

Miracles of Education For International Understanding : Harmony and Peace

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Abdul Kalam is extremely relevant in saying ; “Where there is righteousness in the heart there is beauty in the character , when there is beauty in the character there is harmony in the home when there is harmony in the home there is order in the nation when there is order in the nation there is peace in the world.” Peace education which is concerned with the process of acquiring the values, the knowledge of developing the attitudes, skills and behaviors to live in harmony with oneself , with others and with the natural environment in the first most priority to the educational formulators of any country in the world today. Peace education reveal that it aims at the overall development of the individuals and helps to enhance eternal values in there minds. Any strategy of educational system helps to generate the above entities among the individuals could he known as peace education. The real human values are love , co-operation , goodwill , brotherhood , mutual understanding respect etc. and only through this man can achieve real peace and harmony. In fact , the nature of peace education is so interdisciplinary that it involves comprehensive areas from individual peace in particular to global peace at large. Though education in true sense concerned with individual , social , national and global peace , there is an urgent need to recreating whole educational system for peace and social harmony for peace and prosperity of individual, community and after all the whole world. The UNESCO has been sincerely endeavoring to culminate the cult of world peace and human harmony. Moreover , It is obvious that education can be utilized as a powerful device to instill the feeling of internationalism in the minds of students. If education becomes successful in promoting international understanding , we can say that the destiny of the world is being shaped in its classrooms.

Keywords: *Interdisciplinary, Attitudes, International, Harmony, Human*

Taking into account, the recommendations concerning education of major commissions and conferences, inter alia, the international commission on Education for the Twenty first century, the 44th and 45th sessions of the International conference on Education held in Geneva, 1994 and 1996, and decision taken at the 27th and 29th sessions of UNESCO general conference in particular regarding the recommendations concerning the status of education and teaching personnel

stating “We commit ourselves to opening schools, colleges and universities to adult learners, by calling upon and to promote the transformation of post secondary and life - long learning institutions and to define the role of universities accordingly :

That the education is a fundamental pillar of human rights, democracy sustainable development and peace and shall therefore become accessible to all throughout life and that measures are required to ensure co-ordination

and cooperation across and between the various sectors, particularly between general, technical and professional education at school, colleges and university educational institutions.

That in this context, the solution of the problems faced in the modern century will be determined by the vision of the future society and by the role that is assigned to education in general and in the perspective of international understanding. That on the threshold of a new millennium, it is the duty of the educational set up to ensure that the value and ideals of a culture of Harmony and Peace prevail and that the intellectual community should be mobilized to that end.

That a substantial change and development of higher education, the enhancement of its quality and relevance and the solution of major challenges it faces, require the strong involvement not only of government and higher education institutions, but also of all stakeholders, including students and their families and teachers, educational administrators. The international educational agencies are equally responsible in overcoming the ongoing situation.

That the education systems should enhance their capacity to live with uncertainty, to change and haring about change and to address social needs and to promote solidarity and equity should preserve and exercise scientific rigour and originality, in a spirit of impartiality as a basic prerequisite for attaining and sustaining an indispensable level of quality and should place students at the centre of their concern, within a lifelong perspective so as to allow their full integration into the global knowledge society of the coming century. Because international cooperation and exchange of ideas are the major

avenues for advancing higher education throughout the world.

In literal sense, international understanding means mutual understanding, goodwill, faith and respect among different countries (nations) of the world. International understanding implies respect for human rights and dignity of individual. It is a sense of solidarity of mankind to live in peace and harmony. International understanding implies the solution of all disputes among the nations through negotiation, discussion, mutual understanding and amicable settlement of all problems in a peaceful and friendly way. It refers to friendship and harmony among different nations of the world and cooperation among them. Moreover developing the feeling about the entire world as a indivisible unit is considered to be international understanding . It implies the development of a comprehensive view of the human life, the values, aims and aspiration of different people of the world.

The need of international understanding at the present perplexed world is more, and it is not a new concept. The idea of internationalism which is based on ‘one world’, ‘one family’ is found in the ancient Indian writing. Indian prayer to god for welfare of humanity “Sarbe vabantu Sukhinah, sarve santu nirmaya” is a milestone in the process of developing international understanding. Even in 500 BC. the Greek advocated ‘Cosmopolitanism’. But in the modern world, credit goes to Jermy Bentham who propagated for ‘internationalism’. Therefore international understanding is an understanding of problem of mankind and their relation to us.

The most striking question before the humankind is how to protect human race from the extinction. Statesmen have thought over it

and have devised different ways and means. In order to cultivate a feeling of world citizenship by avoiding mutual distrust anguish and conflict among the nations and the people, the UNO has been established. The UNO thought its different agencies is endeavouring to keep up world peace and amity by fostering international understanding.

Tremendous progress in every sphere is seen in modern world. This is done neither by an individual nor in a day. This has been possible due to incessant endeavour of many creative genius of all nations of the world. New inventions in science and technology are opening up unprecedented possibilities in personal and public life. Coming days will become glamorous and comfortable for the living generation once Jawahar Lal Nehru remarked, "I envy the boys and girls who live in that period. It ought to be most exciting time of all to live". In other words, modern comfort and luxury have not been achieved by any race, class, caste or national group but by many people working in all corners of the world and are to be shared by all but not by a few.

