



## Concept And Role of teacher in Education for International Understanding

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Dr. Radhakrishnan has rightly said : "It is essential for us not to live apart but to live together, understanding one another's fears and anxieties, aspirations and thought. We must work for racial harmony. we may be American, we may be Russian but we are essentially human beings. Let us learn to live in a world community."

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Education for International Understanding means a cosmopolitan education which will produce a loyalty to world citizenship.

It also refers to international efforts at co-operation and harmony in the exchange of teachers and students, rehabilitation of backward cultural areas, mutual understanding through school instruction and the like.

### Ways and Means for education for International Understanding

Education for international understanding implies the promotion of democratic citizenship etc. The following are some of the ways and means of organising education for promoting the feelings of internationalism :-

#### 1) Aims

- i) Promotion of world citizenship
- ii) Promotion of world peace
- iii) Promotion of independent and critical thinking
- iv) Promotion of construction rather than destructive feeling
- v) Developing the student's faith.
- vi) Eradicating of racial, religious, cultural and national prejudices

#### 2) Redesigning the curriculum

The traditional curriculum followed in our schools and universities does not fulfill all the possibilities of internationalism. The redesigning curriculum should enable our students :-

- i) To learn that the earth is the home of man and other living things
- ii) To gain knowledge about the world we live in
- iii) To learn how to promote better understanding of the interdependence of the world
- iv) To inculcate respect for all major religions of the world
- v) To know something about the long strength of mankind to replace conflicts with co-operation



- vi) To develop a desire and the simple skills
- vii) Knowledge of various cultures of the world

### 3) Instruction in various school subjects

#### i) Literature

A UNESCO publication states, "Extracts from the works of the writers such as Dickens, Gorkey, Tolstoy, Tagore and Isben can be used to illustrate stages in social progress. So the best of literature of other nations must be included in the curriculum.

#### ii) Art

True art should be included in the curriculum. The true hape of human feelings should be depicted and shown in art. It is beauty involved in the art that is significant.

#### iii) Language

it can play a vital part in the peaceful intercourse of the people of the world. The study of modern languages should be the study of modern people.

#### iv) Science

Students should be told how the scientists of various nations have contributed in fighting against disease. He nourishes in his heart goodwill to the whole of mankind.

#### v) History

The field of history should be wide enough to enable the students to cultivate international outlook. History should be taught objectively and with a cultural bias. students should be encouraged to study newspapers and magazines.

#### vi) Economics

The knowledge of consumption, production, taxation, human resources etc can be given our international level.

#### vii) Philosophy

Philosophers throughout the history of the world have been stressing mental peace as the human goal.

#### vi) Mathematics

The language of mathematics is universal, with largely the same symbols, through out the world. It should be impressed that almost all subjects and problems lend themselves to mathematical treatment.



#### 4) Co - Curricular activities

Co - Curricular activities which go in the school from time to time can be geared to educating for international understanding. The following activities are suggested :-

- i) Celebrating birth anniversaries
- ii) Celebrating international week
- iii) Celebrating days of international importance
- iv) Organising and running UN societies
- v) Organising pen friend's club
- vi) Arranging exhibitions
- vii) Dramatic representation
- viii) School assembly
- ix) International games
- x) News of other countries

#### 5) Face to Face contacts

Face to face contacts are of great help in broadening outlook, breaking rigid isolation of individual nation's and in removing imaginary fears and grievances. The following activities are useful in this regard :-

- i) i)International Camps
- ii) Cultural and study tours
- iii) Arranging visits and excursions to foreign students
- iv) International youth festivals
- v) Exchange of teachers and students

#### Role of teacher in International Understanding

The teacher is even more important than the curriculum because he is medium through which the curriculum is implemented and its goals are achieved. A teacher can make the following contributions towards international understanding:-

##### i) Broad Outlook

The teacher must have broad outlook among his students. He must have international outlook and world - mindedness to promote international understanding among his students.

##### ii) To understand man as man

The major objective of the teacher should be to enable children to "understand man as man", first then as a Indian, American, Jew, Hindu or any other



iii) Wedding out the idea of violence and war

The teacher has to keep in mind that , "since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defence of peace must be constructed." Every person should grow up with faith in man and courage in himself.

iv) Emphasizing peace

The teacher must emphasize that the maintenance of peace is the only panacea for all the ills of the present sick world and to build that peace in the minds of man is our major task.

v) Cultivating right values

The teacher should inculcate among children the right values of life, like co-operation, friendliness, love for justice, love for truth and love for humanity.

vi) Educating adult society

The teacher should make an all out effort to educate the adult society for peaceful co-existence and international understanding.

vii) Correct Interpretation

The teacher should not give a biased view of other countries. He should give correct facts, correct knowledge and correct interpretation of history, culture, life style etc.

viii) Use of effective methods of teaching

The teacher should teach in such a way that ideal of 'world citizenship','live and let live' may be developed.

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