior and teach in ways that allow children to actively learn and express themselves. Teachers need to display peaceful behavior at all times and particularly when managing a classroom. This should be done in the way a teacher act, not just in the way a teacher tells the students to act.
- (l) Physical discipline technique should not be used in homes or schools as it only creates fear in children.
- (m) Voice raising is another discipline technique that should not be used in homes or schools. If teachers constantly raise their voices, then students will follow this example and do so as well. There are many other strategies that can be used to discipline students and catch student’s attention such as hand clapping, or asking the students to raise their hands and then not speaking until each child has done so. Consequences can be developed for breaking rules as alternatives to physical discipline or yelling.
- (n) Other consequences, such as the removal of privileges, give children time to think about what they have done, work out alternative solutions if the situation were to occur again, and learn how to non-violently deal with their anger.
- (o) Treating students respectfully is important as well. If a student is treated with respect by their teacher it gives them encouragement to treat others with respect as well.
- (p) Setting up classroom rules on the first day of the year is a way to begin establishing a peaceful environment in the classroom. This is done by asking the students to collaborate together on what rules they think need to be in place in order for the classroom to be a peaceful and productive working environment.

- (q) Reward systems can be used in schools and classrooms. These reward systems come in various forms but the end goal is always to encourage positive behavior.
- (r) Schools should have peer mediator programs. Peer mediators work with teachers to resolve conflicts, often through group meetings between the two individuals in conflict, a teacher and one or two peer mediators. Peer mediator programs have taught children the skills they need for conflict prevention and resolution. These peer mediator programs can prove to be very successful in resolving conflicts and often the peer mediators share their skills with other children.
- (s) Schools should have zero tolerance policies for violent behavior. This means that there is a consequence in place for violent behavior and if a student violates a rule, there is a consequence that immediately applies to that student, regardless of any reasons why the student may feel the act was justified.
- (t) Reading children books about world issues is one simple way to promote discussion and thought on issues they may not face in their daily lives but should still be conscious of.

### **EDUCATIONAL VALUE**

Peace education has equal importance as common subjects such as mathematics or science and it needs to be included in school as it can enable children to learn about peace, to be able to live and interact in our world, and peace education teaches valuable skills for their futures, as well as the future of our world. It is through peace education that a culture of peace and non-violence can be reached. Importance of the “The 4 R’s in school curriculums – reading, (w)riting, (a)rithmetic and reconciliation should be discussed in classroom which will help children confront their biases, redirect their aggressive behavior, learn to negotiate, and discover non-violent peaceful means to relate to one another. Teachers act as role models each day in the classroom. Learning in the classroom should be by doing, teaching should be done in an instrumentalist way, as opposed to authoritarian teaching methods. Thus enriching our curriculum with peace education can lead to a positive change in the mindset of the future generation of our nation.

### **CONCLUSION**

Today we have a situation where the whole young generation is going out of the track because we have such an education system where cognitive development is highlighted on the cost of moral and value education. For the culture of peace to establish it is necessary to develop social norms of respect, dignity and concern for others. Peace education needs to be introduced as new separate compulsory subject in the existing school curriculum as well as teacher education curriculum. In today’s world values are gradually erasing and peace education seems to be the only solution for all the conflict raising problems at global level.

## REFERENCES

- Aggarwal,G.C.(2005) *Education for Values Environment and Human Science*.Shipra Publications ,New Delhi
- Chopra,V&Dutta ,I.(2012) Relevance of Peace Education in Teacher Education Programme.*Edutracks*,12,(1)
- Chinara,B.(2012) Educating Self for Peace and Teachers: A Process of Social Transformation,*University News* 50(29),11
- Grewal,S &Kapri.U.C,(2015) Education for World Peace Need of the Hour, *IPRA International Journal of Economic and Business Review*(3),1
- Mishra,L.(2009) *Peace Education :Framework for Teachers* A.P.H Publishing Corporation.4435-36/7,Ansari Road,Darya Ganj, New Delhi.
- Mayor,F.(1995) How Psychology can Contribute to a Culture of Peace and Conflict . *Journal of Peace Psychology*,1,3.

## Web address

- [www.unesco.org/cpp/uk/declration](http://www.unesco.org/cpp/uk/declration)
- [www.un-documents.net/a53r243a](http://www.un-documents.net/a53r243a)
- [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)
- [www.culture-of-peace.info](http://www.culture-of-peace.info)
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/international](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/international)
- [www.preacherexchange.com](http://www.preacherexchange.com)
- [www.unicef.org/..peaceeducation.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/..peaceeducation.pdf)