

### INTRODUCTION:

Oxford dictionary defines **Peace** as: Freedom from disturbance; Tranquility; Mental or emotional calm; A state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended; A treaty agreeing peace between warring states. **Peace** is living together without having discrimination as sex, caste, religion, education, money power etc. It depends on non-violence, social and economic justice, ethics, tolerance, mutual understanding and unity. Peace is the common word associated with Humanism which puts human being at the centre of all development processes. Hence it is an essential for society. Peace does not come with our DNA. To reach peace we need to teach peace. In this world, Violence and human insecurity has led to growing realization in the field of education that there is a need to teach children the art of peaceful living.

### Peace Education

can be defined as the process of gaining the knowledge and developing the attitude, skills to live in harmony with others as well as with oneself. It is education that is aimed at the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom. According to UNICEF-Peace education is an essential component of basic education. UNICEF has clearly defined Peace education as "a process of promoting knowledge, skills, attitude and values to bring about behavior change that will enable children, youths and adults to prevent conflict and violence both overt and structural; to resolve the conflict peacefully and to create conditions conducive to peace whether at interpersonal, intergroup, National or international level". Peace education is thought of as encouraging a commitment to peace, discussing the consequences of war and social injustice. According to Our First President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan- 'we should will peace with our whole body and soul, our feelings and instincts and our flesh and its affections.' The term "peace education" may or may not include attitudes and life styles that are based on non-violence and brotherly understanding but the term education for peace, invariably connotes the idea that through exposure to education for peace students will be able to live a non-violent life and will inculcate ten skills that UNESCO outlined namely:

Peace education can be roughly classified with regards to education for an individual or for the society at large which is made up of these individuals.

When we aim to target society at large; one firstly needs to tackle the belief systems that exist in the society system as these beliefs by and large affect an individual who grows up in the society. Teachers can address these issues very efficiently as they have a broader horizon ie they can inculcate these values in the students as well as to the society at large.

### Role of Teacher in Peace Education

"A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops." Henry Adams.

Aptly quoted by Henry Adams a teacher can greatly affect a student's psyche. At the first step the role of teachers towards a child's education is to create an environment that nurtures a student for his growth. A Teacher can play a vital role in creating or promoting Peace among the students by different ways. Our recent generations have grown up believing success is equivalent to being 1<sup>st</sup> in queue, 1<sup>st</sup> in class, gaining more than others, preserving rights through use of force and many such things. Education system that we dwell in preserves these beliefs; as those who don't clear these bench marks are labeled as failures. These tags or

labels affect a child deeply, they increase stress, anxiety, fear of rejection which further lead to conflict within one as well as with others. Teachers can play a major role changing these beliefs. It is the teacher alone just like the wise sculptor, who removes always, with careful handling, the drawbacks and weaknesses in a student and lifts him to sublime heights. As a basic pre-requisite the teacher should develop qualities such as tolerance, respect of and appreciations of others. The teacher serves as a role model in countless ways and thus can be able to promote more harmonious associations between social, cultural, ethnic and religious group. He plays an important role in developing a culture of peace. A teacher creates the next generation of nation builders. A passionate teacher leads their students in a focused way and can turn out to be most powerful medium for ensuring global peace. Educating peace will give long run practical benefits. A good human being should be the end output is the aim of any teacher. And hence when a teacher is promoting peace or educating peace for a longtime he/she will get an opportunity to reflect on his or her ideals, values and beliefs.

Thus, leading to self awareness which is a basic requirement to scale the humongous mountain of peace. The self awareness involves reflecting on one, our own actions, our behaviors, thoughts and feelings. Thus it's a teacher's job to promote self-awareness there by practicing it. This self awareness helps in conflict resolution. Conflict can be of two types of conflict: within oneself or with others. With respect to conflict with others: Conflict is a process that begins when one party perceives that another party has negatively affected, or is about to negatively affects, something that the first party cares about. And to promote peace, awareness about these two types of conflicts holds prime importance. The conflict within oneself include: approach-approach, avoidance-avoidance, and approach-avoidance. To overcome any of these conflicts an individual needs to be true to oneself and learn to communicate in an effective way.

Yet another quality that a teacher can imbibe is assertive communication. As after being able to understand and manage your own needs, one needs to cater to the society in which one lives; and assertive communication is a resourceful tool that one could use. It is a set of communication skills that various leaders including Gandhiji used. Assertive communication is open honest communication of your thoughts, needs, feelings, opinions without violating rights of others. This helps in understanding and respecting individual differences. If this is practiced and preached since childhood days it will have a positive change and will help reduce multiple issues that are generated because of communication issues.

