

National Awareness Towards Peace And Communal Harmony- The Prerequisite Of The Hour

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Abstract

The cardinal theme of this article is to arouse nationwide awareness and set contemporary strategies to implement such activities and programmes to advocate effective rehabilitation of child victims especially from the rural and unprivileged community against the social evils and narrow prejudices of communal caste, ethnic or from any form of violence, cruelty, exploitation, dirt, hunger, malnutrition and social injustice. The emphasis of such awareness programme is to inculcate anticipation to such children of the slum areas for the need of their fundamental amenities and education to endorse and emerge out a sense of social reforms and integration through various promotional activities. This chronicle throws light upon the performance that we can undertake to amalgamate the bond of unity, justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, universal brotherhood and affinity between different religion to extend inner urge and motive of non-violence, benevolence and social harmony.

We, being the inherence of Indian motherland, we should cultivate our conviction to extend social help and sprout the essence of brotherhood in the midst of dissimilar religion and culture in demonstration towards a common goal of humanistic approach and nationalism. With such a motive and inclination, we should look forward to emerge out new initiatives to execute the theme of communal harmony and peace.

Key Words: *Cardinal, contemporary, strategies, implement, rehabilitation, prejudices, fraternity.*

Introduction:

The assertion of this new era is to arouse a new awakening of “*Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*” which means to march for “Universal Brotherhood”. The genre constitutes the goal to illuminate harmony in the midst of people across the nation which could reenergize and turn out to be the youth’s response to withstand against growing violence and resist against threatening clash of civilization. In all its sphere and attributes, the vista throws light to inspire the students to explore their potentialities, positive determination, strong will force inquisitive skill and talent through various Literary, Cultural, Dramatic acts and short play to abstain from negativism and violent idealism of conflict ridden communities. The thematic urge is to sprout and shower to represent

allied themes to display the notion of Harmony, Pluralism, Composite Culture, Love, Compassion, Happiness, Truthfulness, Honesty, Sincerity, Non-Violence, Fearlessness, Confidence, Courage, Aesthetic appreciation of beauty, Universal Brotherhood, feeling of Nationalism, Patriotism, Adoration towards Nature and its beauty, Eco-friendly atmosphere and to inculcate the common motive of maintaining tranquillity transversely throughout the nation.

Interpretation:

Communal Harmony is the immense need in the present scenario. We are cognisant of the fact that many spaces and territories are threatened due to communal riots. We are witness to some of the dreadful communal riots that took place in Mumbai, Gujarat, and other metropolises which had emerged out with a terrible bloodshed in which thousands of countrymen lost their lives. Communal Harmony is the preconceived idea to foster and fortify with the paradigm of maintaining peace and tranquillity. The nationwide awareness towards Communal Harmony is the significant arousal tool to constitute social fabric of nationalism, integration and human values. Communal Harmony is the key ingredient of the lives of the people. India is a democratic country with different castes, statements of belief, religion and people belong to different ethnic segments of the society. The notion is to exist together in absolute peace and harmony. But some anti-social element tries to invade a barrier and create bitter feeling among different folks belonging to different religions. As a consequence, there are riots and large number of people, women and children fall in this trap. It must be the ultimate aim of the students in emerging peace and harmony in the midst of people. The students should visit the susceptible areas, spiritual places where people are involving their religious congregations. They should transport to these people the essentiality of communal peace and harmony. They are also supposed to congregate the elderly men and women who command respect among their own caste and religions. In this way, students can play a noteworthy role to carry the whole country together in her (motherland) embedded diversity [1]. The prime endeavour is to sprout out the slogan of peace, freedom of spirit, human dignity, justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, rule of law, protocols of obligations, moral ethics, civic sense and fundamental principles of the governance. To add colours of grandeur the students should present their vocalizations with buoyant spirit of universal brotherhood, inculcate their duty, abide by the décor and discipline and equally pay a tribute to the great freedom fighters, patriots, national leaders and the social reformers who had sacrificed their lives for the enfranchisement against British imperialism.

