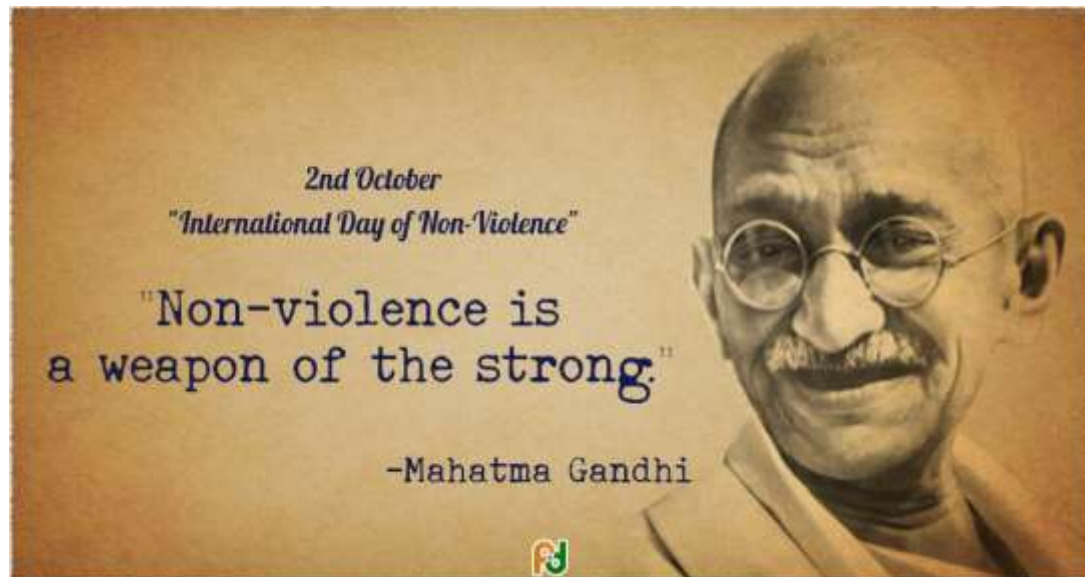


Education in nonviolent school/classroom environment



Presented by — Hemlata Rathod
Assistant Professor
Department of Education

Introduction

The whole world is aware of the importance of non-violence but the person is deviating from the path of non-violence due to his selfishness. Due to violence, there is a huge loss of public and money in the whole world. Violence is not a permanent solution to a problem, yet violence is being used on a large scale. The increasing violence around the world was considered to be worrisome and “**UNESCO declared 2000-2010 to be an international decade promoting a culture of peace and non-violence among children around the world**”. Schools have an important role to prevent the trend of violence and a non-violent environment should be created in the school.

Expressing concern over the increasing violence in the world, from 1981 to 21 September, the United Nations has decided to celebrate ‘**International Day of Peace**’. The purpose of celebrating this day is to spread the message of peace and stop international conflicts.



Meaning And Definition of Non-violence

Gandhiji says – “ I do not consider non-violence to be a personal virtue only. It is also a social virtue that should be developed like other virtues. It should be expended to a greater national and international level.”

Meaning of non-violence –

The world non-violence is the opposite word of violence. Violence is meant to harm or attempt to harm the creature in any direct or indirect way. Where as non-violence means not to Harm the creature in any way through mind, words and deeds.

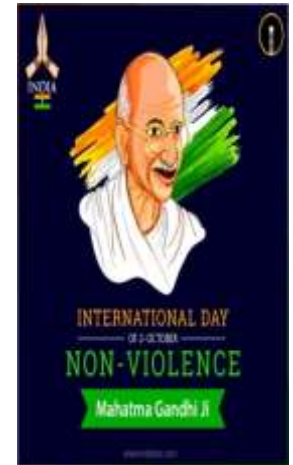
Gandhiji divided non-violence into two form-

Negative non-violence means not harming anyone in any way.

Positive non-violence means having compassion for all the living being of the world and loving them. Gandhiji considers non-violence to be the path to truth and only by walking on the path of non-violence.

Definition of non-violence-

According to Mahatma Gandhiji-Non-violence is the principle in which its opponents are won by love and not by hatred or conflict. Non-violence is a virtue of heroes and not a coward's. If one has to choose between violence and cowardice then I will choose violence and not cowardice.



According to Dr. Radhakrishnan – Non-violence is a symbol of real power, not to hurt or harm in any way is non-violence

Characteristics of non- violence

1. Negative non-violence –Non –violence is assumed in a negative sense in which there is no harm to any way . There is a sense of negativity in it generally this meaning is prevalent in the general public.

2.Positive non-violence – Positive non-violence means to have love , belonging and affection towards all beings in the world.

3.Natural attribute –Gandhi ji considers non-violence as a natural property of human. They believe that human beings are non-violent in nature and become violent due to circumstance. therefore, we are our natural qualities and protect our natural qualities.

Characteristics of non- violence

4. Wider meaning –Non-violence does not only mean lack of violence or physical injury to anyone, but non- violence also prohibits bad behavior and bad language. Hence eating meat is prohibited in Jainism due to non-violence.

5. Non-violence is not cowardice – Gandhi ji associates non-violence not cowardice but fearlessness. They say that non-violence does not make a person cowardly but rather bold and brave.

6. Inclusion of love – Non-violence involves love and affection. Anger and hatred increase violence while love increases Non-violence. Man should control himself with love to love all is non-violence.

Characteristics of non- violence

7. Attainment of truth and God – Gandhi considers non-violence to be the means of truth and god. “Ahinsa Parmo Dharmah” it means Non-violence is a supreme is a virtue or religion, we can say there is no religion more than non-violence.

8. Spiritual strength – Gandhi ji associates non-violence with spiritual force, he says that there is spiritual force in non-violence which melts even those of hard heart.

9. Resistance – Non-violence is does not mean to surrender humbly but to resist evil with the help of spiritual force.



Types of violence in school

Violence is a broad subject here only the school violence is explained. Violence in school is done by both the teacher and the student, which

1. Violence committed by the teacher – The teacher violence in the school is mainly into the following parts-

(A) Physical violence –

- Beating children with sticks, hands and feet .
- Standing children on the benches outside and inside the classroom.
- To standing in the sunlight.
- To standing on knee.
- To hold the ear behind the feet or make a cock.



Types of violence in school

(A) Physical violence –

- Making a chair with the help of wall or without support.
- To tie the arms and legs of children.
- Making the children sit ups
- Ear jerking squirming , grasping, and pulling hair.
- Getting the school cleaned, asking to go round the school.



(B) Emotional violence –

- Humiliation in front of other children during classroom

Discriminating among children or not treat everyone equally.



B. Emotional Violence

- Making vulgar and lewd comments in class.
- Abusing the class
- Standing and humiliating separately in prayer meeting.
- Suspend from school for a few days.
- Write and stick something on children's backs like I'm an ass, I'm an idiot.
- Refusing to go to the toilet.
- Do not allow food to be eaten during recess.
- Intentionally reducing marks in the exam.
- To impose excessive discipline or restriction.
- Sending children to the principle again and again



(C) Economic Violence -

- Harassment of children for tuition and fees.
- Demand for goods from children.
- Demand for money from children.
- Repeated fines on children.



Violence committed by the students

Violence is not done in the school only by the teacher but also by the children. Such as –

1. Beating and threatening other classmates.
2. Sexually abusing other children.
3. To steal classmates book and pens etc.
4. To tear up books and uniforms of uniforms.
5. Abusing in the class, making lewd remarks.
6. Writing dirty quotes on walls.
7. Damaging school property such as doors, windows, switches, tables, chairs, taps, toilets, mirrors, etc.
8. Doing misbehaving with teachers and classmates.
9. To come to school by intoxication and motivate other children to get intoxicate
10. Damaging plants and flowers.



Cause of violence in schools

Violence in schools is done by both the teacher and the student, so there is difference between violence done by the teachers and students are being studied separately –

(A) Causes of violence committed by the teachers –

- Improper mental balance of teacher, getting excessive angry.
- Extreme management pressure on teachers.
- Appointment of unqualified teachers.
- Teacher not having knowledge of child psychology.
- Excessive workload on the teacher.
- Teacher being dissatisfied with his work.
- Teacher not getting enough salary etc.

(B) Causes of violence committed by the children

- Lack of appropriate family background of children.
- Children should not have good surrounding.
- Punishment given by the parents.
- Discriminatory behavior by the teacher.
- Punishment given by the teacher in classroom and outside.
- Student should not pay attention or interest in outside.
- Excessive pressure of children on the course.
- Pressure of scoring good in the exam.
- Excessive competition in the class.
- Children have no faith in the teacher or respect for the teacher.
- Suppressive environment of the school or excessive discipline.

Effect of violence at school

The impact of violence is not only seen on the country but also on the school. Just as many violent incidents are happening in the society. Similarly many violent incidents are happening in the school too, which have a wide impact on children. The following effects of school violence are seen –

- ❖ Increase in drop – outs
- ❖ Adverse effect on students health
- ❖ Development of violence tendency
- ❖ Development juvenile delinquent
- ❖ Obstruction in learning achievement
- ❖ Obstruction in Development of Democracy
- ❖ Consider violence the only option

Implication of above issues on curriculum and pedagogy

Non-violence should be promoted in place of violence in school, and any violence in school should be completely ruled out. Unless non-violence is promoted in school, it is impossible to establish a clean and healthy society. The form of education in a non-violence school/classroom environment should be as follows –

- Use of child centered teaching method
- Importance to child psychology
- Opposition of all type of punishment
- Appointment of Deserving and virtuous Teacher
- Establishment of peace clubs and libraries
- Screening of non-violent movies

Implication of above issues on curriculum and pedagogy

- Use of media
- Organizing various festivals
- Development of sensitization
- Organizing co-curricular activities
- Organizing various days
- Organizing Unity and integration camps
- Organizing workshop for teachers and parents
- Inclusion of non-violence in text books
- Use of counselor

Non-violent environment can be created in the school through many of the above activities. The school should not be a center of non-violence but of violence.

Implication of above issues on curriculum and pedagogy

The position paper of **NCF 2005** expressed concern over the status of school, stating that “Education for peace serves as a context for learning . We are living in an era of unprecedented violence at the local, national and global levels. It is a serious point that schools, which were to become peace nurseries, have become centers of incitement to violence.”



