



# ELEMENTS OF PEACE EDUCATION IN GANDHIAN THOUGHT AND ITS RELEVANCE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

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## ABSTRACT

*In the present situation peace education is a very important part of our life. Peace education is the process of acquiring some values, knowledge, and developing attitudes, skill, and harmony with one another. It helps people to resolve conflict peacefully or create a peaceful society. Gandhiji is one of the greatest leaders in India who has been associated with peace and non-violence. So, we will always remember Gandhiji as a symbol of peace and non-violence. Everyone wants to live a peaceful and happy life and be able to resolve conflicts. But we each come from different backgrounds and we are influenced by our family, friends, and community. Gandhiji started the Satyagraha movement not only for Indian independence but also for solving all the conflicts in human life. Gandhiji thought that there is no entity in the world without truth because peace and love are achieved through the real truth. This ideology of Gandhiji now has a special effect on the social and personal life of the individual. The main factors of peace education according to Gandhiji are Non-violence, truth, internal growth and stability, goodwill, equality, change of negative attitude, the law of love, avoiding conflict, inherent goodness, etc. These factors play a vital role in peaceful living in a society which is the main objective of National Education Policy 2020 administered by the Govt. of India. National Education Policy 2020 has also described various issues like Justice, Equality, liberty respect for others, democratic spirit, respect for public property, responsibility, cleanliness, the spirit of service, etc. which are deeply influenced by the thoughts and ideas of Gandhiji. . So, the present study seeks to analyze the concept of peace education and the elements of Peace Education in Gandhian thought and its relevance in Contemporary Society, with special reference to National Education Policy 2020. The study was qualitative in approach and data were collected from secondary sources i.e. different types of edited books, newspapers, articles, and journals.*

**KEYWORDS:** Mahatma Gandhi, Peace, Non-Violence, Truth, Peace Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, was a great philosopher of the twenty-first century, a great thinker, educator, educational and social reformer, and a great man of India. Mahatma Gandhi was a great leader who lived a simple life and high thinking. No other prominent leader in the history of the world has been as associated with peace and non-violence as Gandhiji. So, we will always remember Gandhiji as a symbol of peace and non-violence. Everyone wants to live a peaceful and happy life and be able to resolve conflicts. But we each come from different backgrounds and are influenced by our family, friends, and community. Gandhiji started the Satyagraha movement not only for Indian independence but also for solving all the conflicts in human life. He is still now remembered among us as the symbol of peace and truth. For the present and future generations of the world, Mahatma Gandhi is a perfect example of peace, non-violence, social harmony, communal

unity, simplicity, and determination (Manjre, M. R. et al 2020). Every year the world celebrates 'International Day of Non-Violence'. The purpose of the celebration is to convey Gandhi's contribution to present and future generations and to establish his message of peace and non-violence in the heart of society. Along with this I also want to add information about peace that United Nations sanctioned a holiday observed annually on 21 September to celebrate World Peace Day. I think the real purpose of this celebration is to end world wars and conflicts forever. We can say to establish peace all over the world. Everyone seeks peace. It may be private or domestic life. Remember, Nation is nothing without you. You are the beginning of peace, non-violence, truth, or anything. So human being is the priority to establish peace, which Gandhiji fully realized. He has always tried his best to bring people to the path of truth by giving up the path of non-violence. Because he knew that the path of truth is the path of peace, the path of salvation.



To get rid of all kinds of unrest Gandhiji has chosen the way of peace. And peace is the only way to make a Nation free from conflicts and war. The progress of a Nation always depends on its leadership and Gandhiji was the most remarkable leader among them in the time of leading the country from colonial rule.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the meaning and concept of 'peace' and 'peace education'.
2. To find out the major elements of peace education according to Gandhiji.
3. To find out the major elements of peace education according to National Education Policy 2020.
4. To elaborate on the relevance of Gandhian peace in contemporary society.
5. To explain how Gandhian thoughts on peace education influence the elements of peace education of NPE 2020.

### METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is qualitative. The data were collected from various secondary sources like books, journals, research papers, research articles, newspapers, and various e-sources.

### NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In our modern society education has an important role in our life. It teaches everyone to build up a peaceful culture and spread peace by forming a good relationship with each other. It helps to develop people's inner and outer peace and also helps to teach the quality of moral values and non-violent behavior. Gandhiji is one of the greatest leaders to spread people peace and non-violence. So the thought of Gandhian peace education is universally recognized. Gandhiji builds up different types of elements in his peace education. These elements are highly related to our new education policy in 2020. So the study will discuss how much significance of Peace Education in Gandhian thought and its relevance in contemporary society to National Education Policy 2020. So we can say that this present study has a great need and significance. I have tried to highlight all these aspects in my study.

### CONCEPT OF PEACE

The word 'Peace' means living together irrespective of race, religion, or caste. The concept of peace depends on non-violence, morality, tolerance, and compromise. Another thing that can be said in this context is that it is often used instead of the ear. That is, the word peace is generally associated with humanity.

The English word 'peace' is derived from the Latin word 'Pax'. This means an agreement, a control, or an agreement to end war or any dispute and conflict between two individuals, two nations, or two opposing groups (Patra, J.N. et al 2015).

