

PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL HARMONY

R. N. Sharma*

Vice Chancellor, IASE Deemed University, Sardarshahr, Rajasthan

Email : oncampus@iaseuniversity.org.in

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ABSTRACT

The concept of peace has taken back seat in this LPG era. Even U.N. agencies failed to tackle the issue of peace because of the veto power conferred on 5 permanent members of Security Council. It has still remained underdeveloped and an issue of contest. Development in essence means development where social quality is about aspiring for a good society with quality social and economic life and the full participation of its citizens to enhance their well-being and individual potential.

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** Author for correspondence*

INTRODUCTION

Peace may be of two types: 1. Spiritual Peace – Teaches us to perform our duty-without affecting the rights of others. 2. Physical Peace for Comfort – It is right oriented and is not possible to attain without affecting the rights of others.

The present world is heading towards material comfort and believes that everything that glitters is gold, but we forget that a technique has been developed which can convert any cheap metal into gold. People are behind materialistic comfort and are adopting all the methods & techniques, legal or illegal, moral or immoral, proper or improper, ethical or unethical to get the money to enjoy all the materialistic comforts available in the world. This has lead this world away from thinking process based on reasoning. The result is before us. The developed countries are developing at faster speed. They are putting hindrances in the path of development of developing countries, under one pretext or other.

They just to keep their economy running involve themselves in creating conflicting situations between developing/underdeveloped countries and instigate them directly/indirectly to enter into petty wars. These results in purchase of weapons from the developed countries and the money meant for development and peace building by the developing/underdeveloped countries is diverted for security purposes. This fact is evident from so many interventions of U.S.A., U.K. & other developed countries under the guise of U.N. resolution.

Not only this through international agreements like GATT & TRIPS the developed countries have taken over economies of most of the poor countries. Because of this the money of poor countries is siphoned to developed countries at the cost of the social security measures undertaken by developing countries. The concept of development in reference to economic development can be seen in terms of coordination of rural and urban development,

coordination of regional development, coordination of economic development and social development, coordination of humans and nature, and coordination of internal national development and the need to open.

The term, development in the present context is seen in terms of development of weapons of mass destruction, sophisticated Air Ports, development of big malls, multinational corporations and manufacturing of sophisticated vehicles. The fact is that these facilities are being enjoyed by not more than 5% of the population but the expenditure incurred on these is more than 50% of G.D.P. The remaining budget is used for about 95% population. This has made a rich man more rich and poor more poor. In India it is evident from the fact that 67% of the population has been considered poor and has been given cover of food security even after 67 years of independence. If this is the development I am afraid that it will lead to social harmony at all. On the contrary it will take the world towards conflicts and will ultimately lead to destruction, and will be responsible for social disharmony. Thus we have to work for such development that spreads the benefits horizontally to all sections of society irrespective of race, sex, caste, creed economic or political status of a person. Such development will pave the way for prosperity among all and will ultimately lead to Social Harmony.

To my mind – the panacea of this disease is to work towards spiritualism i.e. the peace of mind.

We see that today everyone is running behind money without looking to its evil effects. We have become totally selfish and right oriented. We are doing this at the cost of our physical as well as mental health.

This blind race we have to check. This is possible only through spiritual education, duty oriented preaching and by preaching principles of co-existence. We have to say good bye to our rights. In fact the concept of right is the root cause of all the present evils. We have to work hard for innovating principles & policies to make our self realize that the concept of right is discarded and is substituted by 'you' and 'we all'.

If the people will live with peace in mind, it will lead to peace in society which ultimately paves way for peace at world level.

Harmony helps in generating collective consciousness among individuals, groups and organizations to provide unique and valuable services for the whole. Harmony will create the spirit of unity in diversity and the collective consensus to solve the urgent problems that face the world today. Simply put, harmony is our common value and common human heritage. Throughout human history harmony was practiced as the oldest form of collective philosophy. Initially the religion was practiced to keep harmony with the all mighty. Later democracy was instituted to keep harmony between the government and its citizens. In democratic countries moral values and legal systems were developed to promote harmony in human interactions. Family and social orders are also forms

of harmony. With the onslaught of globalization we are facing the challenges of diversity in religious beliefs and development of democratic governance systems; it is time for us to return to harmony philosophy in order to create balance.

In Eastern countries harmony was practiced with heavy doses of moral education. The system promulgated comprehensive moral teachings reinforced by family unity. A harmonious society is supported more by family order and unity.

Social harmony is traditional concept which implies ideal society – absence of conflict and people cooperating with each other. One of the components of social harmony is the “democracy and rule of law” and “fairness and justice”. It reflects a basic concern in any society.

Social harmony is inherently a social concept, embedded in social interactions, and has greater potential to support a more balanced theory and practice of responsible citizenship in the modern context where the state is primarily responsible for the welfare of citizens.