Discussion:

Rising violence among the citizens and children is not at all a welcome act. It is widespread eye witness to see children fighting themselves over slight pretexts. This implies that the education given to them is not in agreement with the India culture and its eternal values. There are ample of lessons in the text books highlighting the values of universal brotherhood, fellow feeling, love, sympathy and benevolence. But in genuine life there are totally devoid of such attributes [1]. The information of the social evils and disputes of an assortment of incidents of murder, conflict, family dispute, domestic violence, eve-teasing, adulteration, cheating, bribery, theft, scams, scandals, dowry harassment, robbery, child labour, deceit, greed, dishonesty, lust, child abuse, and other issues are rampant everywhere and prevail in the doorstep of our community. According to the survey, mounting violence among children has been increasing enormously. In

such investigation it was deduced that a particular child drawn to violence had been conditioned by the surrounding and domestic affairs. If the parents squabble at home, the child also grows with the tendency to be violent at slight aggravation. The art of advocating “Peace” is frequently remembered with the language to enrich and revitalize happiness and vitality. Peace in inner stillness filled with the power of truth. That is, pure thoughts, pure feeling and pure wishes. When the force of thought, word and accomplishment is balanced together, unwavering and non violent, one is said to be in peace with self, in relationships and in the midst of the nation [2].

The notion of emerging out for “Peace” has been evoked through the words of the father of the nation-Mahatma Gandhi in the book (*The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi-Encyclopaedia of Gandhi's thoughts*) in chapter no.85 towards the quest for Communal Harmony, he addressed “*If not during my life time, if know that after my death; both Hindus and Muslims will bear witness that I had never ceased to yearn after communal peace* (YI, 11-5- 1921, P.148). When Gandhiji came back to India in 1915, he initiated a series of non violence campaigns against the British authorities. At the same time he made strong effort to unite the Indian Hindu, Muslims and Christians, and struggled for the emancipation of the ‘untouchability’ in Hindu society.

My longing is to be able to cement the two (Hindus & Muslims) with my blood, if necessary (YI, 25-9-1924, P.314). *I have the same love for the Muslims as for the Hindu. My heart feels for the Muslims as much as for the Hindus. If I could tear it open, you would discover there are no compartments in it, one reserved for the Hindu, and other for the Muslims and so on* (YI,13-8-1921,P.215). *In trying to explore the hidden treasures of ancient culture, I have come upon this inestimable boon that are all that is permanent in ancient Hindu culture is also to be found in the teaching of Lord Jesus, the Buddha, Mohamed and Zoroaster* (WGC,P.131). From the view point of Communal Riots, Gandhi addressed “*The lawlessness [of communalism] is a monster with many faces, It hurts all the end,including those who are primarily responsible for it*” (H, 15-9-1940, P.284) [3].

Commitment to a culture of Non- violence and to extend help for life should be the civic temperament of a good citizen, which includes perseverance, benevolence, compassion, service towards mankind and humanity. [*It is possible to live in peace*”-Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)]. Huge number of men and women of all peripheries and religions strive to escort lives determined by egoism but by commitment to their fellow humans and to the community around them. Nevertheless, all over the nation we find endless hatred, cruelty, malice, envy, jealousy, exploitation, criticism and violence not only between individuals but also between social and ethnic groups, flank by classes, races, nations and religions.

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do harmony-Mahatma Gandhi [Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com>]. The use of violence, drug trafficking and organized crimes. Many places still are ruled by terror from all angles, dictators oppress their own people and violence is prevalent. *The more we sweat in Peace; the less we bleed in war*-Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, [Source: <http://www.famousquotes and authors.com>] A socially adjusted individual should inculcate the following abilities to strike a successful relationship with the society, they they must cultivate a willingness to cooperate with the others, they ought to develop the capacity to endure the view point of others, they are supposed to have reverence for various ethnic groups and should have tendency of developing a sense of fellow belongingness and enjoy social

acceptance [4]. “*McGuire & Hurst Having*” coined the definition of socialization as the progression of presenting alternate channels for individual behaviour mutually with positive or negative sanctions which will lead to acceptance of some and rejection of others. It emphasizes the influence of social groups, formal and informal, upon the personality trait of the entity and social growth as a result of social transformation under a particular set of circumstances. Social development is an important aspect of development. Social development is parallel with the other features of overall personality development, fundamentally social development is an art of acquirement of the ability to behave in accordance with social norms, customs and expectations. Through the course of social development one learns to conform to group standards, moral traditions and thus becomes a polished individual well- fitted to his society [4].

