

Values and Peace Education: Need of the Hour in Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract: *The twenty-first century has brought many challenges to society such as violence, intolerance, misinformation, environmental problems, and ethical decline in professional life. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) must expand their role beyond imparting academic knowledge. They are vital institutions where young people develop their character, attitudes, and sense of social responsibility. Hence, the inclusion of Values and Peace Education in higher education has become increasingly important. This theoretical paper examines the need for Values and Peace Education in higher education based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi emphasized truth (Satya), non-violence (Ahimsa), self-discipline, and character formation as the core aims of education. According to him, real education should ensure the balanced development of the head (intellectual growth), heart (moral and emotional development), and hand (practical skills), leading to the formation of responsible and ethical individuals. It emphasizes that integrating Gandhian values into higher education can promote ethical leadership, democratic participation, and peaceful coexistence. It concludes that Gandhian philosophy provides a strong foundation for building value-based and peace-oriented higher education in the modern world.*

Keywords: Ethical decline, Higher Education institution, Value Education, Peace Education

