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**INDIA'S NATIONAL COHESION AND COMMUNAL HARMONY  
ARE FACILITATED BY PEACE AND VALUES EDUCATION.**

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**Abstract:** The security and advancement of the country also depend on communal harmony and national integration. India is an enormous nation. Our land area is almost the same as Europe minus the old Soviet Union, and we have the second-largest population in the world. Our nation is home to around 1,622 different languages and dialects. Our Constitution has granted particular recognition to eighteen of these as our nation's official languages. In actuality, one of our nation's top concerns has been maintaining national integrity and unity, or national integration. Maintaining community harmony and national unity in the nation is greatly aided by peace and value education. This essay briefly discusses the importance of peace and values education in preserving communal harmony and national unity.

## **Introduction**

For any country with socio cultural, religious, linguistic, and geographic diversity, national integration is crucial. It is even more essential for a nation like ours. India is a very big country, as we all know. Our population is the second largest in the world. The fact that all of the main world religions—Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism—are practiced in our nation makes it special. The people of India speak over a thousand different languages. Costumes, eating habits, and social conventions also vary greatly. Our land is geographically diversified, with remarkable climate variations. India is a single political entity in spite of all these distinctions. We must respect our fellow Indians' culture and religion and live in harmony with one another. Only when national integration is realized in the fullest sense of the word will this be feasible. In India, the most crucial prerequisite for a sense of unity and national integration is communal harmony. Various races have engaged in conflict and established themselves firmly on Indian land throughout history, yet India has absorbed them all into her own blood. This nation finally modeled the clashing civilizations after its own origins and patterns. Since ancient times, India has seen a wide range of faiths and religions, yet this hasn't stopped people from peacefully pursuing their respective ways of life. In the first century of the Christian period, Christians and Jews arrived in India and were welcomed. Muslims and Parsis were treated equally after a few centuries. Since then, the prosperity of various religious communities has been a defining feature of India.

It was this inherent unity and communal harmony which enabled India to fight against the British might as one man for freedom. The Preamble to the Constitution described India as a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and secures to all citizens liberty of thought, expression belief, faith and worship. Articles 25 to 30, in particular, guarantee to everyone the right of freedom of religion freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion.

### **Threats towards National Integration and Communal Harmony**

Anxiety stems from the separatist trend, which threatens the nation's long-standing community harmony and cohesiveness. Natural integration is under threat from fissiparous tendencies including castes, linguistic bigotry, regionalism, militant communalism, and religious bigotry. In order to take proactive measures to eradicate these trends from our society, let's investigate the origins and modes of operation of these inclinations. The most repulsive manifestation of communalism is community rioting, which happens all too frequently in this nation. It is undeniable that the politically motivated support given to some communities by British authorities fostered and escalated the communal question to dangerous heights. The aspirations of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi were not fulfilled. As a reminder of the harsh reality and evidence that communalism has deeper roots than ever before, there was a surge in communal rioting in the years after independence. Therefore, action should now be made to improve the sense of communal harmony, unity, and national integration. If self-defeating and fatal mantras like "my state," "my language," "my caste," and ultimately "my religion" are abandoned in favor of India's noble sentiments first, last, and forever, the threat of communalism can be avoided. In addition to ensuring communal harmony and national integration, it will integrate our feelings and goals. Our goals and aspirations will be realized, and the motto "unity in diversity" will be reality. One group in India that is growing quickly is the youth. This group has a more contemporary perspective. It is more tech-savvy, rebellious, open-minded, and receptive to ideas and cultures that differ from its own. It is also more cognizant of global events and more outspoken about the socioeconomic problems that India is currently facing. They are the folks who travel the world, choose different careers, and shatter the glass ceiling. In India, young people are a driving force behind religious harmony, acting as both a catalyst and a motivator. This is the section that will eventually result in changes to legislation and attitudes. Today's kids are tomorrow's leaders, and they play a major role in spearheading any changes made to a country's general mentality.

### **Education is the process of encouraging goodness**

The saying "a war is never won" should be reiterated. It doesn't matter that history texts say otherwise. Any victory is a hollow one since war has such tremendous material and psychic costs. Just social harmony and peace can be achieved, and achieving peace entails not just avoiding military confrontation but also figuring out how to eradicate the root causes of oppression and injustice, ignorance and poverty, intolerance and prejudice, and individual and communal violence. Building a new set of values and attitudes to replace the culture of war and community

violence is essential to achieving societal harmony. The absence of mass destruction is only one aspect of social harmony or peace; another is a favorable internal and external environment where individuals are free to reach their greatest potential. Therefore, in order to create societal harmony, universal education is necessary.

