



PEACE EDUCATION: NEED OF THE HOUR

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Abstract

Peace is a state of well being that is characterized by trust, compassion and justice. In this state, we can be encouraged to explore as well as celebrate our diversity, and search for the good in each other without the concern for personal pain and sacrifice. It provides a chance to look at ourselves and others as part of the human family, part of one world. In India situation is more crucial than any country of the world. Present situation of India shows that there is chaos in India and every person is worries about survival. Now first of all Indians require education and that is too which will develop peace and harmony in India. Peace education is an essential component of quality basic education. Peace education as the process of promoting the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to bring about behavior changes that will enable children, youth and adults to prevent conflict and violence both overt and structural; to resolve conflict peacefully; and to create the conditions conducive to peace, whether at an interpersonal, intergroup, national or international level. Men are born for love and friendship and not hatred and war....It is the task of education, to create in us a love for the new world of peace and fellowship." In peace education religion can play major role because every religion of the world- Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Jainism, has similar ideals of love, the same goal of benefiting humanity through spiritual practice and the same effect of making followers into better human beings. Value education is must for world peace as well as peace in India. The study of literature is important for world peace because it moulds our human behaviors and redirects our paths to the eternal truth. Thus studying literature makes the world a better place. The literature which spreads casteism, religious riots, dirt, violence, inequality, injustice, slavery should not be taught to the students. An un peaceful teacher cannot teach peace, because his behavior contradicts what he teaches. But in India there is political democracy rather than social democracy which is based upon the principles of equality, justice, freedom and fraternity. Unless political democracy is not converted into social democracy, peace and harmony in India is impossible.



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Introduction

Peace is the living principle of nature as well as mankind. It is all about the living organisms we care for. If we look at the nature we see all distortions and calamities ultimately end and tranquility comes back. In our human life as well, we see that peace is inherent in us. It is affected by some outward disturbances, ignorance of some human beings and misunderstandings among a few individuals. Peace is a state of well being that is

characterized by trust, compassion and justice. In this state, we can be encouraged to explore as well as celebrate our diversity, and search for the good in each other without the concern for personal pain and sacrifice. It provides a chance to look at ourselves and others as part of the human family, part of one world. Peace is very wide concept indeed. It has to do with the deepest roots of our being –human and with the world at large. To make this reality concrete within a definition is far from simple. It can mean the absence of war, characterized by lack of violence, conflict behaviors and the freedom from fear of violence. Peace is a discipline, it should be practiced in the life of every human being. “Wars start in the minds of men”, declares the U.N. Charter. Therefore peace is a state of mind. It is state of mind which is claimed to be moulded by education. To quote Albert Einstein, “Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding of and a lively feeling for values. He must acquire a vivid sense of the beautiful and of the normally good. The school should always have as its aim that the young man learns it as a harmonious personality.” Peace has become a crucial issue in the present state of the world where the entire humanity is threatened with total annihilation. The nuclear weapons can finish the whole world within a minutes. The entire control of these weapons is also under the power of some individual nations. In India situation is more crucial than any country of the world. Present situation of India shows that there is chaos in India and every person is worries about survival. 30 crore people of India are illiterate. 32 thousand of schools are without building and students. 2 lakh schools are without buildings. There is only one teacher in 1 lakh and 75 thousand schools each. According to Kapil Sibal report 36 crore children leave their schools after 5th class. 13 crore children have not seen the face of schools yet. Higher education is out of range for the poor people because it is very expensive. According to Sen Gupta report- 83 crore people are leading life below poverty line .They are earning Rs. 6, 11 & 20 per head daily. Primary education is being made unimportant by not giving much attention to govt. schools. Those are on the edge of decline. Higher education is being made costly. Is it possible for the 85% people who are earning Rs 6-20 daily per head to educate their children in private schools in which fees is high? Tina Munim Ambani opened a school in which she is charging Rs 4 lakh per head at K.G level. So on one hand in papers rights are being given to these people on other hand right to education is being snatched by giving education in private hands which are not being checked by any authority. Only 10% people are entering higher education in India. 93% downtrodden dropout in higher education, where is the justice?. India is having 25 lakh temples in India and 14 lakh schools. The nation of Sarasvati and Lakshmi is going to be kungal. It happened during last 20 years. Crime, murders, rapes, unemployment scandals,

