

Eclectics of Peace Movement

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Abstract: *In the words of Aristotle, Human beings are social by nature. Similarly we can say that conflict is a part of human life. More or less nobody can claim as free from conflict. However, the question is how far we are able to reduce conflict? At that time, the concept of peace should come first to our mind. Peace denotes a situation that makes balance between actors of life process wherein varieties of elements and their deeds have prevailed for respective concerned. We can say that 'Peace' is the highest point of serenity without social tension. One of the tools for achieving peace is Peace Movement that seeks to solve problem of conflicts and other related issues. The paper has tried to highlight the happenings in terms of an overview.*

I. Introduction

Peace denotes a situation that makes balance between actors of life process wherein varieties of elements and their deeds have prevailed for respective concerned. We can say that 'Peace' is the highest point of serenity without social tension.

Peace movement indicates a kind of social movement that desires to achieve some goals such as eliminating wars, solving the problems of conflicts, safety of human beings and so on. All these means comes to an ends in terms of advocating non-violent principles, democracy, boycotts, supporting anti-war resistance, pacifism, demonstrate etc. Peace does not only mean the peacetime that implies the absence of violent conflict. In broader sense, it advocates the presence of respectful cultural and economic relationships in a positive way.

II. Structure and Human Behaviour

The foremost confusion to the concerned is the emergence of peace movement despite the existence of civilized human society. Doing conflict is simply one of the life skills we learn and practice. Some of us do it better than others. Aristotle said that human beings are social in nature. Likewise, we can also say that they are also conflictual from their life skills. 19th and 20th centuries, humans have become more aware of how conflict is done and have tried increasingly to understand it and how to deal with it in constructive ways. With each new wave of violent conflict in the world, there was a renewed effort to understand it and control its harmful effects, a crisis-response pattern.

Peace movements are there due to existing problems like Expanding populations, the growth of science and technology and its application to weaponry; the growth of the nation-state and its capacity to mobilize resources for control and violence. Population pressure might be the leading cause of conflict increase, if one sees each human newborn as additional human need and thus conflict potential.

As conflict has steadily increased, so it is human response to explain and manage. Thus, we can provide peace movement as the result in management.

III. Tenets and Eclectics

Broadly speaking, Peace movement is two kinds----- (i) Positive Peace Movement and (ii) Negative Peace Movement. When it will go for uprising an existing thought or behaviour, then

we can be called it as positive peace movement. For example, socialization of education is a positive peace movement. On the other hand, when it will go for preventing or abolish something which is harmful for society is known as negative peace movement. For example, protest against a particular war can be called as negative peace movement. Peace movements may be individual, local, national or international and so on. They are the movements with long time persistence.

IV. Organizational Structure and Procedure

Peace movements are basically manifested by ideal type collectivist organizations. It is found with variation in other social movement organizations such as feminist groups, alternative schools, health centers and so on. The ideal type collectivist organizations can be mentioned as an alternative to rational-bureaucratic organizations. They have ideological goals along with instrumental goals.

Ideological goals--the self-empowerment of participants, and building non-violent social structures within the organization--are sometimes termed "expressive," in contrast to instrumental goals. The peace

movement organizations have instrumental goals because they are more viable rather than other social movements.

Individuals are more likely to participate in any social change movement when it offers alternatives to the problem it diagnoses. PMO's utilize self-empowerment of participants, and the creation of non oppressive social relations that prefigure the desired society. Participants should be motivated by a desire for peace and justice, not by material gain. So, we can say that participants are willingly joined to satisfy their own desires. The peace movements use various methods to mobilize their interest and look out the problems of society. For example, we can mention about Satyagraha or mass demonstrations or through symbolic identifications etc.

V. History

Ancient Greece and Rome--- Ancient Greece consisted of many independent regions called city-states. The city-states frequently waged war on one another. As a result, several of them banded together and formed an organization that made one of the first attempts to limit warfare. This organization, called the Amphictyonic League, prohibited any member from destroying another or cutting off another's water supply.