### Definitions

- Ian Harris and John Synott have described peace education as a series of "teaching encounters" that draw from people (Wikipedia).
- According to Joban Galtung "Peace is the absence of physical and structural violence."
- Albert Einstein explains peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, law, and order- in short, of government (Kushre, S. L. 2020).

### Elements of Peace Education according to Gandhiji

According to Gandhiji, the elements of peace education are-

1. **Non-Violence:** The concept of non-violence is an invaluable resource of Gandhian philosophy. According to Gandhiji, non-violence is a universal principle. Gandhiji had no confidence in the principles of violence and coercion. He wanted to establish non-violence at the center of political thought. His non-violent policy is not to harm or kill anyone out of anger or selfish motives. Non-violence is a characteristic of the soul and is therefore practiced by everyone in all areas of life. He believed that the principle of non-violence was the only way to establish peace.
2. **Unity in existence:** Around the world, individuals and groups are divided by fear, suspicion, and hatred towards each other, depending on whether the division has manifested itself in religious, economic, political, ethnic, or color lines. Gandhi thought that if Hindu-Muslim unity was established, the unity with other communities which was already there could be easily strengthened. Gandhiji considered Islam to be a religion of peace in the same sense as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. My experience in India tells me that Hindus and Muslims know how to live in peace among themselves (Bagchi, R.,2003). He always believed in the unity of existence.
3. **Eternal truth:** Truth is God, the one and only reality. According to Gandhiji, there is non-violence in truth and there is truth in non-violence. Gandhi's life was dedicated to the search for truth. He realized that to remain steadfast in the path of truth he was non-violent. According to Gandhiji, truth is like a huge tree that will bear more fruit the more you nurture it. True behavior is essential in all spheres of public life, be it social, economic, political, etc.
4. **Internal growth and stability:** The path to peace ensures internal growth and stability. We reject it because we think that surrendering to the will of the ruler, who has only imposed so-called, and that, through our reluctance to suffer a loss of life or property, we are inclined to impose, we need to change that negative attitude to passive approval. He thus suggested that the growth and stability of society depended solely on peace (Manjre, M. R.,2020). We



also know that the path to peace is true and non-violence.

5. **Good will towards all human beings:** If you want to establish peace in our society or nation then create goodwill among every human being in our society. Goodwill helps people to move forward on the path of truth. If we can develop a person's good personality, good behavior, good quality, and then it is possible to establish world peace. So Gandhiji identified the creation of goodwill in every person as an element to build up peace education.
6. **Equality:** Mahatma Gandhi said that all people should be given equal respect and consideration because they have equal intrinsic value. Gandhiji believed that equality was logically pursued from non-violence; Non-violence involves non-exploitation and non-exploitation is impossible without equality thus equality and non-violence are interdependent. In Gandhi's view, freedom and equality are interrelated, without social and economic equality there can be no freedom and without freedom, there can be there is no social and economic equality.
7. **Change the negative attitude:** One of the main causes of trouble in our lives is negative attitudes. If a person continues to have a negative attitude, then his life will be in turmoil forever and lead him to destruction. So Gandhiji is talking about changing this negative attitude among the people. We need to overcome negative attitudes and develop positive attitudes in our life. This positive attitude helps us to stay on the right path at all times. So if we can change the negative attitude then it is possible to establish peace in society as well as the world.
8. **Law of Love:** Those who have discovered the rules of love for us are people with bigger minds than ordinary people like us. Gandhiji was such a big-hearted man, he loved people all his life, and he stood by people. The welfare of the individual lies in the welfare of all human beings. That is one's own good for the good of all. For example, judging from the point of view of earning a living, the work of a lawyer and the work of a barber is equally valuable. It can be said that Gandhiji looked at everyone with equal eyes and believed in the principle of love.
9. **Avoid Conflict:** Conflict is a disagreement of opinion, it can happen individually or in groups with individuals. Gandhiji envisioned a conflict-free society. Because he knew that such a social curse of conflict would lead to the destruction of the social system. According to Gandhiji, the universal human value of non-violence should be developed not only at the individual level but also at the social, national, and international levels if we want to avoid personal, social, national, and international conflicts. It is an extremely

powerful way to avoid conflict since it stems from the insight into the equality of all human beings.

10. **The inherent goodness of human beings:** Every human being has some inherent Goodness. We have to use this inherent goodness in our real life. These good qualities of man teach him to live a healthy life and to understand the value of life. That's why Gandhiji spoke of awakening this inherent goodness in human beings to build up peaceful education.