corruption increased. This is because of the implementation of the policy of LPG. In papers everything is being done but in privatization education will be in those hands who kept the original inhabitants of India uneducated throughout centuries and these people were deprived of all human rights. Now how they can educate these people. But in present time our youth is diverting towards the wrong path i.e. crime, murders, indulging in drug addiction. Justice of human rights commission Sh. A.S. Anand said that during last 20 years 2 and half time number of prisoners increased than the capacity of jails because unemployed think in jails they can have meal at least. In India 60 thousand tone wheat is destroyed every year in godowns but on the other hand 24 crore people are the victims of hunger. According to one survey India is one of 8 corrupt nations. 728\$(kharab of Rs of India) is deposited in Swiss banks with illegal way. 72% farmers are facing financial crises. Inflation rate has increased up to 11.4% in India. Cases of crores of Rs. have been filed against leaders. Youth of India of the age group 17-30 is involved in crime. Where there are 25 lakh temples and only 14 lakh schools. For developing creative and inventive these powers in the child first we have to make possible the inclusion of those 13 crore of children in to the schools. Everything is being privatized in India. But privatisation has not led to any improvements in the standards of education. It has been given in the hands of the private persons. Quality in the education is deteriorating. Students are facing the burden of commercialization and corruption. Even without bothering much about the quality education it has been made the puppet in the hands of private persons. During 1990-91, policy of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) was introduced. Due to this policy education Govt. schools are on the edge of decline. Condition of schools has been made so poor that students have to attend their classes under trees and they have to face all natural calamities which cause their death. 2 lakh schools are without buildings. 32 Lakh schools have been ruined. These industrialists help governments with finance so governments are bound to frame policies in their favour and everything is being given in the hands of those industrialists, even education without taking into consideration the quality of education. Only 10% of the total student population enters higher education in India as compared to 15% in china and 50% in the major industrial countries. This is only because of higher education is expensive and condition of primary education is worse in India. Even rickshaw puller wants his kids to study in private schools which lead to the deterioration of his family because poor people do not have the capacity to educate their children in private schools because these schools are charging high fee and nobody can control them. That's why now 30 crore people are illiterate in India. Two and half crore women are involved in sex work only for rearing their children, 10 lakh poor children

die after falling down in gutters because they are living near gutters. 1 crore children are bonded labourers. Their age is below 12 years and they have to work upto 16 to 18 hours. 4 crore people are victims of T.B. . 16 crore women do not take bath for many days because they do not have soap and water. crores of people are homeless.They are living under open sky. Many women are compelled to be serrogative mothers due to their poverty. Rate of employment, poverty and crime increased. Every kind of facility is being provided to people. Free sim cards are being provided. All kind of technology has reached house of common man at low rate but education is costly which is the greatest investment for the development of a country. In our constitution it was stated that 6% of GDP will be spent on education. But now rate of expenditure on education is less than 2%. Education is the property of a nation. But India has lost this property. Education is being ignored and is given in the hands of private people, the purpose of whose is to gain profits.According to multinational poverty India Report (2010) the position of poverty in 8 states of india is more dangerous than 26 African countries. The number of poor people is 41 crore in 26 African countries and the number of poor people in 8 states of India is 42.8 crore. These 8 states are Bihar, Uttarpradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand Madhya Pradesh,Odissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal.India is going to be number one in relation to poverty and starvation.Every day 25000 children die of hunger and starvation. The rate of poverty in India is increasing day by day. China was the poor country but it has attained 9th place in relation to development.In china only 3% people are below poverty line but in India 83 crore people they are unable to fulfill their basic requirements. One crore students doing labour while studying. 450 per lakh women die during delivery in India due to lack of good medical facilities. In India 81 lakh children die during infancy period .This is only due to poverty.According to Global hunger report, India stands at 67 among 88 nations on the basis of the survey of 8 states in India.If the survey is carried out on the whole nation India will be number one in ralation to hunger and starvation. Infant death rate and death rate during pregnancy is higher in India among all nations. 72% farmers are facing financial crisis.Caste discrimination is still prevalent in India. Shudras are considered inferior because of their birth from the feet of Brahma. Spread of these false facts by Brahminism made original inhabitants of India shudras. Brahmins (Aryans) who are outsiders declared themselves superior. Perhaps these people do not believe in democracy, which is based upon the principles as equality, justice, liberty and fraternity.There are a lot of T.V. channels in India but the problems of shudras are not highlighted. Shudra women are raped. Shudras are murdered mercilessly. But this information is not highlighted on any T.V. Channel to exempt criminals from punishment. This is our fundamental right that our

