about our country. All members of a family must have some common objectives, some feelings of love and respect for one another. Only then, the family will prosper and live happily. Similarly, there should be a spirit of integration and understanding internally within the country and externally among the countries of the world. 'International understanding' denotes the understanding among the different nations of the world.

6.3 MEANING OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

International Understanding implies mutual understanding, faith and respect among the various nations or countries of the world. As globalization has changed the entire scenario, and due to the facilities for rapid communication and transportation, all the countries of the world have come closer to one another. Just as we cannot live alone and remain aloof from the family and if anything good or bad happens to us, it will definitely affects the other members of the family; similarly now anything happening in one country inevitably has its repercussions in other countries as well. This has necessitated mutually good and cordial relations amongst the countries of the world. And this is termed as International Understanding. A few important views on the concept of international understanding may be given here-

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, "It is essential for us not to live apart but to live together, understanding one another's fears and anxieties, aspirations and thoughts. We must work for racial harmony. We may be American. We may be Russian, but we are essentially human beings.

In the words of **Dr. Walter H.C.Lewis, a former Deputy Director General of UNESCO**, "International understanding is the ability to observe critically and objectively and appraise the conduct of men everywhere to each other, irrespective of the nationality or culture to which they may belong."

Today, science and technology have to a great extent removed the barriers of time and distance. The entire world has come under one roof. Any happening in one country affects the other parts of the world due to the rapid network. Again, all the countries of the world are economically interdependent upon one another due to the effects of globalization. This has led to the realisation that all the nations of the world should stand or fall together. Thus International understanding is the need of the hour. To sum up it can be said that –

International Understanding is needed to –

- prevent world wars
- maintain one's sovereignty
- strengthen democratic principles
- develop backward nations
- develop network with other countries
- promote human welfare



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 2: Why do you think that international understanding is essential among the countries of the world?

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ACTIVITY 6.1

Point out the major reasons for the necessity of International Understanding.

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should be stressed, for the students to learn through education. We should create faith in humanity as humanity is the true religion of all human beings.

LET US KNOW



We should try to make the students realise that man is the most beautiful and supreme creation of the universe. Let us do everything of the best of our abilities to make this planet the best and the most beautiful.

Inculcate corporate responsibility: We all realise that we are the citizens of the world and as such we are responsible for anything bad or ugly that happens in the world. For the realization of our common aims, we must work together and help one another in times of difficulty and distress.

Practical use of knowledge: All the above mentioned theoretical principles of education for International Understanding will be useless and futile if they are not translated into action. So, we must train and educate our younger generation to use this theoretical knowledge of International Understanding for doing something practical to bring international unity.

LET US KNOW



Following principles are recommended by UNESCO for International Understanding –

- to educate mankind for the world community
- to co-operate in international organisations
- interdependence should be stressed
- to form a common world international organisation which can constitute a common heritage for mankind
- to develop a sense of responsibility to the world community
- to stress to develop healthy social attitudes in children.

- to inculcate respect for all the major religions of the world
- to know something about the long strength of mankind to replace conflict with cooperation
- to develop a desire and the simple skills to participate effectively in building a better world.

This means that all the important subjects and other activities that comprise the curriculum should initiate the students into the world of which they are the members. This necessitates a two-way programme. One is to rewrite the school textbooks with a view to promoting international understanding and another, is the methods and techniques of teaching various subjects have to be re-oriented and remodeled.

Stressing co-curricular activities : Co-curricular activities which are organized in educational institutions, today, can be used as a means for promoting international understanding among the students. Following co-curricular activities can be organised –

- celebrating days of international importance such as the U.N Day, Human Rights Day, World Health Day etc
- celebrating birthdays of international figures i.e. great human beings belonging to different countries and religion
- forming friendship clubs
- enacting world famous plays
- arranging debate on international issues etc.
- asking students to subscribe to the funds raised in aid of a foreign country which might have been afflicted by some natural calamities like earthquake, flood etc.
- inviting foreign scholars to address the students to broaden their mental horizon regarding world problems and world situations.

Role of teachers and students : As you know that teacher's personality and outlook is always influential in creating or forming attitudes in the students and even in the community. So, to foster International Understanding, he must be a man of broad mind and vision. This attitude of the teacher will surely influence the students

(c) Cultural exchanges: Educational institutions should co-operate and actively participate in the programme of sending cultural missions, consisting of teachers, students, scholars, poets, artists, writers etc to different countries of the world. This will broaden the national outlook of the persons concerned to a great extent and will help in establishing cultural fellowship among different nations.

(d) Institutions of international character: Regular institutions of international character are gradually coming into being. Inter-country gatherings and working for common ideals in these institutions have already proved their worth. Visit to these institutions and working together may help in broadening the outlook and develop the sense of international understanding.

Role of UNESCO: After suffering from the ill effects of the two World Wars, the UNESCO was formed in 1945. The main objective of the UNESCO is to establish a peaceful and progressive world free from war. So, we are always hopeful about all the activities done by UNESCO in this regard.

Let us conclude that this unit will help us to understand the true meaning of International Understanding. Not only for the progress and prosperity, but also the very survival of mankind that we must try to promote internationalism and education is the strongest and the most potent agency for promoting both. **LET US SPREAD UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD AND GLORIFY THE VERY NAME OF INDIAN CITIZEN.**



ACTIVITY 6.2

Make a list of activities performed by the different schools of your locality to bring international understanding.

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6.5 FURTHER READING

1) K.K. Bhatia : *Principles and theories of education.*

2) R.N. Sharma : *Principles and techniques of education*.

3) Safaya & Shaida : *Modern theory and principles of education.*

4) Chaube & Chaube : *Philosophical and sociological foundations of education.*



6.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: International understanding implies the mutual understanding, faith and respect among the various nations or countries of the world. Impact of globalisation and development of information and communication technology ties all the countries of the world have come closer to one another.

Ans to Q No 2: International understanding is necessary, because:

- It encourages people to live under one umbrella
- It is needed for preventing world's war and maintaining one's sovereignty.
- It also helps to strengthen the democratic principles.
- It tries to develop the backward nations.
- It tries to promote the network with other countries.
- Infact, the feeling and practice of international understanding promote the human welfare as a whole.

Ans to Q No 3: True.

Ans to Q No 4: International understanding.

Ans to Q No 5: Interdependence of the nations are stressed for promotion of International Understanding, because of:

- Developing tolerance and mutual co-operation among the States.