The Obligation To Preserve Peace:

Terrors stricken entail the sternness of the stipulation caused due to violence and menace of violence for political and communal intention. The terror affects in the midst of the entire mass. Growing violence and intimidation has spread alarmingly in the entire world these days. Terror and undesired violence resulted in domestic fury, civil strife, bloodshed and death of thousands of innocent people. The aim achieved nothing but indescribable misery and setback for the innocent people. We came athwart with the bitter experience of communal riots caused by some anti-social elements; the consequence had lead to curfew (*Section 144, The Indian Penal Code*), a ruthless condition to a virtual stillness. The government had to entitle the military officials to control the traumatic situation. The place affected with curfew gives rise to a pallid and deserted look. The human beings are not noticeable on the city road except cops and other military force. They had sinister faces and looked sombre with their bullets and geared up to shoot any reprobate. The inhabitants were held up in their homes. They could not come out of their homes even in embryonic circumstance. No one was allowed to enter to go to the arena under the influence of curfew. All the human activities disappeared, merely through small loop we could have a gaze to the army officials moving in the region of the city and street bazaar [1]. The cacophonous ear-splitting, aggressive, sadistic and terrible panic attack is the root cause of public distress due to some of the anti-social culprits who are accountable for such riots.

Initially of all we should aspire to expand the sense of human dignity and equality. Men must be educated. They should converse of democracy, nationalism, equality of all men without any discrimination. But men seldom realise about this sense of equality. Men must have strong brain, a clear intellect and pure soul, his mind is obliged to be free from narrow prejudices and nonsensical ideas; men must penetrate through the mass of superstitions encrusting his mind to the pure truth that is in his inmost self. Then human being will be acquainted with that all perfections, all powers are already within himself that these have not to be given him by others. When human being apprehend this, he becomes free that instant , he achieves equally as perfect as he, and he does not have to put into upshot any power, physical, psychological or ethical, over his countrymen. He abandons the idea that there was ever any man who was lower than himself. Then human beings can converse of equality [5].

According to the words of Swami Vivekananda-*Doing good to the world is virtue (The philosophy of Dhama), injuring others is sin. Strength and manliness are virtue and cowardice is sin. Independence is virtue; dependence is sin. Loving others is virtue; hating others is sin. Faith*

in almighty and in one's own self is virtue; doubt is sin. Knowledge of oneness is virtue; seeing diversity is sin. [5].

In all religions the super conscious state is identical; Hindus, Christians, Mohammedans, Buddhist and even those of no creed, all have very same experience when they transcend the body.[Source: The complete work of Swami Vivekananda, Volume 7/ Inspired talks. Recorded by Miss S.E. Waldo, A disciple, July 11th 1895]

We must not only tolerate others, but positively embrace them and that truth is the basis of all religion. [Source: The complete work of Swami Vivekananda, Volume 5, Chapter: Epistles-first series, Recorded at USA, 30th November, 1894]

Do I wish that the Christian would become Hindu? God forbid. Do I wish that the Hindu or Buddhist would become Christian? God forbid. [Source: Address at the final session by Swami Vivekananda, Volume 1, Address at the parliament of Religions, Karma Yoga on 27th September, 1893] Similarly Lord Gautam Buddha addressed on the concept of peace “*The Whole world is suffering, suffering is caused by human desire*” *Evil is done through the self; man defines himself through the self. Evil is made good through the self; man purifies himself through the self.* [Source: Dhammapada (12:9)] *Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace-Buddha (560-483BC)*