The Roman Empire maintained peace throughout a large part of the world during a period known as the Pax Romana (Roman peace). This peace lasted more than 200 years, from 27 B.C. to A.D. 180. During the Pax Romana, the Roman Empire extended over much of Europe, the

Middle East, and northern Africa. At that time, no other nation was powerful enough to attack the Romans.

The Middle Ages---After the Roman Empire weakened during the A.D. 400's, small wars raged throughout Europe. The Christian church became the greatest force for peace. A church custom called the Truce of God limited fighting in private disputes to certain days of the week. A ruling called the Peace of God forbade fighting in such holy places as churches and shrines. But the church permitted "just" wars, such as those in defense of Christianity or a people's homeland.

From the 1400's to the 1700's, many people proposed various plans to achieve lasting peace. In the early 1600's, for example, the French statesman Maximilien de Bethune, Duke of Sully, developed a "Grand Design" for peace in Europe. Sully's plan called for the formation of a council of representatives of all European countries. The council would settle disagreements between nations.

In 1625, the Dutch statesman H. Grotius proposed international rules of conduct in a book called "On the Law of War and Peace". For example, nations should guarantee certain rights to neutral nations, which took no part in a war. Grotius' ideas formed the basis of international law.

The Thirty Years' War ended in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia. This treaty tried to ensure peace by establishing a balance of power. Such a plan maintains an even distribution of military and economic power among nations. As a result, no nation or group of nations is strong enough to conquer any other nation or group of nations.

The 1800's and early 1900's-- In 1815, an American businessman, David L. Dodge, formed the New York Peace Society, the nation's first organization dedicated to preserving peace. Other pacifist groups followed, including the American Peace Society in 1828 and the Universal Peace Union in 1866.

During the 1800's, many international conventions discussed peacekeeping. Peace conferences met in London in 1843; in Brussels, Belgium, in 1848; in Paris in 1849; and in Frankfurt (am Main), Germany, in 1850. In 1898, Czar Nicholas II of Russia called for an international meeting to discuss arms limitation. As a result, conferences took place at The Hague in the Netherlands in 1899 and 1907. These conferences did not succeed in limiting armaments. But they did establish the Permanent Court of Arbitration to handle legal disputes between nations.

After 1st World War--- After World War I ended in 1918, a group of 42 governments established the League of Nations. This international association had the goal of maintaining peace throughout the world. Disputes between nations would be settled by the League Council or by arbitration, a decision by a third party. But the League of Nations had little power, partly because the United States and some other major nations never joined. In addition, League members failed to cooperate with one another.

After 2nd World War --- Since the end of World War 2nd in 1945, many attempts have been made to assure lasting peace among all nations. The major forms of these efforts have included (1) diplomacy, (2) international organizations, (3) arms control, (4) collective security, and (5) improvement of international communication and trade. Diplomacy involves negotiations (discussions) between two or more nations. Most governments have diplomats who serve as their representatives in other countries to promote international cooperation and harmony. Other peace efforts depend largely on successful diplomacy. Many political experts rate diplomacy as the most important factor in peacekeeping.

VI. Peace Movement in International Domain

International organizations work for the peaceful settlement of disagreements between nations. In 1945, 50 countries created the United Nations (UN), the major international organization dedicated to world peace. The League of Nations was dissolved in 1946.

The UN Security Council investigates quarrels between nations and suggests ways of settling them. If any nation endangers the peace, the council may use economic sanctions (penalties) against it. For example, member nations might stop trading with the offender. If such measures fail, the council may ask UN members to furnish troops to enforce its decision. The UN has achieved some success in keeping the peace. But it has failed to prevent local wars in several regions, including Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Arms control involves the control, reduction, or elimination of certain armed forces or weapons. In 1968, the UN approved a nonproliferation treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. This treaty, which took effect in 1970, bars the nuclear powers from giving nuclear weapons or knowledge to other nations. The UN also won approval of arms-control treaties during the 1970's. One treaty banned the production and stockpiling of biological weapons. The United States, Russia, and other nations have agreed to observe limits on the production and possession of nuclear weapons. In 1993, more than 120 countries signed a UN-sponsored treaty banning the manufacture, use, transfer, and stockpiling of chemical weapons. The treaty took effect in 1997.