Peace education encompasses more than just conflict resolution. Our incapacity to trust, empathize, and acknowledge the legitimacy of one another is made worse by the fact that conflict resolution often leads to the emergence of new, repressed conflicts. Making mental compromises to give in, give up, or concede is the act of mediating peace. This can't be the sole issue. After that, individual acts can be performed collectively. The purpose of peace education must be to help people find themselves and to listen to others while also being heard. Understanding that young people are the future and that our behavior will shape their future depends on the values we teach them. Instead of being imposed, ethics and values ought to be expressed and motivated. One voice, one heart, one humanity. Moral education is crucial for fostering social harmony and peace. Regarding moral education...Is instructional strategy more important than subject matter?

As a result, the course was created with child-centered, active learning, and real-world application in mind. Students are asked to think, reflect, and engage in discussion as all of the principles are presented in the form of stories and actual everyday events. They therefore deduce the story's worth.

Indirect methods that avoid telling and breaching are used to teach morals and values. The following is how the course attempts to adhere to the SIX E's principle:

**Examples:** Children are given examples that make the value clear, whether from the instructor herself, the story's characters, historical figures, or members of the community.

**Explanation:** This necessitates talking about the value with the kids, giving them lots of chances to ask questions, share their thoughts and feelings, and understand the value rather than just learning a few words about it.

**Exhortation:** This entails supporting the behavior that demonstrates and reflects the value we wish to instill in the child. People are inspired by exhortation, which speaks more to the heart than the intellect. Children are being taught to do good, to know good, and to love good.

**Environment:** A healthy learning environment that promotes good behavior is crucial if we want the kids to learn it. This setting encompasses the entire school as well as the neighborhood and the street.

**Experience:** Since children learn values by doing rather than just listening, it's critical to give them lots of chances to put what they've learned into practice. They should also be given the freedom to make errors and grow from them. However, experiences need to be authentic, pertinent to the child's life, and age-appropriate.

**Enjoy:** Making sure the youngster is having fun and enjoying learning the value is one of the most crucial requirements; if not, the outcomes won't be what we were hoping for.

The aforementioned SIX E's demonstrate the significance of the teacher in imparting and learning values, as well as the critical role that the family and the community at large play. It is the duty of many individuals and groups to teach tolerance or any other principle, and we should all work together to accomplish our admirable objectives for the benefit of all people worldwide. Along with knowledge, education should aim to instill principles like equality for all, peace, mutual respect, worldwide brotherhood, and secularism. Children should be taught the following moral principles by their teachers.

**Respect all life:** Respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination or prejudice;

**Reject violence:** Practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;

**Share with others:** Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;

**Listen to understand:** Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;

**Preserve the planet:** Promote consumer behavior that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;

**Rediscover solidarity:** Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

To spread the Gandhian values of truth and non-violence, Gandhian study circles and groups can be established in every school. Giving students the chance to connect with one another for extended periods of time—for example, by sharing dorms, going on trips, treks, and tours—may develop the ties of mutual coexistence. Children that demonstrate empathy for the entire community may receive awards. Sadbhavana clubs can be formed on college, university, and school campuses. Teachers at the school level at educational institutions may be scheduled for a regular, periodic training course on the value of teaching the principles of non-violence and non-discrimination based on religion and belief. "The process of promoting goodness and reducing badness is education." Therefore, education seeks to correct one's incorrect thinking, incorrect speeches, and incorrect behaviors while also fostering one's kind heart, kind thoughts, kind speeches, and kind deeds. Our innate traits of sincerity, kindness, beauty, and wisdom will be strengthened by education. through teaching morality and decency, empathy, and love for all people. Love between parents and children is the essence of original love. Family, society, the country, and the people are all affected by this love. We can only achieve personal satisfaction, family harmony, societal stability, and world peace

by acquiring the education of original love. It guides us to appropriately handle three relationships: those between individuals, those between individuals and their surroundings, and those between individuals and all other beings in the universe. Thus, fostering love through education is crucial to establishing social harmony. For this reason, Maria Montessori once stated, "Education is the key to establishing enduring peace and social harmony; politics can only keep us out of war."

## **Role of Peace and Value Education**

Education is one of the most important mobilizing forces. Young people today are not restricted to careers in engineering and medicine. More people are now entering various fascinating fields like mass communication, media, biotechnology, bioinformatics, research, pharmacy, journalism, and event management. An unprecedented expansion of minds and mentalities is being ensured by this excursion into other professions. A liberal mindset in the youth can drive the transformation that will encourage people to put aside their differences and live as a one community, regardless of caste, creed, religion, or ethnicity. A man's behavior is greatly influenced by his level of education. Education teaches people how to live and interact with one another. The ideology that could lead to one's own point of view remains unchanged. All educated people will refrain from using any illicit sources if education changes its ideology.

