WORLD AT WAR- IMPORTANCE OF PEACE EDUCATION

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Peace and violence are two powers continuously at war since the beginning. Violence serves greed, corruption, envy, and the never-ending fight for influence and control. It is the materialization of the evil within each of us, while peace is the materialization of hope and understanding between and among the people of the world. Peace is tranquility, a world rid of wars and conflicts. It is a state of calmness and freedom from any form of harm and disturbance. Peace is the resolution of conflict without any violent act. At present, there are countless issues about peace and violence. Most of which are brought by the never-ending wars, terrorism, oppression, and the power struggle.

Specifically, the wars against communism and terrorism continue to exist in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Due to the threat, death, and destruction, the lives, livelihoods, and the future of the people in these war-torn territories are at waste. It is not a surprise that countries and territories at war suffer plenty of losses economically. And because of these economic downfalls, it is the innocent people who suffer and have to live in poverty and struggle on top of the constant fear for their lives and safety. Furthermore, the conflicts put a strain on the connections and interrelatedness that countries and nations have built together over the years. It creates a system of distrust that can lead to an "Us against Them" scenario, which will cause more destruction. When a country or a group of people are backed into a corner, there is no telling what they will do. Through globalization, the world has become interdependent. It means that a threat to one or a couple of countries is a threat to the peace of the whole world.

It brings to light the importance of peace education. Reardon (2000) defined education about peace and education for peace as the two dimensions of practice that

make up peace education. The former refers to gathering knowledge about violence and peace, and the latter is education that emphasizes developing the skills needed for a peaceful life and encouraging action to develop violence-free alternatives. Peace Education is an instrument to fend off the bad that is currently feeding on humanity and the world. It aims to influence the youth, the students, the learners, the very builders of the future, and instill good values and appreciation of peace. It helps them acquire and develop skills that enable them to nonviolently confront and solve conflicts. It equips them with the necessary abilities to become active and responsible members of a society that knows and understands the value and importance of peace. Peace education campaigns for the cry, the fight for peace and understanding. It teaches us how we must rise above adversaries and avoid division. The path to peace starts with educating ourselves and arming ourselves with knowledge and understanding rather than guns and ammunition.

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