A NEED TO EMPHASIZE EDUCATION FOR PEACE IN ORDER TO SAVE INTERNATIONAL PEACE

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Abstract

History reflects itself the role of education in making world livable, comfortable peaceful and developed. The countries who excelled with their educational systems timely also done well in all aspects of life. With the advent of science and technology and world has shrank just like a tennis ball where you can see its three dimensional shape. We all need peace in all aspects of life. It may be physical, emotional, social, and economical, National and international aspect. A great need has been felt to inculcate this value among people to save the world and humanity We need peace education at four levels 1. Individual and self level 2. School and Community Level, 3. National Level and 4.International Level. Education is entrusted to produce good and productive citizens to the nation. In this regard, learning and understanding the current sociopolitical and economic problems and issues is also important. Students as future citizens need to develop healthy and realistic perspectives to view problems in the society………

This article is an honest attempt to throw light on different aspect of needs of Peace Education to be followed at all level of education to ensure peace and harmony in the world………………

Key Words: *Peace Education, Indian Perspective, Role and relevance of Education etc.*

Introduction

The whole world is fighting with pandemic COVID -19 with its all mights. An invisible virus has caused a serious damage resulting loss of over one million lives across six continents. No one knows when will this come to an end, until we get a permanent vaccine for the problem. Though history says that this is not the first time we have faced such situation first time but there are number of times when many such epidemics, pandemics, wars and geographical disasters like earthquakes, floods storms put the whole world on its

knees. On seeing the positive side of present situation hopefully it may end soon. Man has intruded the jurisdiction of nature in a very greedy manner resulting invitation to such problems. Simultaneously all the nations of world are also struggling with other major problems like global warming, shortage of potable water,deforestation,Ozone hole, rising level of air, water and sound pollution, weakening of immunity systems of human being ,uncontrolled population and also lack of cooperation among countries, dominance of developed countries over developing and underdeveloped countries, proliferation policies of some countries, declared and undeclared wars between two countries, Terrorism, Economic terrorism, human trafficking and many more. All these problems have been invited by man himself due to his vested interests and greedy nature.

The whole world is a family "Vasudhaiv kutumbkam" thought embedded in our Sanatan Sanskrit has lost its meaning in context to present world scenario. Since Independence Indo – Pak standoff and declared/undeclared wars have always hurted the emotions of both countries. Pakistan never values peace among two countries. Indo -China present standoff clearly reveals the ill intended proliferation policy of China. Ethnic and territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan at present shows that volatile issues may catch fire anytime resulting to witness a new world war again. China was the epicenter of COVID -19 which later turned into Pandemic and affected the whole world. It didn't control it seriously causing devastating humanity all over the world latterly. Now all the countries are annoyed with China and may result into division of world on same issue. Conflicts between South Korea and North Korea, USA and North Korea, USA and Iran may turn fatal anytime and may change the whole world into a heap of ash. A General question arises that what could be done in this situation when the humanity, peace brotherhood and all values are stake. The answer can be found with the only most effective tool "Education".

History reflects itself the role of education in making world livable, comfortable peaceful and developed. The countries who excelled with their educational systems timely also done well in all aspects of life. With the advent of science and technology and world has shrank just like a tennis ball where you can see its three dimensional shape. Within fraction of second you can send or receive any information of world irrespective of your location. Everything is possible with technology but it can't give human touch, feelings, and emotions and off course values. What is left with this materialistic world is value which is of course a cohesive force to humanity. "Live and Let Live" value can come through peace. We all need

peace in all aspects of life. It may be physical, emotional, social, and economical,National and international aspect. A great need has been felt to inculcate this value among people to save the world and humanity. Though in moral education at various level it is taught to future citizens but significantly National Curriculum Frame work (NCF-2005) has strongly recommended it to students in their curriculum and also teacher education curriculum. The value of peace if inculcated in generations through education system can bring the whole world again on a same platform where issues are resolved, humanity is presereved, respect for each other is recognized, expenditures on wars are zero, unity is reflected and natural resources are safe.

Concept of Peace Education

Peace is an integral part of mind and body. Since ancient era man is used to live in a peaceful environment. A peaceful mind and body always fills us with energy to do multiple tasks. Peace begins with the individual and spreads to the family, to the community, to the nation, and to the global village. Promoting a culture of peace, hence involves a two pronged strategy. The members of a society need to be oriented towards peace rather than towards violence. At the same time, social, economic and political systems have to be reoriented to peace. The discipline of peace must shape our way of life. Education is vital for the effectiveness of both strategies. For this to happen education has to go beyond the warehousing of information to a celebration of awareness, which is the best facilitated through education for peace.