Resilience is a quality that one could stick by through all the times. It refers your ability to adapt well and recover quickly after stress, adversity, trauma or tragedy. If one have a resilient disposition, one is better able to maintain poise and a healthy level of physical and psychological wellness in the face of life's challenges. If one is less resilient, one is more likely to dwell on problems, feel overwhelmed, use unhealthy coping tactics to handle stress, and develop anxiety and depression. Teachers could be the best medium to promote this quality when dealing with the weaker students who might have their morale low after failure or grades below expectation. Promoting resilience at such times could make a long standing impact on these children and change their attitudes towards looking at adversity.

As a basic human tendency we always learn from what we see. A teacher who models behavior that promotes peace would always be looked upon. Modeling is a general process in which persons serve as models for others, exhibiting the behavior to be imitated by the others. This process is most commonly discussed with respect to children in developmental psychology. A perfect example of modeling would be that of the Bobo Doll Experiment run

by Albert Bandura famous Psychologist. The experiment shows children one of two ways to act toward a doll, adults "model" a behavior to see how the children react. The adults would either be aggressive toward the doll, or act kindly toward the doll. The children that were exposed to the aggressive behavior would act more aggressively toward the doll. The children that were exposed to kind behavior would act more kindly toward the doll.

Teachers are catalysts for change, visionaries who are "never content with the status quo but rather always looking for a better way" (Lerner, 2004, p. 32). Teachers who take on the catalyst role feel secure in their own work and have a strong commitment to continual improvement. They pose questions to generate analysis of student learning. This spirit of peace can reach greater heights when the task is handed over to a teacher. This peace campaign then wouldn't lie just at the national or international front but it would mainly reach the grass root level where each individual will be at peace and will still have the fire to achieve but in a very serene way; as the teachers would be capable of encompassing these moralities in everyday lives. Students majorly have role models as some celebrities which may or may not be glamorized to be broadcasted to the world. The main problem with this is it can be superficial. But there are hundreds of stories of how teachers have directed and loved the kids they inspire. These are the true champions. Only teachers can aptly tutor the six operative peace values and make a student an honorable citizen

Peace has Six dimension operative values



Exploring how teachers can be the most ideal torch bearers leads us to the task of investigating the actual steps that they need to take. To get a lucid, start segregating the target audience into society and individual makes the task straightforward.

Like previously mentioned the change in believes need to be addressed to encourage this peace initiative. Believes of **Sarva Dharma Samabhav** can have far reaching effects on the entire human clan. Sarva Dharma Sama Bhava is a concept embodying the equality of all religions. The concept was embraced by Ramakrishna and Vivekenanda, as well as Gandhi. Although commonly thought to be among the ancient Hindu Vedas, the phrase is actually attributed to Gandhi, having been used first in September 1930 in his communications to his followers to quell divisions that had begun to develop between Hindus and Muslims toward the end of the British Raj. The concept is one of the key tenets of secularism in India, wherein there is not a separation of church and state, but an attempt by the state to embrace all religions.

Once this awareness of the accepting individual differences seeps in the minds the culture of respecting each other's choices may take a forefront. This would generate some degrees of benevolence and thus foster humanity in the clan.

These fine concepts that are elaborated in our Indian culture are now taking a back seat due to modernization, nuclear families that promote only self culture; where one has to think and operate only on what benefits oneself. These strong and constant demands from self, families, workplace, schools colleges and all other spheres of life keep one's mind always ticking and disturbed. Hence the need to inculcate the peace education at individual level holds its prime importance.

Teachers can promote and inculcate soft skills and life skills that help one deal with the never ending hassle that is generated due to the various factors that govern us and our daily schedules.

A curriculum that would promote this inner peace could be developed by the teachers as this inner peace leads to other factors governing peace. The moral values that would be ingrained through these syllabi could be further elaborated under the guidance of teachers through a project or field study on the same. Involving a famous personality who has a deeper connection with the target students could be brought in for far reaching effects.

And lastly just as teachers influence the children, parents at home also groom the young minds; some effective techniques that could be imparted to the parents as well to promote the peace education

**Conclusion:**

Man living in a society is bound to have differences and disparities. These could lead to disputes. Most disputes between people are solved without violence – but not all. If we are to move towards solving disputes at home and abroad we must work together to help young people learn how deal with conflict creatively and nonviolently.

To prevent continued cycles of violence, education must promote peace, tolerance and understanding to help create a better society for all. The culture of peace needs to set in. UN defines a culture of peace as 'all the values, attitudes and forms of behavior that reflect respect for life, for human dignity and for all human rights, the rejection of violence in all its forms and commitment to the principles of freedom, justice, solidarity, tolerance and understanding between people'. And teachers hold this task of developing peace culture at both individual level and at the society level; as they are the finest people to carry out this peace campaign.