ROLE OF EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF PEACE

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Abstract

This paper is a review paper try to discuss the role of peace education in fostering a culture of peace. Wars begin in the minds of men, so it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed. It is not enough to be connected to each other, more than this, we should share our solutions, our experiences and dreams in one great community supported by human rights and fundamental freedoms. Peace is more than the absence of war, it is living together with our differences _ of sex, race, language, religion or culture, it is the result of an ongoing process with constant engineering, vigilance and active participation. A culture of peace leads to sustainable peace. Culture of peace involves a holistic awareness of the changing world in which we live. Sustainable development and social justice, democratic participation, respecting and valuing human rights, equality and equity in social participation and education are the foundation stones to build a culture of peace. Among these, the comer stone is education. Different from general education peace education concentrates on developing values, knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors to live in harmony with oneself, with others, and with the natural environment. But it will be successful only if peace education go beyond theoretical aspect to internalization cognitively, affectively and in skill.

Keywords: peace, culture of peace, peace education.

Introduction

The present world is more complex due to the increasing challenges and threats, such as inequality, violence and sectarianism. Local tensions also work as catalyst for these complex conditions. According to UNESCO (1946). "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed, .UNESCO also says, "It is not enough to be connected to each other. We also share our solutions, our experiences and dreams in one great community supported by human rights and fundamental freedoms." These words emphasizes the need for developing a culture of peace in human minds

Peace

Peace is more than the absence of war, it is living together with our differences of sex, race, language, religion or culture while furthering universal respect for justice and human rights on

which such coexistence depends. (UNESCO, 1946). peace cannot be built with magic. Peace is the result of an ongoing process with constant engineering, vigilance and active participation Lasting peace rests on a complex and fragile web of daily practices embedded in local settings and the most momentary encounters that individuals and communities creatively maintain out of the conviction that they constitute the sustainable conditions for living together in dignity and shared.

Peace should be more and more recognized as the cornerstone of all people's daily lives both in terms of prevention and reconciliation, particularly in contexts characterized by social and economic unrest, ethnic or religious hostility, post-conflict situations and other forms of violence-prone environments.

Everyday peace is not minor, piecemeal or ephemeral. It is peace practiced, peace contributing to the fabric of daily life, peace understood by individuals living in the real world. If peace is sustainable that will be resulted into existence of a culture of peace.

Sustainability of peace depends upon certain principles like

- Peace is not the mere absence of war, conflict or violence it is reconciliation, negotiation, forgiveness and mediation even in the times of war and conflicts.

- Peace is an active and collaborative social project. It is not the result of individual dispositions or private moral convictions. Peace emerges as a virtue in the midst of collaborative and cooperative social projects, whether these are about livelihood, kinship or hopes for a better life.

- Peace is closely tied to the perception of fairness in the social contract. Social well-being and fairness in treatment is seen as a primary and non-negotiable feature of social life.

- Sustaining peace begins in domestic and community life, not solely in the high corridors of power and diplomacy

- Sustaining peace and economic development are both complementary and reciprocal social conditions

- Everyday peace is never automatic, permanent or self-maintaining

- Sustainable peace is only possible through fostering a culture of peace

Culture of peace

Culture of Peace is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations (UN Resolutions AlRES/52/13 :

Culture of Peace and AlRES/53/243 (1997), Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, 1946)) It involves a holistic awareness of the changing world in which we live.

How this culture of peace can be fostered? The principles of sustainable peace are to be considered to foster a culture of peace. It is possible through education, sustainable economic and social development, by promoting respect for all human rights, ensuring equality between men and women, by fostering democratic participation, through participatory communication and free flow of information and knowledge, Through promoting international peace and security are the ways through which the a culture of peace can be enhanced.(UNESCO)

Promote sustainable economic and social development

A culture of peace cannot be maintained without economic and social development. Economic and social development should

- Reduce economic and social inequalities
- Eradicate poverty
- Assure sustainable food security, social justice, solutions to debt problems,
- Empower women
- Provide special measures to groups with special needs
- Ensure environmental sustainability Promote respect for all human rights

If we quote from press release made by UN secretary Generals on December 12, "Peace cannot be sustainable without development; development cannot be sustainable without peace; and neither is possible without respecting human rights." The more people know about their human rights and respect and advocate for the rights of others the greater the chance that they will live in peace. That

- Human rights and culture of peace are complementary
- Without human rights there can be no culture of peace

Ensure equality between women and men

- Full participation of women in economic, social and political decision making should be ensured
- All forms of discrimination and violence against women must be eliminated
- Women must be given support and assistance whenever it is needed

Foster democratic participation

Democratic principles are indispensable foundations for the achievement and maintenance of peace.

- Everybody must practice and participate in and among all sectors of society
- Governance and administration must be transparent and accountable
- Combat against terrorism, organized crime, corruption, illicit and money laundering

Advance understanding of tolerance and solidarity

We must transcend enemy image with understanding, tolerance and solidarity among all peoples and cultures for this,

- In a multi cultural multi religious society we must learn out from differences
- Learning through dialogue and exchange of information is to be promoted

Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge. Freedom of information and communication and sharing of information and knowledge are indispensable for a culture of peace

- Issues of violence in the media, including new information and communication technologies should be dealt with.

Promoting international peace and security

- Eliminate production and trafficking of arms and weapons
- Humanitarian solutions should be there in conflict situations and post conflict initiatives.

The greatest resource for building a culture of peace are the people themselves, educating them to be agents of peace is the central task of peace building process.

Peace education

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.

According to Harris and Synott (2002) peace education is series of teaching encounters that draw from people their desire for peace, nonviolent alternatives for managing conflict, skills for critical analysis of structural arrangements that produce and legitimize injustice and inequality. Young people need new perspectives, skills and value orientations that will enable them to build relationships and structures that lead to positive change and human well-being.

Peace education is transformative, practical holistic and ethical

Peace Education, is transformative because. It cultivates the knowledge base, skills, attitudes and values that seek to transform people's behaviors that, in the first place, have either created or exacerbated violent conflicts. It seeks this transformation by building awareness and understanding, developing concern, and finally, challenging personal and social action that will

enable people to create conditions and systems that actualize nonviolence, justice, environmental care and other peace values.

Peace education is holistic and it tries to address the cognitive, affective and active dimensions of the learner.

Peace education is a practical imperative because it transform people's mindsets with regard from conventional alternatives to new ways by which violent conflict can be prevented in the long run the practical benefits that we seek (Salomon, 2002). It is expected to build a critical mass of people who will demand for and address the needed personal and structural changes that will transform the many problems that relate to peace into nonviolent, humane and ecological alternatives and solutions. Peace education has an ethical imperative principle because it include the unity and value of life, not only of human life but also other life forms in nature; respect for human dignity; nonviolence; justice; and love as a social ethic. They are the principles that are highly encouraged for actualization because they are expected to bring us to the common goal

Conclusion

A culture of peace cannot be fostered through theories only, rather involvement in activities that are designed to instill values and goals will equip children with skills. Women empowerment is an essential pathway for culture of peace thus equality of access to education for women, especially girls, should be ensured. Educational curricula, including textbook should be revised based on recent international, national and local events.

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