

Global Peace: Myth or Reality?

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Abstract

The call for peace is universal and timeless, since conflict is always with us. Its shadow is found in all cultures in all times, beckoning for response. When constructive it leads to better understanding and deeper relationships. When destructive, it tends towards confusion and separation.

There is no iota of doubt that there cannot be a world without peace. The ultimate goal of a righteous war is peace. However, can this goal ever be achieved? Since wars continue without stopping, one cannot admit the possibility of an all time global peace. What is peace? Is it a myth or is it a reality?

My main focus is to nurture awareness and enhance capabilities for the building of lasting peace and foster a holistic understanding of the interconnected impact of the family, school and society on our perspectives of peace by emphasizing on the following points.

1. The need for an understanding on urgent peace issues facing humanity
2. Reflections on the roots of violence, war, revolution and terrorism
3. Measures to quell violence and sustain peace for ever
4. How education can be transformed to bring true peace to the World?

Introduction

Currently we are living in a critical juncture in human history. We have built up all means, weapons to fully destroy humanity. Global terrorism since September 11 shocked the entire world and forces us to undergo a great awakening and transform our consciousness and education to attain real world peace. Fostering a culture of peace is a most urgent task in today's world of violence and intolerance. The forces that threaten peace are:

- Racism
- Xenophobia

- Religious intolerance
- Economic disparities
- Poverty
- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Militarism
- Arms dealing

However, in the face of this overwhelming darkness, there is a courageous and powerful light; the millions of individuals across this planet who firmly believe that our culture of violence and terrorism can and will be transformed into a lasting and holistic peace of reality by adopting possible means of living together.

Education for global peace

In order to make global peace a reality the citizens of the World should understand global problems, have the skill to resolve conflict constructively, know and live by international standards of human rights, gender and racial equality, appreciate cultural diversity, and respect the integrity of the earth. Such an environment cannot be attained without intentional, sustained and systematic education for global peace.

The contents of education for a culture of peace and non-violence should promote the knowledge, skills and values attitudes and behaviors:

- That reflects and inspires social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, human rights and social justice, tolerance and solidarity;
- That reject violence and endeavor to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation;
- That guarantees the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society.

To set up such a scenario we need to start with education at home. Do we practice democracy in the home? Do the women in our home share equal status? Do we treat men and women equally at home? Are they given equal opportunities? Can they both