

Supporting Non-Violence

Discussion

Hold a discussion with older students about why we should be supporting non-violence.

Peace is the most urgent agenda of humanity. Throughout history, peace has been the primary quest of people.

Ask the children to think about the following:

Our entire history is replete with frequent episodes of conflict and violence. So why do humans continue to seek peace?

Why have we failed to create lasting universal peace despite our many individual and collective efforts?

One fundamental answer to these questions is with regard to the important issue of good and worthy education.

Education will always be an essential aspect of human life. All individuals and communities are simultaneously students and teachers.

What is the main purpose of education?

Is it to train every new generation of children and youth to maintain the existing state of affairs – the status quo?

Is it primarily to train them to be economically and socially successful?

Is it to educate our children and students to be the agents of change and, if so, what kind of change?

Peace and education are inseparable aspects of civilization. No civilization is truly progressive without education, and no education system is truly civilizing unless it is based on the universal principles of peace.

Effective dialogue is when both sides of a conflict meet to talk about how they feel and share their stories.

Teachers have a vision for all children and youth to grow up safely, with loving families and supportive communities.

Therefore, there is a shared responsibility between individuals, families, organizations, and communities for ensuring the safety and well-being of all humans.

Over the past several years, gun violence has risen to the forefront of public consciousness. While individuals killed and injured in atrocities, such as the Peshawar,

Sehwan, and Islamabad shootings or suicide bombings, are publicly remembered and mourned, victims of these tragedies are not limited to those men, women, and children killed, injured, or present during these horrific events.

The consequences of gun violence / terrorism are more general and affect entire communities, families, and children. A published study proved that children exposed to gun violence / terrorism may experience negative short and long-term psychological effects, including anger, withdrawal, post traumatic stress, and desensitization to violence. As suggested by the research, many children and adults experience problems with violence and aggression because they lack non-violent conflict-resolution skills.

Activity

True or False?

Make groups of 10 and ask the children to discuss one of the following topics. One person from each group presents the group's collective views after concluding the discussion.

1. War is easy for those not on the front.
2. Culture is often the first casualty of war.
 1. The languages of the Incas and the Mayans, perhaps even the Harappans are lost or extinct because of their conquerors.
 2. The famous libraries of Taxila in Pakistan and Alexandria in Egypt were destroyed due to war and hate.
 3. Millions of dollars / rupees get spent now to preserve or gain a glimpse of what has been lost.

Activity

Supporting Non-Violence

Form groups of 5 -10 each to hold a discussion on what causes violence and how they can support non-violence.

- a. Arms / weapons cause violence and death as that's the only purpose of having or wanting them. It is a cowardly solution to problems.

b. There are two choices we all have, we can add to the violence or act better than it. Only those who are not clever will resort to violence.

c. Every minute 1 person dies from the misuse of fire arms. Karachi, e.g. has its own share of misery due to the large number of guns present in the city.

d. There are criminal elements as well as those who are rich and powerful who want to use guns to get whatever they want, and sometimes they get away with it. It is up to us to voice these matters, and deal with conflict in a non-violent way.

e. Saying “NO” to guns is the only solution; NOT having a gun is shown to be safer than having one. You are less likely to be killed by a gun if you do not have one.

On chart papers make 4 columns and write the following headings:

1. Location of violence
2. Nature of violence (this must be the widest column)
3. Who was responsible?
4. Reason

In the first column (Location of violence), write down vertically the following:

- a. Home or private place
- b. Street or public place
- c. Educational institution
- d. City level
- e. Country level
- f. International level

Students discuss their results by putting up their charts and sharing their findings.