

**INCULCATION OF PEACE EDUCATION IN CURRENT SCENARIO**

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**Abstract**

*Peace Education is a topic of great concern for educationalist and policymakers of our education system. Its aim is to empower children and youth to participate in bringing about constructive changes, both locally and globally. Peace Education creates violence-free and peaceful educational environment which is conducive for meeting the emotional, social and intellectual needs of diverse student population. Through Peace Education schools can develop a more humanistic management approach; improve human relations among teachers and students; help develop good attitudes in students and teachers; help healthy emotional development in students; facilitate socialization through participation in interactive and co-operative learning activities; improve students' discipline and moral behavior; develop creativity both in students and teachers; and improve standard of quality of teaching and learning. Through this paper we will also come to know as to how peace can be inculcated in the mind of sensitive child of twenty first century at the school and home.*

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*“There is no way to peace, peace is the way”*

*-Mahatma Gandhi*

Presently, we are living in the age of not only advance science and technology but also the age of privatization, liberalization and globalization. Globalization aims at the intensification of economic, political, cultural, religious, social, and moral and value transactions across the country. It ensures the integration of Indian-ethos and culture with world culture. We are enjoying the advantages of globalization in every sphere of life. In spite of this it appears that moral values and peace may be degraded in our education system, may be commercialized, and weaker section of society may be impaired within the purview of globalization. Albert Einstein aptly remarked, **“Peace is not merely absence of war but the presence of justice, of law and order, of government.”**

The word “Peace” is involved with the word truth, beauty and love. So peace must be inevitable in educational institutions. Peace makes amity among people, promotes national and international integrations and understanding within country and abroad. Condense nationality

and peaceful state of society, motivates accountability of people. Peace removes dark clouds of communal riots and terrorism and revamps good socio-economic, political and religious conditions of a country. For this capacity can be enhanced through Peace Education.

## **Peace Education**

Peace Education is a broader discipline; disarmament education, human rights, environment education, educations for non-violence, education for international understanding and global education are the various forms /branches of peace education. Peace education concerns with peace ideas, peace studies, and peace activities. It deals with conflicts arising out of aggression or war situation and arising out of injustice or exploitations.

The National Curriculum Framework (2005) states that, "Peace is a contextually appropriate and pedagogically gainful point of coherence for values. Peace concertizes the purpose of values and motivates their internationalization". It also stated that, "Peace is a prime requirement for progress and national integration". So, it is clear that peace focuses on values and recognized as a need for progress. 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. It should also be globally relevant. Peace education, hence, can be defined in many ways—

- ❖ "The development of a holistic approach, based on participatory methods and taking into account the various dimensions of education for a culture of peace (peace and non-violence, human rights, democracy, tolerance, international and intercultural understanding, cultural and linguistic diversity) is its main objective." - **UNESCO**
- ❖ "Peace education can be defined as the education that actualizes children's potentialities in helping them learn how to make peace with themselves and with others, to live in harmony and unity with self, humankind and with nature".--**Dale Hudson**
  
- ❖ Peace education is skill building. It empowers children to find creative and non-destructive ways to settle conflict and to live in harmony with themselves, others, and their world..... Peace building is the task of every human being and the challenge of the human family —**Fran Schmidt and Alice Friedman (1988)**

From the above definitions we can say that peace education is a remedial measure to protect children from falling into the ways of violence in society. It aims at the total development of the child. It tries to inculcate higher human and social values in the mind of the child. In essence, it attempts to develop a set of behavioral skills necessary for peaceful living and peace building from which the whole of humanity will benefit.

## **Aims of Peace Education**

The overall aim of education for peace is to help build a peaceful world. Thus it aims to:

- Understand the nature and origin of violence and its effect on both victim and perpetrator.
- Create framework for achieving peace and peaceful creative societies.
- Investigate the causes of conflicts and violence embedded within perceptions, values and attitudes of individuals as well as within social and political structures of society.
- Encourage the search for alternatives and positive nonviolent skills.
- Equip children and adults with personal conflict resolution skills.
- Create a more peaceful world where all of us may become agents for change. Education for peace gives us the skills that will assist in achieving peaceful societies.
- Create a better learning environment where conflict and relationship may be explored.

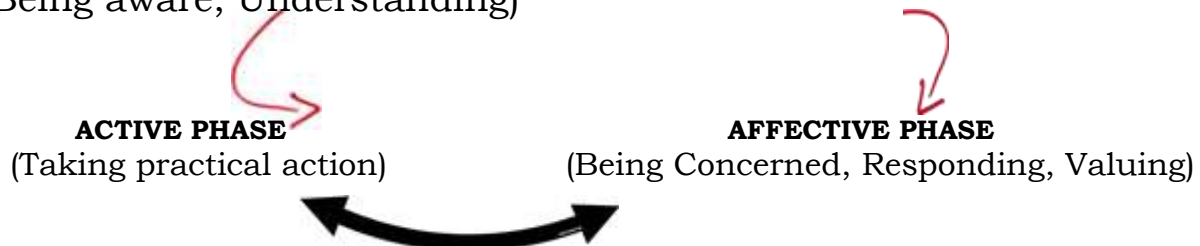
## **Various Practices that makes school a place of Peace**

### **Figure 1**

#### **PEACEABLE TEACHING- LEARNING PROCESS**

##### **COGNITIVE PHASE**

(Being aware, Understanding)