Concept of World peace in Indian Perspective

India was and still is in leading position as for as the the concept of peaceful countries are concerned. It never tried to attack foreign territory however there have been numerous instances when other countries have been aggressive and detrimental to her interests, to which there was no other way out but to undertake suitable action. This was the reason that India had to fight wars with China in 1962 and with Pakistan in 1965, 1971and 1999. Still India is always sticking to its peace policy giving the whole world a message of living together and happy. Peace Education is more effective and meaningful when it is imparted taking into account the social and cultural context and the needs of a country. It should be enriched by its cultural and spiritual values and with the universal human values. There are number of definitions for peace education but here are some important one:

"Peace Education is an attempt to respond to problems of conflicts and violence on scales ranging from the global and national to the local and personal. It is about exploring ways of creating more just and sustainable futures".-**R.D Laing (1978)**

"Peace Education is holistic. It embraces the physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth of children within a frame work deeply rooted in traditional human values. It is based on a philosophy that teaches love, compassion, trust, faireness, co-operation and reverence for the human family and all life on our beautiful planet". - ***Fran Schmidt and Alice Friedman (1988)***

Role and relevance of Education in Promoting Peace Education

"If we are to teach real peace in the world we shall have to begin with children."

-Mahatma Gandhi

The terrible devastation and massive massacre that took place during the Second World War compelled the people of the world to rethink about the consequences of a Third World War. Definitely it would lead to extinction of the entire humanity, civilization and culture from the face of earth; atom bombs will annihilate the existence of the entire humanity. People experienced that for realizing perennial world peace, there was an urgent need for an international organization to establish world peace and protect human rights and to get rid of wars for all times to come, the United Nations was set up on 24th October,1945.

The focus on behavioral change in the UNICEF definition of peace education reflects the fact that behavior does not occur in a vacuum; it is nested within the family, peer group, the community and the larger society. Behaviour development is intrinsically linked to an interdependent with the values and norms of those groups. Existing values and norms can either contribute to or hinder behavior that promotes peace. Peace Education in UNICEF promotes the development of values as the basis for behavioral change, and views behavior as an indicator of an individual's or group's values' he effectiveness of peace education is increased when strategies are used that address the values. The effectiveness of peace education is increased when strategies are used that address the values of the entire community.

We need peace education at four levels 1. Individual and self level 2. School and Community Level, 3. National Level and 4.International Level. There are many important self-development needs in children that are not sufficiently addressed to in the process of schooling. One of the important self felt needs is building an effective, integrated personality

in the child with positive self esteem. To live peacefully , an individual has to have many skills, like those related to affirmation, positive thining,empathetic listening and communication assertive behavior, decision-making and critical thinking,etc.school should help children to develop such skills so that they are empowered as individuals in the society.

At the school level, the predominant needs are to have a peaceful climate i. e. a peace culture. In such a culture, children will naturally absorb the spirit of peace. There is a popular saying that peace has to be caught rather than be taught. Initiating a peaceful culture in schools should start from staff, by developing attitudes and behavior of appreciation, co-operation, belongingness, trust and spirit of learning. It would be necessary to change the teacher centered classroom approach to child centered learning. when there is active and participative learning in the classroom using interesting teaching and learning methods in a friendly and livliy atmosphere marked by creative expressions of potentials and self, discipline, peace will emerge naturally. Teachers have to identify effective strategies and practices that could transform the school to a place of harmony.

At the national level, a school has to focus on the citizenship education needs of the nation or the country. This aspect of citizenship education is an integral part of peace education. Education is entrusted to produce good and productive citizens to the nation. In this regard, learning and understanding the current sociopolitical and economic problems and issues is also important. Students as future citizens need to develop healthy and realistic perspectives to view problems in the society.

Coming to global level needs, it is important to recall the fact that the ultimate purpose of education is to produce a world citizen. No country can live in isolation anymore. Children will have to develop a sensible world view. The need here is to broaden the world vision. With this objective in mind, the school can select current issues; generate discussions and debate on world issues to raise the global awareness in the students.

Conclusion: To ensure global peace it is mandatory to ensure consensus among all education systems of the world to give an appropriate space to Education for peace. There should be regular monitoring of prescribed curricula to meet with the objectives of peace education. Actual Education Starts from home, so a peace full family environment will boost up the need of peace outside. The World has witnessed the devastation caused by world wars, now it can't bear more loss to its humanity. Only Education can channelize the energy of young generations in productive tasks. Further world should adopt the "VASUDHAIV

KUTUMBKAM" norm of Indian Culture by leaving their vested interest of supremacy and proliferation. Only Peace can ensure the beauty and integrity of this planet.

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