

PEACE EDUCATION (SEM-II)

Meaning of the peace Education: The highest form of objective for any education is inculcating peace and it is an essential value to be cherished by every individual. The father and mother is the first teacher to their children and peace is nurtured in the family. The peace nurtured at home again enhanced at school. Peace is a broad concept with practical and spiritual connotations. It can imply a state of inner calm or end of conflict. “Peace is what you think it is (or wants it to be). Peace has been understood to mean the absence of conflict or violence and conversely as the presence of states of mind and of society such as harmony, accord, security and understanding. Peace education is a planning strategy of eliminating the conflicts and violence caused by in justice, inequality and human rights, violations, and implementing the ways and means of reducing the same through appropriate teaching and learning tactics by means of producing responsible global citizen to attain and spread the peace in the world. Therefore peace education is a goal of education.

Definition of the Peace Education: There is no universally accepted definition for Peace Education. There is good number of definitions available on the basis of different perceptions and approaches. Some of the definitions given by eminent educationists are given below: **Webster** defines peace “**as a state of quiet or tranquillity, freedom from disturbance or agitation, calm repose**”. From the above definition it can be agreed that in the absence of elements such as tolerance, understanding, empathy, cooperation and respect for the difference in others, there cannot be peace. Any strategy or educational system helps to enhance the above said entities among the individuals could be known as peace education.

- According to Albert Einstein “Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order – in short, of government.
- Betty Reardon defines “Peace Education is the attempt to promote the development of an authentic planetary consciousness that will enable us to function as global citizens and to transforms the present human condition by changing the social structures and patterns of thought that have created it”.
- “Peace Education is an attempt to respond to problems of conflict and violence of scale ranging from the global and national to the local and personal. It is about exploring ways of creating more just and sustainable futures’ said by Laing.R.D.(1978)

- According to John Dewey “Peace education is grounded in active citizenship, preparing learners for assiduous participation in a democracy, through problem – posing and problem – solving education, and a commitment to transformative action in our societies.”

From these definitions it is understood that the peace education inculcates the higher order human values among the individuals. Further, “Peace education definitions” reveal that it aims at the overall development of the individuals and helps to enhance eternal values in their minds

Concept of Peace Education: Betty Reardon makes reference to the concept of positive peace and negative peace. According to Reardon to term negative peace refers to an absence of war or physical or direct violence while the term positive peace is used to refer the presence of non-exploitative relationships or conditions of social and economic justice diminished (Reardon, 1988) Reardon therefore recognizes that the problem of concern for peace educators are manifold, including diverse areas such as economic deprivation, development, environment and resources and universal human rights and social justice. Reardon concept of peace is further supported by many educationists. (S.H.Toh and Virginia Floresca – Cawagas et. al) According to the educationists, peace education covers diverse issues, learners, should not only acquire a fragmented understanding of conflict and violence. Scope of peace education: Peace education is concerned with helping learners to develop an awareness of the processes and skills that are necessary for achieving understanding tolerance and good will in the world today. Peace education brings together multiple traditions of pedagogy, theories of education and international initiatives for the advancement of human development through learning. The practice of peace education is an opportunity to promote the total welfare of students, advocate for their justice and equitable treatment of youth and promote individual and social responsibility for both educators and learners.

Aim and objectives of Peace Education:

The aim of peace education is perhaps best summarized in the Hague Appeal for peace which states that a culture of its peace will be achieved when citizen of the world:

- Understand global problems
- Have the skills to resolve Conflict – Constructively
- Know and live by international standards of Human rights, gender and racial equality

- Appreciate cultural diversity

Respect the integrity of the earth Declaration of the 44th session of the international conference on education held at Geneva in 1994 has listed the following aims of peace education-

- i. To develop sense of universal values in every individual.
- ii. To prepare citizens to cope with difficult and uncertain situations and fitting them for personal autonomy and responsibility.
- iii. To educate the individual and develop the ability to recognize and accept the values which exist in the diversity of individuals.
- iv. To strengthen peace, friendship and solidarity between individuals and people.
- v. To develop the ability of non-violent conflict – resolution among the individuals.
- vi. To cultivate the ability to make informed choices, basing their judgments and actions not only on the analysis of present situations and the vision of a preferred future among the individuals
- vii. To teach the citizens to respect the cultural heritage, protect the environment and social harmony.
- viii. To cultivate citizens in the line of solidarity feeling and feeling of equity at the national and international levels in the perspectives of a balanced and long-term development.

Therefore, peace education aims at wide variety of subject. Peace and education are in separable aspects of civilization.

Pacifism and Education:

Pacifism is a commitment to peace and opposition to war. The word “pacifism” is derived from the word “pacific” which means “peace making” (Latin, Paci- (from pax) meaning “peace” and fieus meaning “making”). A pacifist is a person who is opposed to war and violence. Pacifists believe that we should not kill or harm other people.. Bertrand Russell pointed out that ‘patriots always talk of dying for their country, but never of killing for their country. Yet that is ultimately what war means : being prepared to kill other people and inflict suffering on them. Therefore, pacifism and ideas of pacifists to be integrated with the educational curriculum. The education and curriculum at all levels should include the aspects of influencing to improve society and remove the causes of war – injustice, exploitation, the repression of minorities.