problems should be discussed under the provisions of constitution. But print and electronic media both are controlled by Govt. 27,000 companies are coming to India. Each company will have the right to appoint 100 gunmen, which means $27000 \times 100 = 27,00,000$ gunmen. These multinational companies will have 27 lac gunmen and Indian army has 16 lakh military men. If fight takes place 27 lakh military men of multinational companies and 16 lakh Indian army men, then what will happen. LPG is the conspiracy to make Indian slave because it is an international capitalism. Today 55% Indians are illiterate. Today in India 3 crore cases are under discussion. 32 lakh in high court, 40,000 in Supreme Court. Injustice gave birth to naxalite movements. There are 73 crore farmers in India and they are being destroyed by SEZ and farmers are committing suicides and they are compelled to be labourers. This year total 20 crore will become beggars. Foreign companies are invited to India to capture India in every field. 10 – 12 years ago there were 10-15 moles in India but now more than 500 moles have been opened in big cities. This destroyed small businessmen. When India got freedom, the population of India was 33 crore but now 33 crore original inhabitants sleep on footpath. Today 47% children of the age of five years are the victims of malnutrition. 83% people do not have food to eat to capacity. They do not have clothes to wear. 98% out of total prisoners are original inhabitants of India. We can see the 'Hindu' Newspaper of April 7, 2012 a report was published that in jail the number of shudra women is larger than the number of others because if these women use weapon for their self respect, they are put to jails. The budget is prepared taking into consideration the industrialists rather than poor people of India. Even today agriculture is the main occupation in India, which is ignored by Govt. As a result of which agriculture is on the edge of decline and farmers are committing suicide. It has been said that India will become big power in 2020. Is it possible? No industrial policy has been implemented in India yet. Today in India there are 838 industries but no industry is owned by any shudra. According to Crime Bureau Report 2006 every week, three people belonging to SCs and STs are murdered, 4 ladies belonging to SC's and ST's are raped. Houses of 11 persons belonging to SCs and STs are burnt. One person belonging to SCs and STs is tortured with in every 18 minutes. This is the situation of shudras even after 65 years of independence. These people are facing injustice but no FIR is registered. 50% children of SCs and STs are the victims of malnutrition. They are the victims of physical and psychological diseases. According to Human Development Index, India's number is 134 in relation to development. If we talk of the development of SCs, STs and OBC India's number is last in relation to development. Two crore jobs of SCs, STs and OBCs have been abolished in India. Original inhabitants have raised guns. Farmers and their families are committing

suicides. This is development of India. Adivasis are being murdered for the land which is being given to 27000 foreign companies. This has given birth to naxalite movements which has spread over 212 districts out of 618 districts in India but it is said India is developing fastly.i.e at 9% growth rate. In a country like India Where 1 crore children are bonded labourers, their age is below 12 year and they have to work up to 16 or 18 hours. This is the present situation of India. Now first of all Indians require education and that is too which will develop peace and harmony in India.

Need OfPeace Education

Peace education is an essential component of quality basic education. Peace education as the process of promoting the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to bring about behavior changes that will enable children, youth and adults to prevent conflict and violence both overt and structural; to resolve conflict peacefully; and to create the conditions conducive to peace, whether at an interpersonal, intergroup, national or international level. As to a definition of peace education there are several, but good one is from Dale Hudson, He states that Peace Education can be defined as : 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.

