PREFACE

Peace education is a relatively new concept in educational system of India. The main aim of peace education is not the abolition of war but is to cultivate a culture of respect and peaceful co-existence. The main purpose of education should not only be the production of doctors, engineers, technicians, scholars and job hunters. It should also aim at producing integrated man and woman who are free of fear, because only between such human beings there can be enduring peace. The concept of culture of peace however gained more popularity after the UN general assembly declared the year 2001 to 2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non Violence for the Children of the World. At present, all over the world a great deal of emphasise is being placed upon peace education, as the quest for peace necessitates extensive knowledge and unfailing assiduity. The widespread interest for preparing individuals for peace on earth makes us resort to teaching-learning process. The inevitability of this emphasise upon education for peace has arisen mainly from the necessity to promote understanding, acceptance and friendship among all peoples and nations, and to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The western part of Assam was once known as the most peaceful region where different communities lived together peacefully. But today we can see a completely different scenario where different communities are constantly fighting with each other for the rights of land and languages. Violence of all forms has become a common activity and it has affected the society very badly. The saddest part of the story is that children have become the worst victims of these violent acts. Thus, peace education has become a necessity in the schools of this region today.
Because, Mahatma Gandhi always said, “If we have to preach real peace in this world and carry on real war against war, we shall have to begin with children.”

Schools can play an important role in developing peace in the society. Because, if the world is inclined to seek a long term means to build and promote peace on this planet earth, we have to opt for education and ultimately we should go for schools and colleges. Schools through its various scholastic and co-scholastic activities can develop and promote peace in the minds of students to a great extent. In order to develop and promote peace schools should not only emphasise on mere acquisition of knowledge rather should gear up the teaching learning process in such a way so that a culture of peace can be promoted.

Keeping this in mind the investigator felt the need to investigate whether peace education is possible through scholastic and co-scholastic activities at the elementary level.

This study tries to find out the elements of peace education in the scholastic activities of the elementary level. An attempt has also been made to explore the role of co-scholastic activities for imparting peace education. Apart from this the study also tried to examine the role of teachers, parents and peers in developing peace amongst students. Further, this study also attempts to provide certain suggestions on the findings of the study so that proper steps can be taken in order to develop peace education.

It will give immense pleasure to the investigator if the findings and suggestions can be of any help in the development of peace education.

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