Mother Teresa (26 August 1909-5September1997) also known as blessed Teresa of Kolkata, a Roman Catholic religious sister and a missionary. Mother Teresa had intensively contributed in the sphere of communal harmony and peace; she was the recipient of numerous honours, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

Pandit Nehru addressed in his speech towards “*The Indian National Idea*” that-*‘I know there is an India. But I do not know if there is an Indian’* [6]. What a miserable annotations on our National Consciousness! According to him, the present scenario is plagued by the constricted prejudices of provincialism, linguism, parochialism, communalism, chauvinism and many other “isms” and this is merely due to lack of factual national consciousness. This lack of accurate National Consciousness is due to lack of education and training on the appearance of our national principles. He wanted to arouse the cardinal theme of national awakening to the students to bridge the gap of susceptible power shortage. Nelson Mandela, the well known South African Anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician and philanthropist who made intensive exertion on peace had addressed “*What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead*” [on 90th birthday celebration of Walter Sisulu, Walter Sisulu Hall, Johannesburg, 18th May 2002] Nelson Mandela addressed “*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*” [at university of the witwater sand South Africa, in year 2003] Subsequently there has been enormous demand for producing more power (student power). There is immense responsibility of the students in edifice of the nation. Students are the fundamental constituent of our country. They are the future leaders, global managers and technocrats of the nation. They are supposed to be the future sensible citizen of the country; they must possess a sense of moral sovereignty, and the progressive futures of the nation are in their hand. Our country is ridden with immeasurable exertion almost at all level; hence it is the moral liability of the students to

embark on the aforesaid problems and should strive hard with determination and burning desire to eradicate those exertions to make human life happy and blissful. The prevailing societal hurdles like the predicament of untouchability, illiteracy, dowry harassment, malnutrition, child labour, child abuse, superstitions etc are still deeply rampant in the society. Students should also focus and look after the social evils which are being prevailed in our community like castism, upbraiding, domestic violence, spousal abuse, family conflicts, child labour, castigation, vituperation, slave trade and slavery bondman-ship, child and female abuse, molestation, opprobrium, eve teasing, misconception and superstitious beliefs. The students should be there at all junction to advocate equal rights and dignities irrespective of gender, promoting women empowerment, human rights, to arouse awakening against female infanticide and to emerge out social ethos and sense of fellow nationalism, brotherhood, benevolence, sympathy and virtues of secularism, peace and social harmony. Students are also capable to serve individuals, families and communities. They dole out at all levels of the society. Such student can help the people to deal with their relationship with others, solve their personal, family and community problems to cope up with the social and environmental forces affecting daily life [7]. Students in assemblage can visit those inaccessible villages, slum areas and dwellers of the community and extend help in bringing a real awakening among the rural masses. They can lend a hand in removing illiteracy, which are the derivation grounds of all these adversities. We could do with the service of the students at a large scale who have a missionary zeal and dedication to eliminate these social evils. Dowry related death, unhygienic quandary, nasty surrounding, and superstitious belief take away heavy trouncing of human life. Students can embark on these problems with a sincere effort to wipe them. Equally, they can lend a hand to the administration officials and the police in maintaining appropriate administrative control and inculcate others to abide by the system of rules; human right and dignity, protocols of law and the principles of governance. The potential of the students need to be focussed in this trend. The students are supposed to take their initiative to advocate social help by addressing education to the miscellaneous milieu including the disadvantaged and dispossessed children of our community from the slum areas. Children belonging to such disadvantaged assemblage with dearth of their indispensable amenities, rights and dignities are to be helped by us. The unprivileged children from SC/ST background and other backward categories based on ethnicity, economical, societal, geographical, linguistic, gender and other categories of weaker section of the society ought to have equal love and tender concern. First of all, the fundamental needs of such children (destitute, vagabonds, gypsies, vagrant and juvenile delinquents) should be fulfilled. They should endow with with proper food, clothes and shelter. The imperative setback with such children is that they cut off themselves emotionally from the society. They widen negative attitude towards the society as they are easily criticized, victimized, they are looked down and neglected from the society. Their miserable plight turns from poverty to apathy. They require little encouragement from the government agencies and the social reformers, consequently that they might not feel injustice and class insecurity. The other prime responsibility is to extend help to others, helping others means doing well to the world. The quandary is on increase day by day and we come across the reports of innocent people held captives or hostage by some deceitful terrorists who would like the possessions to be in motion according to their line of attack. They correspond to a veritable peril to the manoeuvre of law; they have rendered hazardous trauma towards the routine activities of life. They pitch a confront to legally constituted authorities and would like them to act as they deemed to their wishes. One of the foremost operations is to highjack an aeroplane with passengers on board to the place they desire to and demand heavy ransom on the throbbing of

