UNIT 6: EDUCATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

UNIT STRUCTURE

6.1 Learning Objectives

6.2 Introduction

6.3 Meaning of International Understanding

- 6.3.1 Needs for International Understanding
- 6.3.2 Principles of Education for International Understanding
- 6.3.3 Education as a way of International Understanding

6.4 Let Us Sum Up

6.5 Further Reading

6.6 Answers to Check Your Progress

6.7 Model Questions

6.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- define the meaning of International understanding
- explain the needs and importance of international understanding
- explain the role of education to strengthen international understanding
- list different principles of education for international understanding
- discuss the ways and means for promoting international understanding

6.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit will familiarise us with the meaning of International Understanding. Just imagine, that without understanding and integration among the members of a family we cannot think of a peaceful situation at home. Without unity, ultimately, the family will break up and there will be no welfare and progress of the family. Now, come out of our family and think

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."



LET US KNOW

International Understanding means –

- Mutual, good and cordial relations amongst the countries of the world.
- Implies understanding/respect for human rights and dignity.
- A sense of solidarity of mankind and international co-operation.
- Desire to live together in peace with each other.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What do you mean by International Understanding?

.....

.....

6.3.1 Need for International Understanding

Don't we feel that if peace, prosperity and economic conditions of our country are to be upgraded, we have to work together, keeping aside our selfishness? It is also necessary to create good living conditions because only in such a condition all round development is possible. In broader sense, to have a peaceful and developed world, it is necessary to make all the human beings aware that they are the members of a single human society irrespective of the national boundaries and other differences. In fact, the very survival of humanity depends upon International Understanding. It is needed because –

The two World Wars including the Gulf War of the last century made it quite clear to all the nations of the world that another war may wipeout the entire humanity from this earth. Are we not recognised as supreme of all creatures? So, it is the right time to show the supremacy by stopping the war mania and rivalries among the nations.

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?

.....

.....



ACTIVITY 6.1

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

.....

.....

.....

.....

6.3.2 Principles of Education for International Understanding

We are convinced that International Understanding is needed for bringing peace and happiness, prosperity economic self sufficiency, brotherhood etc.among the people of the world. So, the education planners must include the following principles on which education for International Understanding should be based, for education is the only means to propagate this global message. The principles should be based on the following:

Interdependence should be stressed: For the satisfaction of the physical, social and economic needs each country has to depend upon the other. Needs of all nations can be better satisfied, if there is international co-operation and understanding.

Developing tolerance and mutual co-operation: Always remember that where there is tolerance and mutual co-operation, there is hardly any distrust and suspicion, and ultimately peace will prevail in such a condition.

Redefining patriotism in the modern context: Patriotism, in its narrow sense, is very dangerous as it may come in the way of world peace. The love for one's own country should not stand in the way of the wider loyalty to humanity. So, the term should be redefined and reinterpreted to realise internationalism.

Elimination of fear: Fear is the basis of suspicion and suspiciousness and prepares the nations for mutual distrust, bickering and ultimately to war. So, fear should be removed through proper education and stress should be given on the principle of LIVE AND LET LIVE.

Belief in universal freedom: This is the age of democracy which believes that freedom is the birthright of everybody. Our education should be so designed, as to infuse in us the democratic ideals and spirit of man.

Emphasizing correct values: Democratic values, group responsibility, co-operation, tolerance and mutual understanding

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.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 3: International Understanding is essential to maintain one's sovereignty (True/false)

.....

Q 4: Friendship and harmony amongst different nations means ..... (fill in blank)

Q 5: Why is the interdependence among the nations stressed for promotion of International Understanding? Give two reasons.

.....

.....

6.3.3 Education as a Way of International Understanding

Bertrand Russel once said – "Education may not bring internationalism from political point of view but education is the only agency through which it is possible to develop the feeling of true internationalism". In previous discussions also, it has been found that only education can bring any kind of change in our society. So, education should be so organised and formulated that it can promote International Understanding. In this regard, you can discuss the following ways and means of education for promoting internationalism –

Re-framing curriculum and text books : The role of curriculum and text book is always vital. The right type of curriculum and text book definitely orients the minds of the youth towards the direction of peace and harmony. The redesigned curriculum should enable our students:

- to learn that the earth is the home of man and other living things;
- to gain knowledge about the world we live in-its people, their similarities and differences, the variety of their modes of life etc
- to learn how to promote better understanding of the interdependence of the people of the world

- 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

and they will carry the message of broad vision (internationalism) to the society. Besides for promoting international understanding, a teacher can play a dynamic role in the following ways:

- Firstly, a teacher should himself have faith in the world society and internationalism. It will help him to infuse the spirit of internationalism among the students.
- The teacher should emphasise not merely the contents of the various school subjects, rather the school should condition the pupil's minds for international spirit.
- The teacher by his way of teaching should kindle the interest of the people to know more and more about other lands and their people. The teacher should create an emotional background by teaching subjects like history, civics, social studies etc.
- The teacher should encourage his pupils to make friends, celebrate important days enthusiastically.
- Besides, it is also the role of the teacher to make effort to educate the adult society for internationalism, peaceful way of life and mutual co-existence.
- During the process of exchange programme, the teacher should bring out the best that is present in other people's culture and civilizations and enable the children to incorporate the same in his own.

Face to Face Contacts: Face to face contacts are of great help in broadening outlook, breaking rigid isolation of individual nations and in removing imaginary fears and grievances. The following activities are useful in this regard:

(a) International camps: Organising international camps for students and teachers and living in these camps will equally break cultural barriers and create mutual amity and international accord.

(b) Cultural and Study tours: Organising cultural and study tours to other countries may prove to be instrumental in enlarging human understanding and sympathies.

(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.

.....

.....



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 6: The UNESCO was formed in the year ..... (fill in the blank)

Q 7: One of the objectives of the UNESCO is — (choose the correct one)

i) to exchange thoughts and ideas of people

ii) to establish a peaceful and progressive world free from war

iii) to promote friendship

iv) to train teachers

Q 8: Exchange programmes may rectify wrong notions about other countries (true/false)



6.4 LET US SUM UP

- The meaning and importance of National Integration and International Understanding.
- The various hurdles and obstacles of National Integration and International Understanding can be identified.
- Communalism, Casteism, Religious prejudices, Provincialism, Regionalism, Economic condition, defective education system, Foreign language as a medium of instruction are some of the hurdles in the way of National Integration.
- Only through educative means, the obstacles can be removed and promote International Understanding as well; because education is the common medium and it is reachable to all.
- For an advanced developed and peaceful world, where all people, irrespective of caste and class can live unitedly, the first and foremost necessity is to promote INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.



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.

- Redefining patriotism in the modern context.
- Elimination of fear.
- Belief in universal freedom.
- Emphasis correct values.

Ans to Q No 6: 1945.

Ans to Q No 7: ii) to establish a peaceful and progressive world free from war .

Ans to Q No 8: True.



6.7 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What do you mean by international understanding?

Q 2: What are the guiding principles of UNESCO for international understanding?

Q3: What part can the teachers play in bringing about international peace and cooperation?

Q4: Briefly discuss, how the school curriculum should be developed to bring about international understanding?

B) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the needs and importance for International Understanding?

Q 2: "Too much nationalistic feeling is harmful for the promotion of International Understanding" — justify the statement.

Q 3: Explain fully the meaning of "Education for international understanding". Describe a few activities which can be undertaken in your school/educational institute for its development.

*** ***** ***