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PEACE EDUCATION AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

In the whole world everyone wants to live a peaceful life. But day by day with the development of technologies' people are going to be impatience and busy. Various kinds of stress conflicts are coming into their live and everyday people are facing an unpleasant life. Peace is the concept of harmony and the absence of violence. When people are capable to resolve their stress and conflict then the peace is entering in their life. Peace Education is the mean by which we can achieve the values, the knowledge and develop the attitudes, skills and behaviours. It helps to live in the harmony with oneself, with others and with the natural environment. Peace Education in a school curriculum helps students in character development. This paper wants to highlight the concept of peace education and character developments and how peace education helps character development within students.

**KEYWORDS:** *Peace Education, Character, Character Development.*

INTRODUCTION

Peace education in school curriculum is instructional strategies that focus on conflict resolution and problem solving that are personal, community, national and global within the students. The intension of peace education is to offer students alternatives to violence, and assist students to create peaceful environments in both school and home environment and conducive to non-violent attitudes and behaviours. Ultimately peace is the harmony and the absence of aggression. Peace is not only the absence of conflict but also the freedom from all kind of fear of violence between different individuals and heterogeneous social groups. To deals a quality life peace is most important. With peace people can enable oneself to solve their stress and conflicts and can work together without any violence. Peace Education is the mean by which we can achieve the values, the knowledge and develop the attitudes, skills and behaviours. It helps to live in the harmony with oneself, with others and with the natural environment. Peace education is a process of developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values among the individuals. It brings about behaviour change that will enable people to avoid conflict and violence, both overt and structural, to resolve conflict peacefully, and to create the conditions conducive to peace at interpersonal, intergroup, national and international levels.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

Character is much more important than health and wealth. First of all we should know the meaning of 'character'. Character implies a peculiarity of mental constitution which distinguishes one individual from another. Character is formed through the uniform exercise of will in certain directions. The 'nature' of a man and his 'character' are not the same thing. The nature of man's is inherited, but his 'character' is attained through different deliberate acts. Character stands for our moral constitution as it is modified by our

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personal efforts. Character is a permanent mental disposition built out of repeated voluntary acts involving the rational control of natural impulses and addressed to definite moral ideals (Sanyal, 2004). We can arises out our character through emotions, impulses, instincts etc. We can define the character as a some qualities of a person or things that can be differentiated from one another and the aggregate of distinguishing mental and moral qualities of an individual or a race as a whole, the stamp of individuality impressed by nature, education or habit that which a person or a thing really is. According to the Josephon Institute of Ethics there are six pillars of character (Joy Rousseau 2003).

Figure-1: Six Pillars of Character
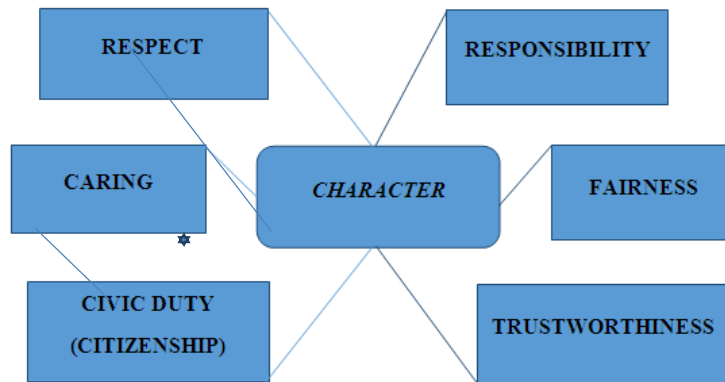
When we are talking about character development, this paper will incomplete unless we do not mention the opinion of Swami Vivekananda regarding character development.

Character development according to Swami Vivekananda – Swami Vivekananda realized three necessary things to make every man great, every nation great (VIII: 299):
➢ Conviction of the powers of goodness.
➢ Absence of jealousy and suspicion.
➢ Helping all who are trying to be and do well.

The purpose of education is to mould the character of the students. Defining character Vivekananda said, "the character of any man is the aggregate of his tendencies, but the sum of the total bent of his mind. Character development is possible through hard work, thirst for knowledge, purity of heart, perseverance, faith, humility, obedience respecting the elders etc. Character is intimately connected with habits. Good habits make good character. Modern psychology accepts the values of habits in one life and the shapes the behaviour of the individual. Swami Vivekananda has pointed out the values of habits not only in the present life but also in lives to come. According to Swami Vivekananda the following things are required for character development (Behera, S.K. 2014):-
➢ Hard work
➢ Gurukul system
➢ Formation of good habits
➢ Moral and spiritual values
➢ Learning through mistakes
➢ Will power
➢ Brahmacharya
➢ Training the mind
➢ Self-realization

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HOW PEACE EDUCATION HELPS CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN STUDENTS:

Peace education programme assist students to develop good character and to be a good citizen. Some objectives of peace education are-

A) **Learn alternatives to violence –** Peace education tries to inculcate within the students non-violent attitudes and behaviours. Peace education teaches students alternatives to violence and give instruction to create a peaceful environment.

B) **Learns different kinds of skills –** Through peace education students learns different kinds of skills those skills are helps them to deals with different problems and violence. Those skills are identifying bias, sharing and cooperation, problem solving, shared decision making, analysis and critical thinking.

C) **Students learns to understand –** Peace education assist students to understand the nature of violence, examine the causes of conflict, stress and benefits of non-violence and how to handle conflict.

D) **Enhance self-esteem within the students –** Through studying peace education teachers can enhance self-esteem, responsibility, and respect for self and others into the students.

E) The young can recognize and express their feelings in the way that are not aggressive or distractive using different types of conflict resolution strategies, being empathetic and engaging in non-violent action in relation to problems both personal and societal.

CONCLUSION:

Education is the process which is helps to develop in the children knowledge, skills, attitudes and values leading to behaviour change. To provide quality education within the students' peace education is an essential component in the present circumstances. Peace education teaches students to prevent violence, resolve conflict, and keep harmony in the society. It promotes students to build a good character. When students are learns how to resolve their conflict, how to prevent violence and how to live peacefully in society then different characteristics of character formation will be develop within the students. It is hoped that this paper will provide greater clarity about the peace education and how peace education assist character formation of students.

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