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Peace and Violence: Contradictory to each other

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Abstract:

The nature and context of peace focussed with the two dominant approaches of study of peace, the feminist approach and the environmental approach. Negative peace examines the absence of direct violence whereas positive peace includes the parts more than the absence of violence with the social security through equal opportunity. The effort to adhere these concepts of peace are different. Negative peace focussed on interpersonal and organisational conflict in order to control and reduce violence whereas positive peace efforts established through world order by supporting international law and multilateral treaties. Feminist and environmental approaches discussed differently with their emphasis on core concept and concern. Their interconnectedness of all life forms makes them alternative models for positive peace.

Key words:

Harmony, Community, Interdependency, Elimination, Disarmament.

Introduction

Generally peace is regarded as a absence of violence. English language dictionary of 19th century defined peace as a synonyms of the 'state respite from terror', silence, freedom from terror, quite from disorders etc. Here peace has been defined as a absence of non peace. According to Linus Pauling, the editor in chief in world encyclopedia of peace defined peace as the avoidance of pains and obtaining of joys. Peace has generally mentioned as a lack of conflict of any serious kind.

From the evolution of human race violence or any form of war has been seen as a negative natural phenomena or an act which are against God. The major obstacle behind peace has been the domination of one group over the another in a society which are on the bases of harmony and friendship itself.

The Buddhist tradition laid on the assumption of non violence, well being, equity, and justice of the living beings. The harmonious relationship of mind and inner peace led towards the contribution of universal peace. The nature and practice of non violence are also exists in native American and African tribal. Peace has a enormous way to coexists or build a harmonious relationship between humans and nature than to conquer it. Western tradition have many examples of natural goodwill, love and individual well being as to cease the hostilities. Cristian social utopia has a strong feeling of community of love. Greek philosophers always conceptualised new words for peace as a lack of disturbances. Hellenic civilization has mentioned its core emphasis as a world without war. Roman and medieval period seeks peace as a stable relationship among society to control organised violence.

Violence and conflict are the greatest evils of history and J.J. Rousseau vision towards war as an unnecessary tool of society and it could prevent only through social contract. Russian thinker Tolstoy believed that peace are the cherished human goal and states and governments are the responsible force behind the oppression and any form of violence. War thus can be excluded from the society if political structure behaving in social exploitation and oppression can be eliminated. Socialist movement of 19th and 20th century emerged and obtained that classless society became tool for peace. Economy inequality and political system and social injustice are the primary causes of human misery. The well being of individual and community life are the firm dimension of peace.

Forms of Violence

The concept of peace has understand through the compassion with the concept of violence.

1. Direct and Structural violence

It is popularly understandable as it refused with physical injuries and pain as killing, abuse and beating weather in war or in inter personal situation. Direct violence has been visible and manifested whereas inter personal relation employed as an act for robbery, revenge or honour. The state use violence for political purposes and their institutionalisation has been considered as major form of direct violence which has been done by one group upon the weaker side.

Structural violence has discriminatory practices links hunger, poverty and social alienation. Structural violence as a explosive means apparent in our social system. The discrimination causes the lower standards of basic education, housing and opportunity to work. Such violation of human rights makes hindrance in the development of human beings. The shortening life spans and eroding human values are the slow poison occurred due to the indirect nature of structural violence.

War is just a single condition of peace less situation, and the absence of structural violence doesn't mean suitable conditions for human life. Coercive mechanism when effective very likely, structural violence has not challenged for so long. The western colonial domination in Africa and Asia are liberated and makes exploitative conditions favourable for violent resistance. The possible sources of direct and structural violence referred to be the cultural elements like religion, ideology and art.

Negative and Positive Peace

The absence of violence like war, which has possible through negotiation or mediation rather than coercive forces are the aspects of negative peace. The negative peace recommends non violent actions, social disarmament and social and economic interdependence to avoid any violence or coercive actions that might took place. Negative peace also requires international agreements and stable conditions among nations.

Negative peace focussed on present and near future time. The lasting consistence for peace are not a preservation of intervals between the war. The militarism has not been the value which can eradicate the war.

According to John Galtung, positive peace did not achieved without the development of just and equitable condition which are associated with social structures. All groups of people want benefits of society to enjoy social, cultural and political development. According to former secretary General of U.N. B.B. Ghali, peace has laid at the essential elements of elimination of repression and poverty. Equality led people to develop their skills and talents so that they can participate in every sphere of development.

Negative peace thinkers judged and argue after considering human nature and political power structure of the world, that it is unrealistic and meaningless to equate peace with social justice. Those who wanted reduction and elimination of warfare consider justice a less essential requirement for peace. Thus the control over violent social behaviour and arms race could be the priority. Positive peace thinkers on the other hand facilitated much access over the assertion of structural roots of violent conflict than to avoiding and limiting war after reducing particular weapon system. Positive peace study threatened human survival which includes environmental issues, poverty and economic disparity.

Peace thinkers Gene Sharp view non violent action as strategic instrument to achieve specific political objective with non lethal means. Mahatma Gandhi emphasis non violence as principle capability to prevent the unjust in social and economic system.

If peace study has drafted in a frame to change policy and action, it could merely create conditions betterment for humanity. Building positive peace are realistic and complementary to negative peace. There is a need to overrule justice in society than to use violence. Peace is very much synonymous to elimination of war like institution which are based on domination and maintain the culture of violence.

Conflict Transformation and Peace Building

To successfully modify or transform the conflict, it is necessary to identify and consolidate support structures that tend to strengthen peace. The enhancement of peace can be mutually dependent on each other. Changing psychological conditions to understand different views in the necessary part of the movement turn towards de escalation. The coercive and competitive processes will only be going

to fruitful when one party domination is to be allowed. The identification and re negotiation of an ongoing process of conflict resolution is a element of transformative framework.