#### **Elements of Peace Education according to National Education Policy 2020**

The National Education Policy 2020 is the third stage of the national education policy. However, the National Education Policy of 1968 and 1986 was amended in 1992. National Education Policy 2020, is the first national education policy of the 21st century. In this education policy, school education from pre-primary to higher secondary has been covered in multiple subjects. Earlier the structure of the education system was on a 10 + 2 basis. That structure has been completely broken in the New National Education Policy- 5+3+3+4 (Uttam, M., 2021). That is, three more years have been added to the current education system. This new education policy mentions some ethics and human & Constitutional values like-

- ❖ **Justice:** The Indian Constitution places justice' above freedom, equality, and a sense of brotherhood. However, 'justice' is not limited to receiving justice from the judiciary. Justice now speaks of social, economic, and political justice. Where everyone receives equal status irrespective of birth, race, caste, religion, gender, or title. The National Education Policy 2020 places special emphasis on this aspect because it is the only way to establish peace.
- ❖ **Equality:** The preamble to the constitution speaks of equality, social status, and equality of opportunity. In this equality, regardless of race, religion, caste, gender, or place of birth, there will be no difference in terms of opportunity, employment, travel and entry. That is, people of one class will not exploit another class. As a result, peace will be maintained in society.
- ❖ **Liberty:** The Indian Constitution gives every citizen the freedom to think, express himself, practice his religion, to believe in his own choice. National education policy believes in this freedom.
- ❖ **Respect for Others:** Respect and affection for human beings and one of the virtues of human beings is to respect and love human beings. Every worldly religion has been specially urged to show respect to others.
- ❖ **Democratic Spirit:** Democracy is a term that has fascinated the world of political thought for hundreds of years. The basic meaning of the word democracy is the rule of the people. Democracy is a system of government in which the ruling power rests with the people of the society. It has now been included in the



national education policy to awaken the democratic consciousness in every human being.

- ❖ **Respect for Public Property:** Just as the state is responsible for our security as citizens, so is our responsibility as citizens to protect the resources of the country or the state. Under no circumstances can state property be harmed. Harm or damage to public property will be severely punished. In other words, through this, the people of the country will develop a sense of dignity toward wealth.
- ❖ **Responsibility:** Responsibilities are the act of fulfilling one's responsibilities properly. Responsibility is a very important issue in human life. Everyone is responsible. Everyone has a responsibility. But not everyone is equally responsible. Responsibility is innate. With it, man is born and he has to carry it all his life.
- ❖ **Cleanliness:** Cleanliness is an important aspect of one's spiritual well-being. Cleanliness is not only for the body but also for the environment around us. Everything perceived by our senses can cause either impurity or goodness in us. Therefore, special emphasis has been laid on cleanliness.

## RELEVANCE OF GANDHIAN PEACE IN PRESENT SOCIETY

Mahatma Gandhi was a cosmopolitan and an eminent humanist of all time. India has gifted the world with more humanitarian personalities. But no one like Gandhiji has been able to influence the thoughts and deeds of mankind except Swami Vivekananda alone. According to eminent political scientist BS Sharma, Gandhiji tried to mix morality with politics and emphasized the value of truth and non-violence in solving national and international problems. Moreover, Gandhiji thought that there is no entity in the world without truth because peace and love are achieved through the real truth. This ideology of Gandhiji now has a special effect on the social and personal life of the individual.

- ❖ **Truth:** Truth was the cardinal principle of Mahatma Gandhi's life. He not only believed in the power of truth but also condemned lies. Gandhiji preached three things of truth in thought, truth in words, and truth in deeds. Today's society believes in Gandhi's ideals of truth and the emphasis is on establishing this truth.
- ❖ **Non-Violence:** Non-Violence is the core concept of Gandhi's philosophy. He chose the path of non-violence in his personal life and political life. He rejected any kind of violence in his life and wanted to build a non-violent society. According to Gandhiji, violence can do no good to people. Gandhi's concept of non-violence as well as peace exists in today's society.
- ❖ **Sarva Dharma Sambhav:** To prevent conflicts caused by religious orthodoxy, Gandhiji suggested 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav'. According to him, all religions are true and people cannot live without religion, so he has

an attitude of respect and tolerance toward all religions (Biswas, P. 2015). Gandhi's ideology of inter-religious harmony is very important in today's society because it is through this ideology that peace is maintained in society.

- ❖ **Creation of Casteless Society:** Gandhiji was against the caste system and coined the term Harijan to pay homage to the lower castes. Gandhian philosophy is conducive to building a casteless society where everyone is treated equally regardless of caste. Gandhi's anti-caste ideology is conducive to world peace.
- ❖ **Ethical importance:** Gandhism has a lot of significance today from the moral and behavioral point of view because society is witnessing the erosion of values.

## CONCLUSION

As we already know that each and every individual in society wants to be happy and such kind of happiness depends on a peaceful and non-violent attitude among the masses of the society. In the history of Indian society, various great personalities emerged in various periods of time and every one among them contributed a lot to the transformation of the society towards a new direction. M.K Gandhi was one of the great people who had a remarkable contribution to making a free and peaceful India. The main factors of peace education according to Gandhiji are Non-violence, truth, internal growth, stability, goodwill, equality, change of negative attitude, the law of love, avoiding conflict, inherent goodness, etc. These factors play a vital role in peaceful living in a society which is the main objective of National Education Policy 2020 administered by the Govt. of India. National Education Policy 2020 has also described various issues like Justice, Equality, liberty respect for others, democratic spirit, respect for public property, responsibility, cleanliness, the spirit of service, etc. which are deeply influenced by the thoughts and ideas of Gandhiji.

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