killing the passengers if their demands are not fulfilled. In this sort of terrorism they have no intend other than of extorting handsome ransom from the government concerned. The second objective of plane high-jacking is one in which some political ambition is sought to be achieved. The common category of terrorism is one in which the terrorist clutch the innocent people hostage in some embassy or edifice. Here also the intention is political. These forms of terrorism are indeed nothing but blackmail and are intend for the fulfilling of the objectives for which they are resorted to. It should not be a platform for thrashing out controversies but an environment conducive forum for hammering out an elucidation to the quandary of paucity, unawareness and backwardness of the pervasive people. In this apprehension we should expose optimistic aim rather than pursue negative pursuits.

The most significant aspect which is being prevailed in contemporary society is the growing violence among children, the children who are the citizens of tomorrow, are persistently being open to the elements to violence. If this drift is not investigated it may set out in front to black-and-blue minds and a much more distressed nation in the future. Proper counselling, psychoanalysis, competent guidance and wholesome patronage from the parents and teachers are solicited. Books and media can endorse peace in a pleasurable approach and rally round children to live in harmony among them and with the society at large. Keeping in view with this alarming situation, "*The Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children*" (AWIC), *the Indian sector of the International Board on Books for the Young people* (Indian IBBY), a charitable organization, had organized the World Congress on children's books in India, for the first time from 20th to 24th of September 1998. The endeavour of the Congress was to pioneer, pay heed, persuade and endorse the concept of "Peace" as a theme in children's literature and to ensure that it reaches children in every periphery and to the doorstep of our community. More than 1000(Thousand) delegates from 65(Sixty five) countries participated in first five day long Congress, Among them were well known researchers, writers, learned scholars, experienced illustrators, reputed publishers, seers, philosophers, educationist and social reformers. The emphasis of the Congress was the "*Hans Christian Andersen award*" and Honour list presentation and an exhibition of books on the *Panchatantra*, the first collection of children's stories in the world. There was an exhibition of original art work of Indian writers and an exclusive exhibition called "*On the Wings of Peace*". This included books, pamphlets, art works and posters on the theme "Peace". All the national section of IBBY (*International Board on Books for the Young*) was invited to participate in this exhibition. "Story Telling" on the theme "Peace" was another delightful attraction during the Congress. In the forum, there were series of lectures, interactive sessions, innovative exchange and deliberation of talks, seminars and workshops. The Secretary General of AWIC (*The Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children*)/ Chairperson of the Congress Mrs. Manorama Jafa felt proud that India was hoisting the 26th IBBY Congress for the first time in South Asia, and for the second time in Asia. She addressed in the forum "*Being a voluntary non-government organization dedicated to the cause of establishing and initiating better books for children, over the past decades and we have been active in miscellaneous domain concerning to children's literature to facilitate and advocate "Peace and Harmony* [8]. The remarkable words concerning peace and harmony "*If there is to be peace in the world; there must be peace in the nation. If there is to be peace in the nation; there must be peace in the cities; If there is to be peace in the cities; there must be peace between neighbours, If there is to be peace between neighbours; must be peace in the home. If there is to*