Conflicts are not transferred towards resolution in an attempt to promote existing interest. The roles and relationship has to be redesigned in the process of restructuring pattern of transformation. The existence of injustice in conflict structures require strategies to deal with power imbalanced situations. To promote justice in cause of social change, has appropriate meaning of peace building and promotion of decent human life.

The construction of social environment sense of confidence and improving life condition are the approaches of peace building. To achieve self sufficiency and well being are the conflict transformation goals of peace building. Successful outcome of conflict transformation is the elimination of structural violence.

Approaches to the study of peace

The most traditional area of peace study is the management and prevention of violent conflict and arms race. On its very beginning it focussed on arms race, disarmament and deadly war. But recent trends shows that peace studies have been more concerned and associated with ordinary peoples who has a courage to change this world. Peace studies examines itself with vast range of experiments and approaches. The ordinary human endeavour developed many approaches to sustain this earth a more beautiful and peaceful place. Here we have examined two kinds of approaches.

1. Feminist Approach 2. Environmental Approach

1. Feminist Approach

The last 30 years has gave an important concern over latent violence over women. The image of women has associated with pacifism. The value of compassion, caring and nurturing have enriched the conception of peace. The transformation of an oppressive social order with the application of feminine value serves as a important principle in the struggle for achieving peace. The women afflict with violence like racism, human rights, sexism, poverty etc. more than men. Family violence, sexual and emotional abuses and inclusion of direct violence like rape, random physical abuse and attacks in organised wars are the major assaults that were falls by women. From the very beginning women has affected by many countries in structural violence. Young widow and elderly individuals who have to

manage household economies and led heavy burdens of their houses. Majority of subsistence farmers are women and women in Africa produces 80% of food.

Individuals have categorised into male or female are stereotyped social category of men and women and locally defined attribution of masculinity and femininity. The gender identity led to the linkage of power relations of masculinity and femininity. Emotion, nature and body are associated with the identity of female.

The willingness to create a violent atmosphere are reflection of hierarchical masculine values of human relationship. The reflection of such hierarchical structures shows in different strata of society i.e; bureaucracy, corporations, political party and military. Men has been defined and shown as a aggressive biological class. The national security priority and arms race are the factors which subordinate the women gender.

Women have to adopt the masculine values if they are able to make success in authority and any other strata of society. The women who are at apex position in decision making bodies of governments are seen as war heroines, not as a peacemakers. Indira Gandhi waging war with Pakistan, Golda Meir won six day war and Margret Thatcher sent forces to re occupy Falkland Island are the attempt to prove that women can occupy the tasks reserves for male. Recently the military careers have been open a new frontier for women. After USA and other developed countries, India also makes their strength in recruiting women soldiers and officers. But the fact is that women's are victims of militarization but ironically women are likely to be transformed by militarization. The non violent practices better can achieved the feminist goals.

Women are in better position to appreciate peace than men. Their act are seen as nurturers, mothers and peacemakers in the entire history of human civilization. Thinkers of feminism find a linkage between feminism, socialism and pacifism. The act of violence are nurtured through hierarchical system like military institution that depends on superior and inferior relationship. The goal of women liberation from violence are only through the promotion of disarmament and campaign against war. Feminist peace conception are also extended beyond this and carry through economic equity, social justice and ecological balance. The equality among men and women promotes to end racism and ecological destruction. The welfare of society are also stands on the womens access to land, education and opportunity. Social justice requires the active participation of women.

2. The Environmental Approach

The unbalanced system of humans with environment has a source of threat to human survival. Human being has generated a huge source to exploit this earth and put question mark on their survival. This devastating areas has important has important concerns that raises the conditions for peace. This environmental degradation led towards the sources of violent conflict. Greenhouse gases, pollution of rivers and oceans, deforestation and loss of bio diversity are related with the unending threatening capacities that human endeavours. The ozone layer become thin and has a larger hole over Antarctica and many parts of the world. The misuse of fresh water led towards high scarcity which are the sources of serious threat to human health. One fourth of human population lack of safe water.

The deterioration of living standards because of the rapid population growth in the third world countries results in the environmental degradation. Millions and millions of people are forced to degrade, plunder and overgraze the forests and lands. The overloading carrying capacity of planet makes long term consequences with the hampered vision of future generation. The movement of air and water does not differentiate between the border. The irresponsible nature led to the damage of environment belongs to other. The scandanavian forests and lakes suffer from acid rain caused by industrial pollution of many countries of the Europe. The competition between holding limited resources led to the unlimited edition of conflicts. The probability goes higher day by day of unrest and war.

The social and political impact of environmental security has important national security concern in recent years. Peace on earth unrealised without the ecological balance. The environmental destruction can ruin the prospect of global equality. The interdependency of the nation to nation must be integral on the basis of environmental protection. One country cannot achieve sustainability thus united actions should be formulated and implemented.

Conclusion

The term peace and conflict are opposite as light and shadow but the important difference between these two are both peace and conflict constitutes the core discipline of international relations. Almost

every discipline of international relations concerns with problems of peace and conflict. The normative mechanism of peace studies are conflict transformation and conflict management through the successive elements of peace keeping, peace building and peace making. The peace has continuous effort which has a disturbance with violence. We have to resist peace from any form of violence. The violence concludes with the hampering of development and horizon of sustainability. The continuous approach towards peace always has enormous features of management of individual, society and nation. The research chooses much attention to fulfil peace through different manners and act of society. It symbolises different concerns and actors of society who are programmer in achieving peace. We also emphasises the roots that are harmful to cast any form of hindrance in societal development. Nation building have the pillars of peace which must be of concrete. Conflicts are unavoidable but we have certain features to develop which can take such conflicts always have some distant with peace.

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