According to UNICEF vision, Peace education is taken as an essential component of quality basic education. A number of educational initiatives have areas of overlap with peace education. These include children's rights/human rights education, education for development, gender training, global education, life skills education, landmine awareness, and psychosocial rehabilitation. Each can be thought of as providing another lens or perspective through which to examine how peace can be 'mainstreamed' in basic education. To develop children's peaceful

living competencies, a school can work in a number of ways. They come under the following practices at school levels--

### **1. Developing codes of conduct for classes**

Classroom codes of conduct can improve students' discipline and promote school culture conducive to children's moral growth. Developing a code of conduct follows the procedure given below-

- Discusses with the students the need of having a code of conduct for the class, and get their consent.
- Group the class and request each group to prepare the code, according to their own needs. It should be able to guide students' behaviour in the classroom and schools.
- When the groups have completed their drafts they present them to the class. Following each presentation a short discussion is held to get feedback in order to improve them.
- Appoint a committee to prepare the final draft from the drafts submitted by the groups. Once they have prepared it the teacher can refine it through editing. The code should be simple and brief.
- Let the committee present the draft and get the consent of the class. Display the code of conduct in the classroom.
- Once a week, say, every Friday the teacher should conduct a progress review of the conduct in the class.

### **2. Practices for developing self-esteem**

Peace education stresses the need of improving children's self-esteem in school. The school has to find many creative strategies and practices at all the levels for it. In the attempt the school can implement various methods of identifying students' potentials and promoting them further through various methods of rewarding, encouraging, guiding and facilitating. For example--

- Selecting the best students, weekly, termly and annually (The school announces the areas of selection, e.g. academic performance, special talents in art, drama, music, leadership, problem-solving, helping behavior,) This can take interesting forms such as selecting the school scientist, engineer mathematician, artist, actor, orators, etc. Selections can be done through exhibitions, competitions, classroom evaluations and so on.
- Awarding badges, certificates, and prizes,
- Arranging special occasions for display of talents
- Recognition in the morning assembly.

### **3. Using special activities and exercises for developing Peaceful competencies**

One of the indicators of the school practicing peace Education is the constant use of active and participative learning methods in lessons Education is the constant use of active and participative learning methods in lessons. There is a wide range of learning activities available to teachers to suit all age levels of students. These activities may be used for-

- Making learning interesting and happy/ Increasing motivation
- Energizing
- Improving co-operation in the classroom/ team-building
- Improving critical thinking and problem-solving capacities.
- Improving social skills such as in communication, and assertive behavior/  
Socializing students
  
- Expanding consciousness/ experience inner peace.
- Releasing stress of boredom, monotony and learning
- Evaluating learning

### **4. Moral instruction for the day**

Starting the day with a moral or spiritual thought provides inspiration; this can be done at the school level in the morning assembly by giving a short talk on a topic related to character building. Both the teachers and students can deliver such talks. Alternatives such as listening to recorded songs and short talks; reading from literature could be used for change.

### **5. School /classroom wallpaper**

Wallpaper in a class or school, is useful in many ways. It can provide currently important news and other information to students. They can improve their skill in creative writing, by contributing essays, short stories and articles to it. The paper could be produced in many different and interesting ways such as on themes, on subject bases and so on. As a policy, the paper can take peace as the central concept. An appointed committee can work as the editors' board.

### **6. Displaying peace mottos**

Having peace mottos displayed in the school plant, classrooms, corridors, and garden acclimatize children to peace attitudes and values. Gradually they begin to appreciate such life guiding moral sayings. They may remember such sayings throughout their lives. The school hall can be given names of values, e.g. Hall of Compassion, Hall of Joy. Constant exposure to peace thoughts helps internalize such values.

### **7. Peace day/ week**

The school can organize peace days or weeks with a view to raising awareness on peace. Select a currently significant theme and draw a programme for the day or week. Themes on environment, social justice, inner peace, non-violence, human rights and problems of globalization will be useful to students. Seminars, lectures, discussions, art exhibitions, debates and drama can be organized under the selected theme. Such a programme should have a community peace-building activity so that it has a practical value.

### **8. Appointing a Peace committee**

The peacemakers in the school could form a committee, which can draw, organize and run peace programmes for the whole school. For example they can organize the peace week for the school. This is a good means of handing over the responsibility of peace work to the students themselves.

### **9. The morning assembly**

Morning assembly provides a good stage for developing peace vision and attitudes in the school community. Given below are some ideas to enrich it.

- Attitudes in the school community. Given below are some ideas to enrich it.
- Presenting a day's peace thought [by students or teachers].
- Reading a portion from world literature those appeals to noble thought.
- Listening to a peace song.
- Presentation of world news of the week.
- A drama with a moral lesson.
- A short meditation session.
- A guest speech.
- A recorded radio programme/ or a programme produced by students.
- A session of devotional songs.
- Presentation of life stories of great men and women.

### **10. School link programmes**

Children need a lot of socializing experiences. School linking programmes provide opportunities for them to meet, build friendships, share and get together with other school students. These programmes can be organized at school level, grade level, interest group level and student club level. On such occasions children can organize various educational, cultural, environmental, and community developmental activities.

### **Conclusion**

Education for Peace is fundamentally dynamic, interdisciplinary, and multicultural in nature and aims at developing knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to achieve and sustain culture of peace. With the development of skills and modern techniques, peace education is increasingly being taken up in various educational programmes all over the world, supported substantially by the state and national governments apart from international organizations like NCERT and UNESCO. Peace education has now become a hope for a better future. We believe that if the school, teachers, and parents are vigilant of their children's from the very beginning then their children's will be free from evilness.

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