These days, education teaches students how to function in society in addition to language. People acquire values through education. Even if they don't like it, people will learn to respect one another and not offend others. It enlightens because all religions affirm that God is wonderful and that none of their doctrines or texts include any harmful statements. Indian philosophy and culture are the foundation of value education, which is embedded in all Indian cultural traditions. The promotion of value is significantly aided by educational institutions. The motivation for value education comes from the Vedas and Upanishads. In Ashram education during the Vedic era, the guru requires his sishya to live by a set of principles. The ideal conditions outlined in the Constitution are socialism, secularism, democracy, justice, liberty equality, fraternity, individual dignity, and national integrity. These ideas must serve as the foundation for our life's values.

In 1948–1949 University Education Commission listed the following as some of the components of morality: self-sacrifice, discipline, loyalty, courage, and spirituality. The Secondary Education Commission of 1952–1953 placed particular focus on the following principles in helping pupils develop their character: Effectiveness Cooperation with Good Temper Honor Self-control The education ministers from each state convened in November 1960 to discuss this issue in an effort to advance national integration. The seriousness of the national integration issue was taken into account. A committee headed by Dr. Sampurnananda was then established with the goal of fostering emotional and national cohesion in the nation. The committee gave careful consideration to the function of education in fostering national integration in addition to other facets of the issue. The Committee started working as soon as it was established in May 1961. The National and Emotional Integration Committee's recommendations regarding education. The Committee suggested that the

goal of education should be to foster students' overall personality development in addition to imparting or exchanging knowledge. To promote a sense of national cohesion, the values of sacrifice and tolerance should not be cultivated in students through the educational process.

Education helps students see the true issue. It provides a straightforward explanation of right and wrong. It is thought that teachers are "Visible Gods" who help pupils comprehend reality. Proficiency in reading and writing in one's home tongue is a prerequisite for basic schooling. Through a variety of sources, mostly newspapers, it informs the public about daily events in society. Good social relationships are always fostered by education, even in early life. Students from many castes, religions, and creeds study together and grow to love and be brothers. The development of values is inextricably tied to the entire educational process. Education loses its heart and soul when it is unable to foster ideals. It is impossible for someone who tries to portray the essence of our day to ignore the significance of education for morals. There are new threats to peace and security that, if not addressed constructively, could have unfavorable effects. The formative years of a child's education are vital. What kids learn and internalize will shape how they conduct their life in the future. Value degradation is not a novel worry in this day and age. Such concerns were prominent in policy texts even before to independence. Educators and policymakers have long taken this issue seriously and worked to identify the potential of education.

The integration of this nation is greatly aided by education. Only dates are left to be remembered because of the dull way history is taught in schools and how it is presented in textbooks. The study of history lends itself to drama by emphasizing and explaining occurrences. Dramatizing history lectures helps students see past mistakes, avoid repeating them, and instead make history by comprehending! All of us are only studying history as middle-aged individuals, at a time when the impressionable brains of young people have already been tainted by false information and alienated by apathy. Education helps students develop holistically. Education encompasses more than just textbook knowledge; it also includes sports, the arts, and culture. These elements support the growth of sportsmanship, cultural sensitivity, etc. Education instills moral principles and helps students see that most human desires are the same. It instills a sense of knowledge and appreciation for both one's own and other people's cultural heritage respectively. Through education, students gain information about themselves and, consequently, others around them. Education creates critical thinkers who can see their own limitations and gain knowledge from those who are able to overcome them. It teaches them to appreciate other people.

Education creates people who want to learn the lessons learned from the wisdom of their community and the wider world, as well as from the wisdom of earlier generations. The difference between rhetoric and truth/facts is recognized by education. Reconciling the opposites is a concept that helps us appreciate the entire and reconcile the duality we observe in everything around us. The secret to establishing harmony in any society is education. Education evolves from a nation based on expediency to one that is "ethical."

Since it is so simple to change the youngsters, the majority of students attempt to adopt the teacher's opinions. Even in their personal lives, teachers should serve as role models for the students. They



shouldn't show preference for their own caste, religion, or creed. Only instructors are capable of achieving the true purpose of education. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all educators to impart appropriate instruction to the next generation. ... order for the next generation to be raised with moral principles that will support our nation's peace and national unity. Furthermore, in order to give children more time to absorb other valuable life lessons, the threat of private tutoring in school topics should be eliminated.

To ensure a better future for the country, the government must empower today's youth to bring about unity in diversity and harness the strength of a liberal, scientific-minded society that coexists peacefully on a community level. All levels of this nation's educational system need to be redesigned to better include elements of our history and culture. The household, society, and committed institutions should all be included in the educational system. While we should embrace the finest of the West, we shouldn't allow it to overshadow or destroy what is uniquely ours. Stories, poems, songs, artwork, aphorisms, morals, proverbs, values, and meaning that have been passed down to us from previous generations should be treasured and remain integral components of who we are.

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