



Beyond the Violent Future: Ensuring Sustainable Development through Education for Peace

Saroj Pandey

Indira Gandhi National Open University (India)
Pandey_saroj@hotmail.com, spandey@ignou.ac.in

Abstract

This paper deals with a crucial theme that has implication for the future of education and society. The world today is sitting on the edge of the volcano of violence, discrimination, aggression and oppression that erupts every now and then de-stabilizing the peace, and harmony of nations and the world. Violence has become an order of the day, whether it is the local community, or the world. Education was thought to be the major instrument to inculcate values, tolerance, harmony and living together in our children but has failed miserably in its aim. The problem of today's education is its alienation from the realities of the world around with the result that instead of being a process of liberation, it is often visualized as an instrument of oppression, manipulation, process of thought control and indoctrination. That is why Ivan Illyich called for *De-Schooling society* and Paulo Freire suggested the *Pedagogy of Oppressed*. A desperate need is being felt by educationists, philosophers, scientists and political leaders to rejuvenate the human values which may bring long lasting peace on this planet. The insistence of Delors report (1996) on 'Learning to live together' as the central pillar of education is a sad reminder of the current state of affairs, and also a realization that education must be geared to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, democratic values, human rights and duties among students. It is right time to evolve a system of education that is more humane and liberating. Education for peace therefore should be the integral component of both overt and hidden curricula of a school system. The concept of peace however needs clarification as distinguished from religious education or value education, and should cut across various subjects taught in school. The culture of peace needs to permeate the entire school experience of the child instead of being taught as a subject. Sustainable development can only be ensured through education for peace.