

Special Lecture on Integration of Constitutional Values and Peace in Education

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Special lecture on “Integration of Constitutional Values and Peace in Education”

Education plays a significant role in creating a just, equitable, humane, and sustainable society. The role of education in developing people equipped with the abilities and dispositions to play their roles in such a society is of paramount importance along with the allaround development of an individual. There are a set of universally recognised values, such as dignity, freedom, justice, peace etc., which play a crucial role in determining and guiding human action as they are internalised structures that evoke a sense of right or wrong as also a sense of priorities. Values can be seen both at the individual level and at the community level. Value education has been a broad umbrella under which concerns of equity and inclusion have been tried to be addressed in school education. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 articulates the aims of education as producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by the Constitution of India. Its guiding principles are ethics and human and Constitutional values, such as empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, democratic spirit, respect for public property, scientific temper, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, and justice. Societies considered education as an instrument for improving the socioeconomic conditions of their subjects and an instrument for promoting the qualities of tolerance, justice, sharing, and cooperation etc., of their citizens. The societies think that inculcation of these qualities in the citizens would contribute to the establishment of organised societies.

The development of socio-economic conditions of citizens and also the development of economic, social and political aspects of societies. It is for these reasons, education is universally aspired by all and value education is also acclaimed for the same reason. Value education has a paramount role to play in creating a society that is tolerant, humane, socially cohesive and ethically righteous. If knowledge is left without being tempered by values and morals, the power generated by such knowledge would only be disastrous and catastrophic in its effects. Education in values is an integral component of the programme of education. Values are integral to the process of education. Value education is not value imposition or value indoctrination. It is not a direct inculcation of certain values and morals. The term ‘peace’ does not merely imply the absence of overt violence (sometimes referred to as ‘negative peace’). It also encompasses the presence of social, economic and political justice which are essential to the notion of ‘positive peace’. Peace education is more effective and meaningful when it is adopted according to the social and cultural context and the needs of a country. It should be enriched by its cultural Peace education is more effective and meaningful when it is adopted according to the social and cultural context and the needs of a country. It should be enriched by its cultural and spiritual values together with the universal human values. Peace education is an attempt to respond to problems of conflict and violence on scales ranging from the global and national to the local and personal. It is about exploring ways of creating more just and sustainable futures.

The Constitution of India encompasses several salient features outlined in the Preamble which establishes the legal framework defining fundamental principles, establishing structures, procedures, powers and duties of state institutions as well as that of citizens.

Surendranath Law College, an esteemed law college, affiliated to Calcutta University in 1885, imparting UG education since then, organized a special lecture for the students on the topic "Integration of Constitutional Values and Peace in Education" on 16th August, 2022 at the Seminar Hall of the Surendranath Law College where, the lecturer was Prof. Dr. Jatindra Kumar Das, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Calcutta and counseled by Prof. Dr. Mohammadi Tarannum, Vice-Principal of the institution at the college premises.

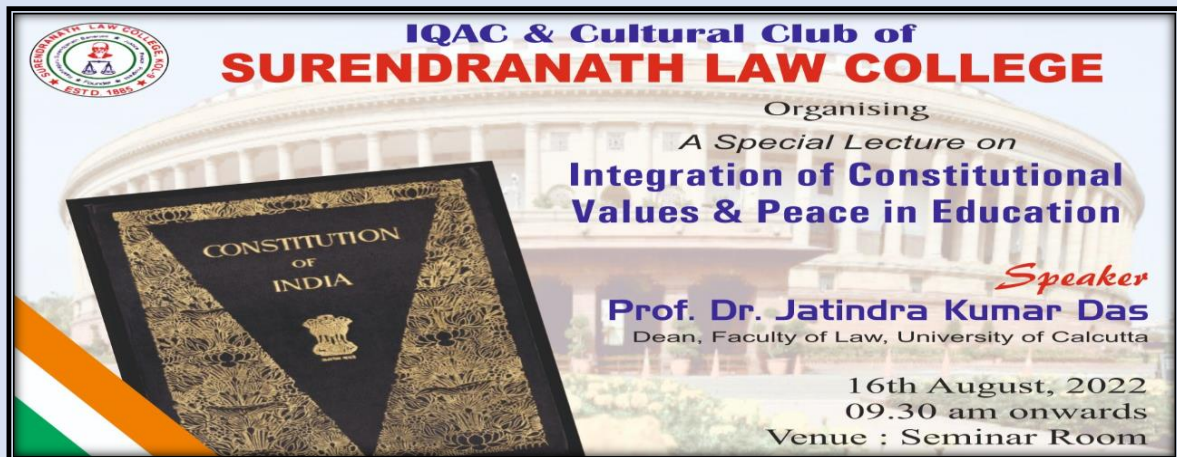
Justice ensures that the freedom of one does not become tyranny for another. Justice to be truly meaningful needs sharing of power, compassion towards under-privileged and empathy towards the disadvantage. An education of rights and duties becomes important to ensure to fight for justice. Liberty of thought and action is a fundamental value embedded in our Constitution. It is the basis for creativity and exploration of new ideas and experiments that can advance social progress. Respecting the rights of others to liberty of thought and action are the hall marks of a civilized society. Ensuring that this liberty of thought and action is not used to belittle or diminish the beliefs and status of others is what constitutes a decent society. Democracy creates opportunity to pursue one's chosen ends as well as respect others' rights to do so. In a diverse country like India, exercising freedom with responsibility is a must for ensuring peace in the nation. Equality is another value enshrined in the Constitution. Freedom and justice remain mere words if equality is not ensured. It implies freedom from exploitation and ensuring to provide opportunities for individual's development, irrespective of the background, gender, cultural or socio-economic identity and status.

Fraternity is at the heart of school, society and nation. Social solidarity is a vital part of a society that has place for the aspirations of all members of society. Understanding the importance of fraternity or solidarity and the knowledge that we all belong to a large community, a nation and the globe is also to discover our innate humanity. It is only we recognize our interdependence then we empower to help build a peaceful nation and a world. The citizens need to internalize the principals of equality, justice and liberty to promote fraternity among all, regardless of religious beliefs, regional and local diversity. As the Constitution encompasses the values for living in harmony with self and one's natural and social environment. It provides the baseline in working out the framework of values to be nurtured in students.

Threats to humanity from climate change, globalization, emergence of technological choices, violence, terrorism, commercialization of education, the increasingly competitive environment and the aspirations of parents place a tremendous burden and add to the stress and anxiety on children. Schools are the microcosms of the world society. The disorder of the society and the world surfaces in schools in many ways. Further, there are disadvantages in education arising

from inequalities of gender, caste, language, culture, religion, disabilities etc. These hierarchies deeply influence access to education and participation of children in schools which range from the high cost 'public' (private) schools to poorly functioning local body run primary schools. These realities tend to reinforce privilege and exclusion in schooling and undermine the constitutional values of equality of opportunity and social justice.

Brochure of the program:



Glimpses of the lecture:

