

PEACE EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

WALK OF HOPE 2015-16
FOR PEACE & HARMONY
FROM KANYAKUMARI TO KASHMIR
STARTING FROM KANYAKUMARI ON JANUARY 12, 2015
11 STATES, 86 DISTRICTS, 6,800 KILOMETRES

The Peace Education Programme is developed under the Youth Initiatives for Peace, a Walk of Hope 2015-16, a project of Manav Ekta Mission, which aims at an attitudinal, structural, and cultural transformation whereby young people gain the ability to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people.

As the world enters the second decade of twenty-first century, it has entered a period of unprecedented crisis. The huge issues of poverty and hunger; ethnic, social and gender inequality; abuses of human rights; unsustainable resources depletion; illiteracy and lack of access to education; woefully inadequate healthcare; and conflicts and wars continue to plague the planet in undiminished ways. Conflict and ecological damage have intensified and have been joined by their entirely unpredictable by-products of terrorism, corruption, globalized crime, HIV/ AIDS and other epidemics of international proportions, erratic weather patterns and growing water shortages. This reflects the enormity of human suffering and bio-ecological damage that are being inflicted daily.

Is there a hope for human fulfillment, happiness, creativity, satisfaction and a harmonious relationship with nature? Manav Ekta Mission Youth Initiatives seeks answers to the conflicts around us and within us by an inner transformation; by understanding that peace is the only way to a sustainable future and an everlasting happiness.

This peace curriculum has been structured to engage people of all age groups as it works towards developing the values and behaviour for constructive and peaceful co-existence. Keeping in mind the constraints of heavy curriculum, it is an open-ended plan and it can be done as a separate component of school value education system or as an interdisciplinary approach across various subjects.



*May we follow the path of goodness as the sun
and the moon follow their path.*

— *Rig Veda*

Primary

Foundation years- Focus on realizing self

Indicative Themes

- Hygiene both of the self and of the surroundings,
- Respect for others and for elders,
- Recognition of the dignity of labour,
- Honesty,
- Love, sharing and cooperation,
- Tolerance,
- Regularity,
- Punctuality,
- Responsibility

Indicative approaches

- Questions,
- Stories,
- Anecdotes,
- Games,
- Experiments,
- Discussions,
- Dialogues,
- Value clarification,
- Examples,
- Analogies,
- Metaphors,
- Role-play, and simulation
- Art painting
- Cooking festivals

After all, nobody, irrespective of what faith he or she belongs to, likes violence and bloodshed and the misery and sorrow that characterize war. And yet religion fights religion, sect is set against sect, and human beings, forgetting that they are what in the ancient Hindu religion is called “Vasudhaiva kutumbakam” (one universal family), or as mentioned in the Koran, “Servants of one God”, or as the Bible says, “Children of the living God”, kill each other in cold blood.

— M

*A day once gone will never return. Therefore,
one should be diligent each moment to do good.
We reach the goal of the good life by pious work.*
— Mahavir

Middle

Synthesis – Internal and External

Indicative Themes

- Festivals
- Clothing
- Food
- Songs
- Dances
- Languages
- Religions
- Art and architecture
- Diversity – gender, caste, region

Indicative approaches

- Interdisciplinary activities
- Individual activities
- Group activities
- Social relationships
- Role plays and drama
- Assemblies
- Projects
- Arts – performing and creative
- Systematic questioning
- Reflective expression

The four thousand year old Rigveda, one of the sacred works of the Hindus puts it succinctly when it says, “Ekam Sat vipra bahuda vedanti,”- the truth is one, wise men call it by many names.

—M

Its a hard fight and a weary one, this fight of the truth-seeker: for the vow of the truth-seeker is more hard than that of a warrior.

— Kabir Das

Secondary

Critical Thinking and Intellectual Development

Indicative Themes

- Commonality and diversity of human cultures
- Population related matters
- Destruction of the ecosystem/pollution
- Gender issues
- Racism
- World poverty
- Problem of war/terrorism
- Trading relationship
- World cultures
- Animal rights/animals threatened by extinction
- Human rights

Indicative Approaches

- Assembly
- Roles plays
- Mock UN
- Drama
- Art-Painting
- Story Telling
- Public Speaking
- Research led Projects
- Presentations
- Meditation

More social reforms, however, cannot do much as we have seen in the past. What is required is the reformation and change, which is the natural outcome of the individual spiritual experience of inner unity which again comes with the realisation, that every human soul is potentially a spark of the divine Supreme reality, or at least, or at least is linked to that Being, who for want of a better word we call God.

— M

Ahimsa is the greatest of all virtues. One who observes the Dharma of Ahimsa is the true manifestation of goodness. One who possesses all virtues but Ahimsa is none other than a brute.

— Sri Narayana Guru

Evidences of Work

Should entail cognitive, affective and psychometric aspects

Portfolios

A systematic collection of a student's work that represents a student's activities, accomplishments, and achievements in a chosen area. The portfolio can be a hard copy or a digital copy.

Suggested success criteria

- Coherence of work samples – examples of written work, visual arts, anecdotal records
- Records of systematic observation
- Accounts of project work in science, social science and mathematics
- Photographs or video-recordings of the child's participation in a
- physical education activity, music and dance.

Projects - identify, plan, act, reflect

An action project/plan that creates a foundation for improvement initiatives on any of the suggested themes or beyond.

Suggested success criteria

- Significance and description of the identified issue
- Preparation and outline of an action plan

Teachers, students, youth who would like to volunteer and be a part of this historic event may connect with us in multiple ways. Write to team@walkofhope.in for more details.

Open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor.

— Christ

- Data on action
- Impact of the action and the change

Scrap books

A scrapbook entails a collection of clippings, pictures, drawings, and cutouts on a specific topic of enquiry.

Suggested success criteria

- Essentials of research: hypothesis, data, analysis of data and conclusion.
- Use of topic relevant materials such as drawings, newspaper clippings, brochures

Writing poetry or songs

Children can be easily guided to write simple verses or songs. The teacher can work with the children to create a song/poem expressing their feelings about a certain topic. Their writing could be recited or sung.

Suggested success criteria

- Recognition of a strong theme
- Originality of content
- Coherence of theme
- Skillful use of the Elements of Music - Intro, Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Closing
- Presentation

Creating a Video/documentary

Children can create a fictional or non-fictional video clip intended to document a real-life topic, person, event, or issue.

If this inner conviction, which the great religions of the world and great spiritual teachers have spoken about nicely summed up by words of the great teachers of Galilee, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God”, or the famous statement in the epistle of St. Paul, “Know ye not that ye are the children of living God and the spirit of God dwelleth in ye” – can be translated into action, world peace which is end of war, is not far away.

— M

Limitless are the scriptures; since short is life and obstacles are numerous; therefore, what is best should be performed right now, just as the swan extracts milk mixed with water.

— Panchtantra

Suggested success criteria

- Selection of appropriate theme
- Must highlight the elements – observation, interview, dramatization, exposition
- Clarity in narrative

Art exhibitions and displays -

Posters, drawings, sculptures, collages, craft work

- Children can create art pieces based on free expression and personal understanding of peace related issues.
- The basic idea here is for children to display their subjective understanding of topics through creative expression.

Suggested success criteria

- Composition
- Reflection of central idea
- Originality

Plays

Children with the help of teachers or independently compose a scripted performance which aims at telling a story through action and dialogue on any of the areas reflected in the peace education programme. The performance can be a theatrical drama, a play, a street play, a baithak or a small skit. These can be performed in the special assemblies, annual shows, as classroom activities or as independent events.

Move together. Speak together. Know your minds to be one. Let your aspirations be the same. Let your hearts be the same. Let your minds be the same. So that you may be of good accord.

Samvo Manamsi Jantam. (Rig Veda, Book X, Hymn 191).

With our minds put together, may we understand.

We make our world significant by the courage of our questions, and the depth of our answers.

— Carl Sagan

Suggested success criteria

- Content
- Relevance of script
- Dramatization

Creative writing

Creative writing expresses ideas and thoughts in an inventive way through the use of imagery, narrative, and drama. The writer focuses on expression of emotions instead of just presenting the facts. Creative writing would include novels, poems, epics, short stories, screenplays, songs, television scripts, writing letters to imaginary people, fictional writing, cooperative story making.

Suggested success criteria

- Organization
- Development of idea
- Theme Appropriate vocabulary
- Originality

Case studies

A case study is a research oriented detailed analysis of a particular individual, group or situation over a period of time. It is an illustrative, investigative and instructive analysis of a person, group or event.

Suggested success criteria

- Proper choice of research question/area
- Development and application of the process of enquiry
- Discovery and account of the answers
- Implementation of the solutions

If the world religious and spiritual leaders consider peace and human welfare as the crux of religion and spirituality, then the very lives we lead will contribute to peace. We can, then, without the least trace of hypocrisy or greed for power and position, guide and direct the people to take practical steps to bring about peace and end war.

— M

If you want peace of mind, do not find faults with others. Rather see your own faults. Learn to make the whole world your own. No one is stranger. The whole world is your own.

— Mother Sarada Devi

Morning Assemblies

A morning assembly is a gathering of the entire school (or age-defined sections of the school) to communicate matters of significance and to share learning experiences. Assemblies may include:

- special assemblies
- role plays
- talks
- paper reading
- small enactments
- visitor lectures.

The evidences can be video or audio recorded and uploaded on:
<intern.walkohhope.in>.

For more information and correspondence, please write to:
intern@walkofhope.in

Walk of Hope 2015-16


PADAYATRA | KANYAKUMARI TO KASHMIR

www.walkofhope.in

Walk of Hope 2015-16: for Peace and Harmony is focussed towards engaging people and connecting them in shaping a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world.

6,800 km long walkathon (padayatra) will cover 11 states and 86 districts of India in about 500 days.

The best Charity is that which the right hand gives and the left hand does not know it.

— Mohammed

Peace Pledge

I promise to put personal peace as my primary goal each day, and to interact with the world and those around me in a way that best serves my peacefulness.

♥ I will choose my words and actions so that the best, most likely outcome for me is inner peace.

♥ I will sometimes choose to say nothing, rather than break my Pledge.

♥ I will be gentle with myself if I break the Pledge – practice makes perfect!

♥ I will not use the Peace Pledge as an excuse to “give up”, be “walked all over” or “surrender” when my values are challenged. My pledge for peace is not a vow of silence – I will continue to take a stand for things that matter to me, but in a new way.

♥ If people ask me why I am behaving differently, I will tell them I have taken a Peace Pledge.

♥ I will not preach – rather I will lead by example and let my new peacefulness shine a light for my friends, workmates, family and people I meet in the street.

♥ I am a person of action, not words. My actions make a difference. With each success I become the change I wish to see in the world and World Peace gets a little closer.

Only the truly religious, who are free from greed for power and position can inspire true reforms and galvanise the masses to shun war and strive for lasting peace. Only when the heart is pure (“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” – New Testament) and unselfish, does the concern and compassion for the fellow humans arise. In the words of the Bhagavad Gita, “He who seeks the welfare of living beings is the greatest practitioner of religion.”

— M



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MANAV EKTA MISSION

Born human | Be human | Every step for *humanity*

MANAV EKTA MISSION

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