

Role of Social Environment in Maintaining National and International Peace

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Abstract

The present paper explains the role of social, geographical and political environments which could be responsible within and among the countries to maintained peace. Learning's from the first and second world war, sufferings of developing countries due to the colonization in the past.

Social factors include; religion, equality, caste, gender sensitization, etc. and how different governments can play a vital role to maintain peace and as well as the role of corporate sector and NGO (Non-Government Organisation) working. Social media can also play a major role.

Geographical factors, the role of developing and developed countries for underdeveloped countries. And also explains about natural resources and their distribution. In international efforts it discusses international peace day, the role of UN (United Nations) and its allies, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and peacekeeping force. International courts of justice and human rights commission and other regional agencies. International relations, terrorism are the key areas which will be explored for reasons for conflicts and for the possible solutions. Contribution of the education sector, tourism, and international trade will be analyzing for the promotion of values and peace.

Present scenario in context of terror attacks and nuclear deals with reference to the incidents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, WTO (World Trade Organisation) attack and role of Islamic state will be key issues of discussion, Korea's nuclear tests, and relations of neighbouring countries states and what could be the joint efforts to tackle these issues.

Keywords: Social environment, International efforts, NGO, Corporate sector, Peace building.

Introduction:

The paper discusses the role of the social, geographical and political environment which could be responsible within and among the countries to maintain peace. The broad focus would be on the evolution of these factors and their impact on national and international peace.

Peace and conflict constitute the core of the wide-ranging discipline of International Relations. 'Global village' is a very prominent concept in this phase of globalization of human settlement on earth, peace becomes one of the bases on which the co-existence, growth, and development of humans as a species exist, most importantly to maintain the balance, natural as well as anthropogenic. The concept of peace has two dimensions namely, 'Negative peace' and 'Positive Peace'. Negative Peace is minimal in nature with defining peace as the absence of large amounts of collective, organized violence between such major human groups as nations, as also between racial and ethnic groups because of the magnitude that can be reached by such conflicts. Absence of violence should not be confused with the absence of conflict; violence may occur without conflict, and conflict may be solved by means of non-violent mechanism. Positive Peace is deeper in nature and is known as a pattern of cooperation and integration between major human groups.

These dimensions of peace give rise to fourfold classification² of relations between two nations: (1) War-like relations: organised group violence; (2) negative peace relations: peaceful passive coexistence; (3) positive peace relations: cooperation interspersed with occasional outbreaks of violence; (4) unqualified peace: here absence of violence is combined with a pattern of cooperation.

The dimensions of peace and its effect on relations evidently suggest the role social environment being predominant in nature, as we explore the social environment it is essential that we move in the direction of positive peace since negative peace is a condition sine qua non. These two dimensions being logically independent though empirically related provides for independent exploration of positive peace, which the authors want to explore with respect to the social, geographical and political environment as it would provide positive deviance to the reality of human behaviors.

Social environment road to positive peace

Products of human interactions form the components of society, namely Culture, language, values, norms, social organization, group, institutions et al.; these components that form a social structure are responsible for maintenance of peace for themselves. The authors want to use these interactions and develop two perceptions, one being the effect of India on the concept of global peace and the other being of the rest of the world on Indian peace: -

Indian effect on global peace: Gandhian approach to peace

The Gandhian vision of peace is eclectic in nature and influenced by pacifist and anarchist writings of Russian writer Leo Tolstoy and The American anarchist Henry Thoreau, as by the philosophical traditions of Hinduism, Jainism, and Christianity. He rejected the Machiavellian approach that end justified means, he said that ends and means are inseparable. His pacifism is based on two concepts: (1) Satyagraha: meaning resisting evil and injustice through peaceful and pure means; without causing violence of any kind and generating ill feelings against the evildoer.; (2) Ahimsa: non-violence. Gandhi considered Satyagraha as a moral substitute to war, and as a superior means of redressing the grievances of a state. According to him, it relies on persuasion and moral pressure rather than on physical force or other coercive techniques to achieve the goal of peace and justice at the international level. Satyagraha is applicable to all situations, from interpersonal to the group relationships, from national to international conflicts, from micro to macro-level problems. It can be used to fight against the problems of injustice, exploitation, and war at the global level. Ahimsa to Gandhi was the character of man as violence is of the animal. Derived from the early influences of Jainism and other religious texts, Ahimsa to him were a positive attitude of love, Sacrifice, and forgiveness for humanity.

Gandhi's development model focused on improving the life of a man through conscience and not by external conditions. He gave to the world a sustainable development model that valued living machines that is humans as well as resources. His views were that machinery has its place; it has come to stay. But it must not be allowed to displace necessary human labor. By doing so the dignity of labor is maintained and countries like India can include it's demographic in the process of development not following the mechanized world blindly. Hence, it includes social factors to maintain peace and prosperity in the region. The principle of 'bread labor' also hints towards raising human respect that will lead to peaceful co-existence.

The constitution of India, as well as people in practice, also exemplify the spirit of human life; fundamental rights, fundamental duties and directive principle of state policies all direct towards national and international peace, Especially Part IV Article 51.