Interdependence of Countries :

Trade and transport commerce and communication through land, air and water have given rise to interaction between and among the people of the world. Therefore, everybody is impressed by some other to certain extent . There is none in this world as perfect Indian, German, American or Russian. There has been a cultural diffusion. The present world has become a melting pot of various cultures .

Gone are the days of idea of self-reliance. As we develop more and more we depend in an increasing order on others. All the

countries depend on each other either for raw materials or for consumer goods. The United States of America has a good number of industries but it has to depend on Arab Countries for Oil, Japan, though supplies a number of finished goods, books to other countries for raw materials for running its industries. Therefore, there has been dose interdependence among the nations.

Man in this modern world, lives in fear and phobia. He is obsessed by the feeling of insecurity due to cold war and fear of another world war which will entirely extinguish the human race. Development of sophisticated technology of nuclear power is the cause of all fear phobia. In the circumstances, the most needed thing is to balance it. The balancing force is international peace and understanding. The world is now turmoil peace is in crux. Survival of humanity is at stake. For securing peace and unity of nations for human progress international understanding is a must.

Problems of population growth, environmental pollution, need for protection of human rights, need for new economic world order etc. are more or less global problems. Thus problems like nuclear arm race rapid growth of population and environmental pollution are shocking points for one and all. International understanding has become the crying need of hour for the above reasons.

All countries of the world are not equal in size, resources, economic growth rate, national income scientific and technological progress. Inequality of nations leads to the generation of inferiority complex among underdeveloped countries. Some countries of the world possess nuclear strength. But they are concealing their nuclear weapons. As a result cold war is on the

process. The idea “my country right and wrong”, strong feeling of nationalism, feeling of superiority over others etc. stand in the way of international understanding some countries unnecessarily develop Psychological fear and they make preparation for war. Lack of social democracy and failure of political democracy stand as barriers to international amity Misconception arising out of false propaganda due to language differences and lack of proper and correct information create distrust among the nations.

Miracles / Role of Education

The UNESCO reports states, “Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be constructed. Education no doubt, can play an important role in fanning the flame of internationalism. Education for international understanding is essentially the education for peace, love, fellow feeling and co-operative living. “Education for international understanding implies the promotion of democratic citizenship and independent development of critical thinking and independent judgement, and realisation of interdependence of the nation”. These ideas foster oneness in mind. Education can promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups. The basic attitude of love, sympathy, tolerance and appreciation needed for national integration can be correlated with the cultivation of international understanding. The most formative period of human life is spent in schools and colleges. Thus, through different educational activities in schools and colleges, a feeling of internationalism can be animated in the mind of students.

Aims of Education :

In order to create and promote the feeling of international understanding, certain aims and objectives of education are to be emphasized.

- (I) The importance and objectives of internationalism in modern world has to be emphasized.
- (II) Education should aim at cultivating a feeling of brother hood of men under one god.
- (III) It should inculcate in children the idea of world citizenship and human harmony.
- (IV) Higher ideals like brotherhood, freedom, equality and justice are to be cultivated in students through the process of education.
- (V) The aim of education is to be highlight the peaceful use of atomic energy and the divesting consequences of atomic power in its misuse.
- (VI) Education should foster in the minds of learners the idea of unity in diversity of religious, cultures, traditions and customs.
- (VII) Education should develop a sense of love and appreciation for goodness of others.

Through organisation of curricular programmes :-

Through teaching of different subjects, a feeling of internationalism can be cultivated in the minds of students. All subjects should have a social content leading the students from nationalism to international understanding language can play an effective role in promoting international understanding Emphasis Should be given on students to learn at least one international language, language is the vehicle of thoughts that enters the realm of other nations, Language text-books should provide biographical sketches of all world personalities and benefactors of mankind.

Literature, History, geography, Science teaching are such curricular programmes in the teaching learning process which encourages the sense of internationalism among the new generation students should be taught that science has both blessing and curse. It doped on the mode of use. The students should be taught that human comfort and happiness have reached the climax due to considerable contribution of science and technology students should be acquainted with the harmful consequences of science of use for destructive purposes science should be taught in proper perspective. The students should learn the ways and means of using science for human comfort, peace and progress.

Role of UNO and other such agencies :

Steps should be taken to explore the possibility of including activities of different agencies of the UNO in the school curriculum. The need of such agencies and contribution of UNO should be included in the curriculum. Steps are to be taken to enable the pupils appreciate activities of UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, FAO and other International Organisations working for human development and international harmony.

The teacher has a delicate role in fostering international understanding. He should generate patriotic spirit in children and at the same time develop in them an attitude of looking for beyond one's nation and identifying one's interest with the interest of those living outside the frontiers one's nation. However the teacher has to shoulder certain responsibilities in developing the idea of we feeling. The teacher

should believe in internationalism, only then he will be able to instill such ideas in the minds of students. The teacher should be a lover of peace and co-operation.

Conclusion:

If the cherished goal of international understanding has to be achieved for human survival the scholastic and non scholastic activities be shaped and implemented accordingly. The UNESCO has been sincerely endeavouring to culminate the cult of world peace and human harmony. Moreover, it is obvious that education can be utilized as a powerful device to instil the feeling of internationalism in the minds of students. It education becomes successful in promoting international understanding; we can say that the destiny of the world is being shaped in its classrooms.

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