Men are born for love and friendship and not hatred and war...It is the task of education, to create in us a love for the new world of peace and fellowship." In peace education religion can play major role because every religion of the world- Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Jainism, has similar ideals of love, the same goal of benefiting humanity through spiritual practice and the same effect of making followers into better human beings. All religions teach us not to lie or steal or take others' lives and so on. The common goal of all moral precepts laid down by the great teachers of humanity is unselfishness. The great teachers wanted to lead their followers away from the paths of negative deeds caused by ignorance and to introduce them to paths of goodness. Humanity needs all the world's religions to suit the ways of life, diverse spiritual needs and inherited national traditions of individual human beings. All religions were meant to help man's survival, to help inculcate the habit of loving other human beings rather than hating them and to strive for better harmony and better spiritual contentment. So that religion should be taught which binds human to human, removes superstitions, violence, develops equality, justice, liberty and freedom and revoves casteism.

Value education is must for world peace as well as peace in India. But today the whole world is suffering from value crisis. Today lust for money, rapes, murders, drug addiction, theft,

scandals, frauds, breaking of relations, inequality, injustice, communal riots, corruption, violence, deceit, etc. are everywhere in public life in India. As we know that India which was once thought to be a country of Saint, mahatmas and truthful people, is now considered to be a one of the most dishonest country of the world

Literature is a subject that belongs to the humanities discipline and it means that human beings an appropriate place in it. Literature guides us about the way human beings are going in this world. Literature gives us the picture of the thoughts, feelings and experiences about this world and human life in general. The study of literature is important for world peace because it moulds our human behaviors and redirects our paths to the eternal truth. Thus studying literature makes the world a better place. The literature which spreads casteism, religious riots, dirt, violence, inequality, injustice, slavery should not be taught to the students.

The right approach to teaching history can build peace through the opportunities it provides to to understand and appreciate other cultures, religions and to realize the strengths as well weakness of man. It helps us to understand the nature of the oppressions, exploitations, invasions and destructions committed by our ancestors against humanity. For instance, how destructive a war can be and how power can blind men. Reading history, which is mostly the story of man's greed and aggressions provides insights into the natural human psyche and the need to change it in order to ensure the survival and advancement of mankind. It turns our attentions inward to see how the old psyche is still in operation with its roots in the primitive and medieval mentality seeking for security in ethnic centeredness, religious fundamentalism, power craziness, selfishness and aggressions. True history should be taught.

Education has the crucial role to play in the progression towards this goal of a culture of peace. Peace education play s a dual role in not only attempting to analyses and reduce conflict and violence in its many forms, but to purposefully and actively create the conditions for achievement of a positive peace for individuals, groups and nations. The world must learn to live together peacefully. Because we live in a culture of violence, it is hard to learn how to live in peace. Peace education is desperately needed to help to teach us how to live together peacefully. Many peacemaker are helping to bring the need for peace education to light. This culture of teaching peace recognizes that peace is not simply the absence of violence, but rather a dynamic state of self inquiry, relationships- building and mindfulness. Peace does not mean running from conflicts, but rather bringing consciousness to the moment when conflict takes place and participating in a process of conflict transformation which has been taught and reinforced through the educational system. It encompasses relevant

curriculum designed to cultivate an environment where questioning, critical thinking and compassion are encouraged in and out of the school setting. Social science should have to be supplemented by social philosophy and social ethics for peace. The purpose of social science is to broaden the children's view and the vision of human society in order to qualify them to be good citizens. Good citizens always think about the world peace. Science education should be based on the realization that nuclear weapons should be turned into the service of peace and human welfare.

Whenever one thinks of education one thinks of the teacher. Children learn peaceful behavior more from the ways a teacher speaks, responds to challenges and looks at issues, than what he teaches. An un peaceful teacher cannot teach peace, because his behavior contradicts what he teaches. He should provide conducive social climate in a classroom basically through right interaction between teacher student and pupil –pupil. Mutual respect, courtesy and kindness, immensely contribute to climate building. A true teacher helps to create a positive social climate in that it discourages individualistic and self- centred behavior in the classroom.

Apart from the role of teacher, the environmental changes required for atmosphere of peace within the school will have to be properly thought of it. This may include changes in the co curricular activities, portraying of great winner of peace, reading and discussion of their life and philosophies, etc. But in India there is political democracy rather than social democracy which is based upon the principles of equality, justice, freedom and fraternity. Unless political democracy is not converted into social democracy, peace and harmony in India is impossible.

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