Global influences on Indian Peace: Global peace index

The **Global Peace Index (GPI)**: GPI measures the relative position of peacefulness among nations... 'Negative Peace' means: an absence of fear of violence or violence and aim of the Global Peace Index is to help in deeper study of attitudes and institutions that drive peacefulness in the society and also the concepts of positive peace. GPI examines (1) relationships between peace and reliable international measures. Also examines democracy, transparency, education, and material well being. (2) Understanding the relative importance of determinants which influence the nurturing of a peaceful society internally and externally.

Findings of GPI:

1. Peace is correlated to income, schooling and regional integration.
2. Peaceful countries share transparency of government.
3. Stable countries of regional blocks get a higher ranking.

Countries can analyze the rank and modify, plan and execute accordingly, India can improve in the right directions and check the progress.

Geopolitics and peace

The foreign policy of a state gives a direction to the state, thereby creating a sense of purpose that the states seek to pursue. It has a positive dimension in so far as it aims at adjusting the behaviour of other states by changing it. India's foreign policy seeks to promote an atmosphere of peace in the region as well as in the world so as to enable her to attain security and socio-economic development of her people. With the objectives of protecting and promoting our national interest, our foreign policy is characterized by the autonomy of making our own decisions ourselves, commitment to the Panchsheel, and equity in the conduct of international relations.

India and the nonalignment movement: It is clear that India played an important role in the founding of the non-alignment movement. Non-alignment was already adopted by India as a foreign policy. By giving it the shape of a movement in 1961, India was only giving the concept of non-alignment a world perspective for maximizing the national interest of the newly-independent nations. So important was the vision of non-alignment that it became a movement of solidarity, cooperation, and understanding amongst the newly-independent countries: these countries came to be called developing countries. The non-aligned movement, thus, emerged from India's initiative of formulating an independent foreign policy. This independent foreign policy was based on a solid moral and sound political foundation of cooperation, peaceful coexistence.

Role of engineering in UN peacekeeping operations:

Types of engineering tasks in peacekeeping operations are divided into three categories.

1. Horizontal construction
2. Vertical construction
3. Engineering support

Horizontal construction: is a set of tasks made in the startup phase of peacekeeping operation for example:

1. Preparation of ground sites of base camps.
 2. Repair of roads, bridges, airstrips, helipads, etc.
 3. Building foundations and maintenance.
 4. Clearing rubble, construction of drains and canals.
- Horizontal construction tasks are carried by (HMECs) Horizontal Military Engineering Companies.
 - These companies are deployed with bulldozers, excavators and cranes.

Vertical construction: is the set of tasks made in multiple phases of the peacekeeping operation for example:

1. Construction of camps, renovation of existing buildings and prefabricated structures for office and staff housing.
 2. Well, Drilling.
- Tasks are undertaken in various phases of operation/ mission.
 - Can be performed through contracts with local, regional companies.

Engineering support: is the set of tasks made during different phases of peacekeeping operations as minor work such as:

1. Maintenance and repair of UN facilities: electrical, plumbing repairs, carpentry, and masonry work.
2. Military engineering unit is responsible for this work in its own camps.
3. Infantry unit also has the capacity to undertake minor works.

The primary role of the engineering (civilian and Military engineering) of UN peacekeeping mission is to maintain infrastructure; supply routes land sites, etc. to sustain the mission. For early peace building, the host state NGOs and other organizations and UN agencies are also asked to participate.

Functions of peacekeeping force:

- The central function of peace operations: engineers are asked to provide support of targeted engineering to the host country's infrastructure.
- Assistance to different organizations (UN agencies, NGOs, etc.) in niche-engineering support and cost saving to these endeavors.
- Save rent on heavy equipment's.
- Saved money can be reinvested into the project or used for additional local labor.
- During the occurrence of natural disasters: flood, earthquake, refugee crisis. Some engineering tasks are required and tasks done during those disasters bring ancillary benefits to communities.
- Multiple effects: repairing supply roads, airstrips, etc military engineers are asked to assist other components of the peacekeeping mission.
- Quick impact factor project: small scale projects.
- CIMIC: to build confidence (any three of the above categories)

Feminist perspective

According to the feminist perspective, the social environment can contribute to national and international peace by taking care of the following points:

- Feminist; genuine security requires the absence of war, elimination of social injustice and unequal gender relations.
- The concept of security is an internal relationship of violence at all level of society.
- It advocates not only the creation of order but also the creation of justice.

Review/Conclusion

In all social environments can be the road to positive or negative peace. Various approaches such as Gandhian approach are applicable to all situations from interpersonal to international level. GPI help to measure the relative position of peacefulness among nations in relation to negative peace and positive peace. Though engineering is considered a mechanical subject and is related to machines only yet plays very important roles in creating positive peace in the region through the participation of UN peacekeeping missions. Other factors such as feminist perspectives are also part of the social environment and political orders of a country so we cannot neglect this perspective also.

Suggestions

Linking past to present, changing international political order, what more can be done?

The doctrine of the sovereignty of a nation weakens true institutionalism, regionalism and functionalism have emerged during and after World War II to weaken the state sovereignty and promote an atmosphere of friendship and amity among the states. And in the post-cold war years as a result of the weakening of national barriers as a result of globalization and rise of civil society organization makes human beings more important than states making human security as a new approach that highlights the linkage between security and development policies. Often ignored outer space diplomacy also requires pacifism as the future solution for sustainable development, making in not the need of past and present but also future.

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