The concept of social harmony has an ecological dimension also. It offers greater potential for tackling the increasingly significant question of peaceful coexistence between man and nature.

Social harmony is the cardinal value and the most treasured value of any culture. Social harmony is an integrative value in a global, information society, which unites in itself love, peace, justice, freedom, equality, brotherhood, cooperation, nonviolence, tolerance, humanism and other universal values, and

prioritizes children. Therefore, harmony is a common value for western and eastern cultures, and can eliminate the clash of civilizations. Social harmony creates a harmonious and sustainable peace, beyond wars, terror and poverty.

INDUSTRIAL HARMONY

An order of social harmony can arise in an information society and gradually remove the social disharmony produced in industrial societies. Post-industrial society can strengthen harmonious peace through the creation of information technologies to discover, and new legal institutes to legitimize, the innately peace-loving priorities of children and parents. The creation of a new culture of peace, on a foundation of social harmony, to prevent wars, terror, poverty and self-destruction, is impossible without this vast, peace-loving potential, which is not claimed until now.

The culture of peace, inherent in an industrial society, is a culture of balance of power and military forces. This balance is always unstable. It is directed, not on exclusion of wars, but on limiting them, or setting them aside to deter the arms race. The peace is subordinate to war, instead of peace for the sake of peace, happiness, and harmony as it is unstable & forgive. In the name of peace, industrial societies prepare children for war instead of for peace. The industry sector by providing social security to its workers and by discharging their social responsibility (CSR) can lead the society to peace which ultimately is the pathway for social harmony.

MULTICULTURALISM / CULTURAL PLURALISM AND HARMONY

Present world is a global world. People are being migrated from one country to another country of different culture and social tradition. Sometimes the migrants mix up themselves with the new culture prevailing in the society. But in most cases people try to preserve their own culture and at the same time demand for the recognition of their identity, and accommodation of their cultural differences. This is often phrased as the challenge of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is also identified with equal weight age as cultural pluralism.

Multiculturalism emphasizes upon the autonomy and paternalism of an individual as well as community. In this respect the expectation is that the people of dominating culture should create laws and environment so that the autonomy of the minority is secured. The oppression and the tyranny, dominance by the larger culture are also factors for social unrest. Hence I think if every person or each society practices its own culture disvaluing other's culture, the social harmony of a multicultural society faces trouble.

Kukathas strongly tends to

“...stability and social unity ... can only be bought at the cost of toleration. It is because articulating a political conception of justice, and presenting it as the first principle governing conduct the public realm, subordinates toleration, entrenches a particular comprehensive moral conception, and

excludes certain moral ideals as unacceptable. Tolerance is a mechanism to come to a social harmony. Thus, we can say that in a multicultural society the harmony among different culture can be established if the demand of each culture is met at an acceptable level. Thus through media social harmony can be maintained.

MEDIA AND HARMONY

Media is to serve the people with news, views, comments and information on matters of public interest in a fair, accurate, unbiased and decent manner and language. It has assumed the foremost importance in society and governance it cannot lose sight of its duties and obligations. The media is mandated to follow certain ethics in collecting and disseminating the information by ensuring authenticity of the news, use of restrained and socially acceptable language keeping in mind its cascading effect on the society and on the individuals and institutions concerned.

EDUCATION AND HARMONY

Education is the backbone of every civilized society. It is an indicator of progress and prosperity of the country. Education seeks to buildup the personality of the people by assisting his physical, intellectual, moral and emotional development.

Presently education rarely challenges prevailing paradigms and interests of national governments, wealthy elites, or dominant groups, whatever the economic or political system. Therefore, the educational institutions are being transformed to best

serve the interests of the global corporate agenda only. Global issues are addressed; they are often approached through the biased perspectives of ethnocentrism, national chauvinism, and global economic dominance.

Education should have Humanitarian and Peace building agenda. This may help people to deal with the immediate and proximate triggers of violence and will allow us to respond to both the manifestation of violence and its causes.

We have to change our priority areas and should provide more funds to social programmes leading to peace in place of security, political and economic reforms.

There is need to cultivate positive and mutually reinforcing linkages between the formal education system and the subcultures or islands of peace within society.

One of the most serious drawback of our education system today is dominated by the imperatives of the marketplace—an imperative that ignores any notion of social responsibility. The schools are preparing students to be individual, undifferentiated units, which are easily interchangeable in the global marketplace.

The author feels that in this globalized era it is more important that the education should be made more socially responsible and it should aim at the training younger generation, the life skills, self reliance, personality development, community service, social integration and political understanding

to make the world more useful for the community at large. The education should address to the crisis of gross disparities between the wealthy and the poor, of racism and human exploitation and of ecological devastation.