be peace in the home; there must be peace in the heart. [Quote from: Lao Tzu (570- 490BC)] This Congress had provided an inimitable forum for those who are interested in children's welfare from all over the world. It was Indians proud dispensation to welcome all learned academicians', distinguished scholars, social reformers, publishers of national and international repute, renowned writers, illustrators, translators, book reviewers, marketing personnel, media people and distributors of children's books. The seminars on an assortment of topics like promoting the reading convention in children; How can books facilitate a child to inculcate values and social virtues of universal brotherhood, peace and social and harmony [8]. From the evidence *Rabecca L. Oxford, The Language Of Peace*, towards advocating and communicating to create harmony and national integration for the entire mass of our community including all peace activist, social workers and sensible citizens to march for the quest of peace. This awakening is an effective tool to garner our spirit and facilitate peace education campaign. Individuals concerned about growing violence, war, bloodshed, brutality, domestic fury could search and carry out more and more intensive studies and practical implementation of the ways to preserve peace. The author (*Rabecca L. Oxford*) had intensively used all the forms of communication more positively and effectively to generate possibilities for peace. Peace has many dimensions: inner, interpersonal, international, intercultural and ecological. The guidelines mentioned by the author help us resolve conflicts, avoid violence and reduce bullying, misogyny, war, destruction, terrorism, genocide, political deception, cultural narrow prejudices [9]. In the present scenario, advocating towards National Integration, peace and communal harmony the hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sri. Narendra Modi addressed on Saturday, 31st October, 2015 invoking Sardar Vallabhai Patel's work for National Integration, Prime Minister, Sri. Narendra Modi said "*Unity, Peace and Harmony*" was the first condition if India has to move forward and attain new heights for development. Now we must work to live up to philosophy of unity and strength to maintain peace. He addressed National Integration is the only perception of single national identity among people of a country belonging to various races, castes, ethnic and religion.

Unity is our biggest strength. We have to move forward with the mantra of "Unity, Peace, and Harmony" he asserted at an event marking the 140th birth anniversary of the iron man of the nation, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, against the backdrop of protest by artistes, writers and scientist over alleged rising intolerance after the Dadri Lyching, beef row and other incidents. Finally he aroused the future technocrats and global leaders of tomorrow (our emerging students) to extend hands together with a common goal proclaiming the slogan "*Run for Unity*" [10]. Narendra Modi, has become a ray of aspiration for 125 crore Indians towards his vision and concern for common goal to uplift of weaker sections of the society and his thoughts and actions have always been consistent with strong will force of feelings towards the society and social harmony for the progress of the county in the new millennium with an inclination of positive motive, inner urge and a vernacular of displaying peace and harmony nationwide. After all, the primary purpose of any such movement should be endeavour to eliminate the cause of conflict, bloodshed, brutality, injustice and exploitation and endorse healthy and co-operative relationship based on goodwill and spirit of benevolence, brotherhood and a true sense of humanism.

Conclusion:

When we proclaim for “Peace and Communal Harmony” which could only be attained between homogeneous social groups, characterized by devoid of conflict, divergence and free from trepidation of violence. Leaders throughout history have established and pleaded for provincial peace all the way through peace treaties by putting a knot towards hostility. There is a dire need of preserving peace in the entire nation and in the entire world. We can attain “welkin of prosperity” by preserving peace. Terrorism is a dreadful weapon in the hands of few disgruntled human beings who are enemies of mankind. The progress achieved so far by human being is due to peace and equanimity. Terrorism leads us nowhere. Common understanding of peace with absence of resentment to be the inner voice of our soul, peace often involves compromise and therefore peace is initiated with thoughtful listening and communication to enhance and create mutual understanding. Proclaiming for the quest for “Peace” is to materialize practical insight for the students, citizens, social workers and researchers to spread awareness and impart peace education through communications, media, human values, cultural transformation and with positive intention to cultivate harmony from the core of our heart and from the depth of our soul to stimulate an atmosphere of Peace and tranquillity nationwide.

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