



## ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE

**SARABJIT KAUR <sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> RESEARCH SCHOLAR, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICE, PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA.

### ABSTRACT:

Education is a powerful tool to shape the world as well as individuals. Education confers a spectrum of benefits on individuals, families, societies and countries. It provides the freedom to understand the world, to lead an informed life and to communicate well with others. Peace is one of the most important universal values needed at this hour. It is a stress-free state in which there is harmony with oneself and harmony with others. Peace represents a period in which there is ideal harmony and freedom. In its narrow sense, it means absence of war. Presence of happiness, health, content and good economy, social justice, support for personal growth, freedom for expression, creativity etc. are some elements of peace. Global peace means an ideal state of freedom and happiness among and within all countries and people. To maintain and promote global peace in this world, education acts as an important tool. This paper is an attempt to explore the various educational initiatives such as human rights education, education about gender parity, universalisation of education and education of disadvantaged children, and the respective role of these initiatives in promoting global peace in the world. The interconnection between education and development is also discussed to highlight the role of peace in economic and human development of the people and nations. The role of life skill training for resolving conflicts and creating peaceful environment is also discussed in brief.

### KEYWORDS:

### INTRODUCTION

Education is a powerful tool to shape the world as well as individuals. Education confers a spectrum of benefits on individuals, families, societies and countries. It provides the freedom to understand the world, to lead an informed life and to communicate well with others. It is recognized across the world as a powerful and indispensable tool to enhance the process of human development and social progress. The need of basic education is specifically expanded in this globalized society as the success of economies like China depends upon well-educated and skilful labour force. The economic conditions of an individual as well as countries improve with achievement of education. Parallel to it, education is critical for functioning of democratic society; education provides political voice and social empowerment to the people. The effects of education on human life can be easily seen in all the aspects such as individual, cultural, social, economic and political aspects.

Peace is one of the most important universal values needed at this hour. The word 'Peace' has a broader meaning. It is a stress-free state in which there is harmony with oneself and harmony with others. Peace represents a period in which there is harmony and freedom. In its narrow sense, it means absence of war. From economic point of view, it means eradication of poverty. In political sense, peace is considered as outcome of democracy and it results from good governance. Peace is law and order. Presence of happiness, health, content and good economy, social justice, support for personal growth, freedom for

expression, creativity etc are elements of peace. Global peace means an ideal state of freedom and happiness among and within all countries and people.

The term 'Global Peace System' was coined by Robert Johansen in his work 'Toward a Dependable Place' in 1978. According to Johansen, in global peace system, the conflict is resolved through nonviolent, political, social and judicial processes. This kind of system can be created with the help of governments and people in which there is no chance of war. The global peace today is facing a number of obstacles. The growing disparity in global peace index of various world regions gives a disturbing picture in maintaining global peace system. The global peace index 2016 report highlighted the historic ten-year deterioration in peace all over the world. The report described the complexities of peace and its uneven distribution by pointing out that over the last decade, the average country score has deteriorated by 2.44 percent. The specific case of terrorism and conflicts in Middle East and North Africa has been highlighted in creating global inequality in peace within various nations. The different measures at international level have been taken by various international organization and individual countries to promote global peace across the world. The most important and efficient method for promoting and maintaining a peaceful environment on this earth is education. In the process of education, peace is integrated at all levels through various policies and curriculum planning. The various educational initiatives for promoting global peace are as following:

## 1. EDUCATION REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations in its Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 well recognized various Human Rights for peaceful living of all human beings. The document listed thirty basic human rights which includes equality on the basis of being human. The various laws such as being free, freedom for expression, equality before law, no discrimination on the any basis, right to move, freedom to stay at safer places and various such laws are labelled as basic right of every human being. The education of these fundamental rights helps various people in meaningful living but if these laws are not well known to people then the problems such as discrimination, intolerance, injustice, oppression, slavery etc. can arise. So, the right kind of knowledge and awareness of human rights is must for maintaining and promoting global peace at national and international level.

## 2. ROLE OF EDUCATION IN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NATION

The education acts as a constituent component of development because of its direct and indirect contribution to lives of individuals as well as to the growth of industrialization. The increase in earning of an individual increased with additional years of education. The economic prosperity of an individual improves his or her standard of living. An educated individual survives in a better way by avoiding illness and other health problems, and contribute his or her best towards the progress of the society. Education helps the individuals to improve their lives. It empowers people and strengthens nations. The role of education is also instrumental for displacing the negative process of child labor. The various empirical studies have indicated that education plays a critical role in the empowerment of the disadvantaged groups especially women. Education is also valuable for integrating the children belonging to different caste or races in one classroom. So, education is an effective tool for promoting peace and human development.

## 3. GENDER PARITY IN EDUCATION FOR PEACEFUL AND EQUITABLE SOCIETIES

Gender parity means when women and men both enjoyed same kind of rights and opportunities across all the walks of life. Gender parity is important for peaceful living as it eliminates discrimination on the basis of gender. When both males and females will contribute equally in economic growth of the family and nation, then there will be no violence and injustice towards any female. The major problem in global peace is gender inequality. In most of the cases, girls and women face discrimination in health facilities, education, employment and decision making. Such kind of problems poses a threat to global peace by increasing the violence and injustice towards females. Education about gender equality should aim at removing traditional prejudices related gender for promoting human dignity irrespective of gender, caste, creed etc.

## 4. UNIVERSALISATION OF EDUCATION FOR INTEGRATION OF DIFFERENT GROUPS

Recognizing the fact that education is directly related to the growth and development and in the light of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, there has been increased international emphasis on the universalisation of elementary education. The major milestone in international efforts regarding universalisation of primary education was The Jomtien Conference. It was held in Jomtien, Thailand from 5-9 March 1990. Approximately 1500 participants were gathered and discussed the major aspects of Education for All. They framed World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs. This conference affirmed education as a fundamental right of all people of all ages across the world. It recognizes that role of basic education in human development and emphasizes the countries to take consistent measures in this direction. After these various measures, such as Dakar Framework, Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Developmental Goals are the important milestones towards universalisation of primary education. Universalisation of primary education can contribute a lot for promoting peace by integrating children from different strata into one and common classroom.

## 5. LIFE SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIMES IN THE SOCIETY

Life skills-based education promotes the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed for behaviour change in individuals for avoiding conflict and violent and for resolving various kinds of conflicts. This kind of education or training will be quite helpful for creating conducive environment for world peace. Life skill training will identify and implement peaceful solutions for resolving conflicts, avoid dangerous situation by critical thinking, reduce or even remove violent behaviours and prevent harmful crimes in the community. Intrapersonal relation will be helpful for stress free living and meaningful life. This kind of education will be beneficial for promoting peace at world level by improving interpersonal, intrapersonal, and national and international relations.

## CONCLUSION

Education confers a spectrum of benefits on individuals, families, societies and countries. It provides the freedom to understand the world, to lead an informed life and to communicate well with others. Peace is one of the most important universal values needed at this hour. It is a stress-free state in which there is harmony with oneself and harmony with others. Peace represents a period in which there is ideal harmony and freedom. In its narrow sense, it means absence of war. Presence of happiness, health, content and good economy, social justice, support for personal growth, freedom for expression, creativity etc. are some elements of peace. Global peace means an ideal state of freedom and happiness among and within all countries and people. To maintain and promote global

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