We have to make educational institutions seed-beds of culture where children are trained for achieving destinies of the future. It is hoped that out of these ranks will come out statesmen and soldiers, patriots and philosophers, who will determine the progress of the land leading to social harmony.

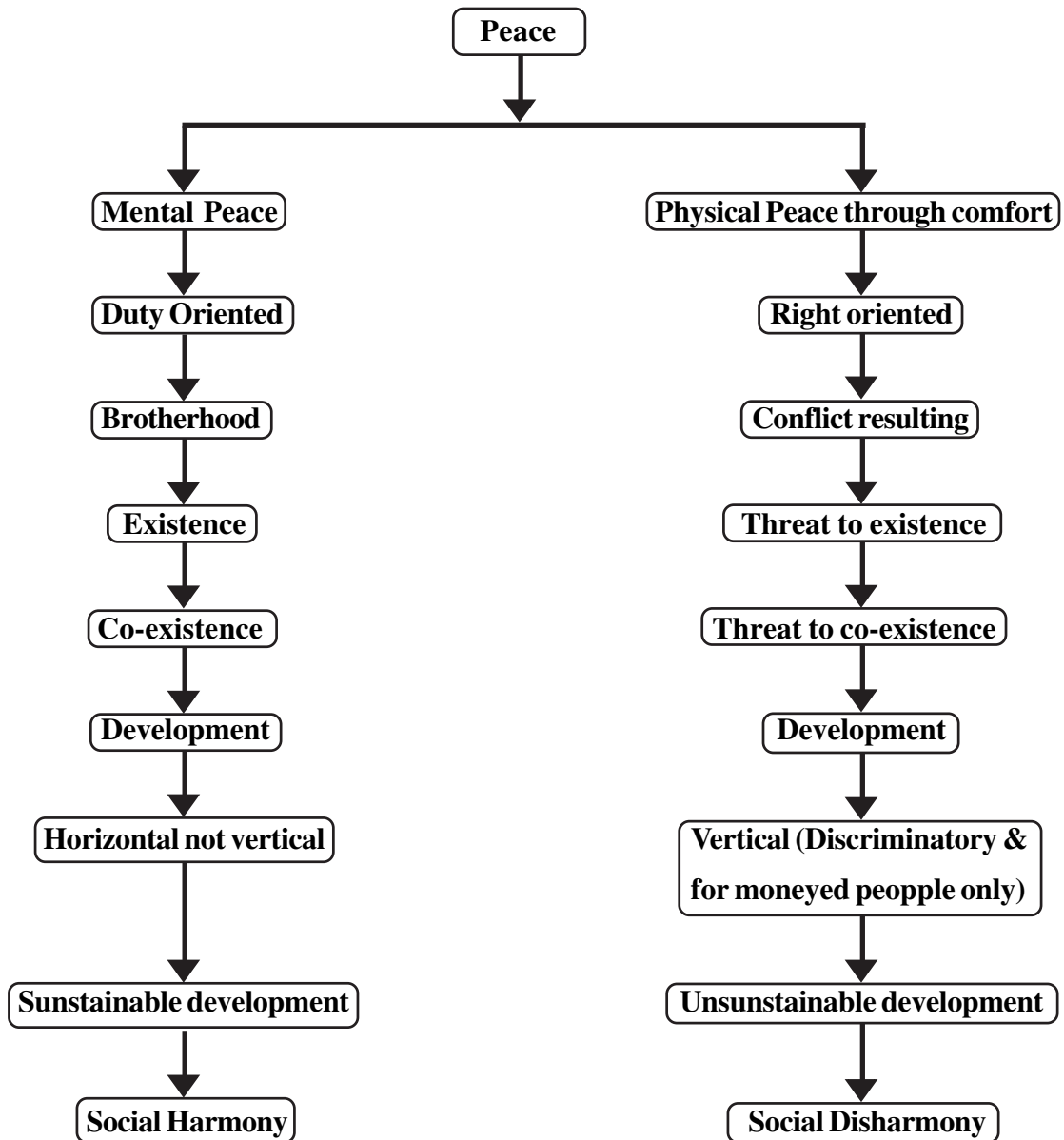
Through education we can create environment where all people get equal opportunities to attain sustainable development and enables them to crystallize their wishes and dreams.

We have to ensure opportunities to women, children and marginalized poor for over all development by ensuring equal participation of them through integrated approach.

We have to cultivate positive and mutually reinforcing linkages between the formal educational system and the sub-cultures or islands of peace within society.

We have to ensure that education is accessible to all irrespective of their economic, social and political status and it should not become a tool for creating inequality and inferiority in the society.

Educational curriculum should be so redesigned that it nurtures non violence and motivate the people to sustain ethnically tolerant climate.



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