Collective security resembles the balance of power system- Each member of a group of nations agrees to come to the aid of any other member if that nation is attacked. The combined strength of the group discourages attacks. Such groups include the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Improvement of international communication and trade increases understanding among nations- It reduces the danger of war by lowering the cultural and economic barriers that divide countries. Many European nations work together in a group called the European Union. This organization works to improve the flow of goods, ideas, and people from nation to nation and to achieve greater economic and political cooperation among its members.

VII. Peace Movement and Non-Governmental Organization

In short, we can mention the international organizations like Green Peace which deals with environmental issues and climate degradation; Amnesty International deals with human rights issues etc. If we broadly discuss about international peace movement organization then we definitely find out its applications on all expected areas of development like education, social justice etc.

VIII. Peace Movement and Etymology

The trend of peace movement is not a recent origin. It has developed in ancient time. It can be traced with inner development of human being. Therefore it is related with etymological means. For instance, we can refer the Buddhist concept of Four Noble Truths---a central tenet in Buddhist philosophy from the historical point of view. Likewise we can refer Muslim's Salaam as a device regarding the growth of peace movement.

IX. Peace Study

Many different theories of "peace" have existed in the realm of peace studies, which involves the study of conflict transformation, disarmament, and cessation of violence. The definition of "peace" can vary with religion, culture, or subject of study. Regarding the instance of peace theory we can refer the theories like Game theory, Democratic peace theory, theory of active peace etc. Thus those theories also help to develop the peace movement to become as a subject of study.

In 2008 Wolfgang Dietrich enlarged his earlier approach of the Many Peaces to the so-called "five families" of peace interpretations: the energetic, moral, modern, post-modern and trans-rational approach. Trans-rationality unites the rational and mechanistic understanding of modern peace in a relational and culture-based manner with spiritual narratives and energetic interpretations. The systemic understanding of trans-rational peaces advocates a client-centered method of conflict transformation, the so-called elicitive approach. We can also refer the holly books like Bible, Geeta etc. which also have contribution towards the development of peace study as a discipline.

X. Contemporary Relevance

In contemporary time, if we see around the world, then we definitely find a huge amount of contemporary peace movements and its remarkable achievements. From the point of governmental organization, we can mention the example of peacekeeping troops provided by UN. Also non-governmental movements put their effort to maintain peace whether national or international level. At international level, we can mention the example of environmental movement which has become a remarkable movement of the globe at present days. Also at national level, regarding the area of social justice, we can mention the movement that is led by iron lady Iram Sarmila in the north-east region of India.

Acknowledgement

It is not only a matter of studying the mobilization of present participants in the peace movement. Studying the role of organizations in mobilizing peace movement participation also involves asking why so many individuals sympathetic to nuclear disarmament do not participate in the movement. This is perhaps the more important question for the peace movement. There are always more individuals who support the goal of nuclear disarmament than actually participate in the peace movement. The number of sympathetic individuals who are mobilized is evidence that PMO's are doing something right; the number that are not is evidence that PMO's need to more critically assess their role in facilitating or inhibiting involvement.

It is recognized that "peace" implies much more than the elimination of nuclear weapons--such as racial and economic justice--the term "peace movement."

XI. Summary

Demands of the globalization are vary and diversified. New findings and technological advancement have made the life of the people flexible and easy going. Similarly it has created conflict and harmful elements among the people. They fight for securing their own demands that have led quarrels amongst them. But we can satisfy our aspiration in terms of peaceful ends. So it is most important for us to develop a strong co-operation to prevent our social peace.

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