

AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE AN AWARENESS
IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION
IN HUMAN RIGHTS
AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING
FOR WORLD PEACE

C₂-35

AND

THE PREPARATION OF
SUPPLEMENTARY READERS
TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE

RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED
FOR

The Degree in Master of Philosophy in Education

PADMA G RATNAYAKE

B.A. - University of Ceylon, Peradeniya
Diploma in Education - University of Colombo



FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

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A B S T R A C T

The students in the primary school, today will be the citizens of the 21st century. During the last quarter century new technology has directly affected the lives of the people. The earth has shrunk but the world of each individual has expanded enormously. Man has been exposed to strains and anxieties that may seriously affect his attitudes towards those living in other countries. By 2000 AD, scientific innovations will bring the people more closer to each other and tend to unite the whole world into one community.

Thus, the task confronting all who are concerned with the quality and relevance of education is to help the school, the teacher, training institutions and the university to prepare the present generation for global citizenship. This would become possible only by creating an awareness of human rights and bringing about International Understanding in the primary school children of today.

This study, it is hoped will facilitate the task of the school, and of the teachers in the primary school in developing educational programmes concerned with the promotion of human rights and International Understanding for world peace.

It presents how the concept of human rights and the world-wide interest in promoting human rights have become universal and the steps taken by the United Nations' system to deal with the problems concerned with human rights.

An attempt has been made to show that education is the most successful means in creating "peace in the minds of men" and also the significance of creating this awareness at the primary stage.

The study of the methods adopted by other countries in promoting human rights and International Understanding is of immense value to those interested. A survey undertaken, to ascertain the awareness and the attitudes of the 4th graders towards human rights has revealed the fact that despite the differences in race, religion, sex, parentage, and the environment in which they live most of them are quite aware of their duties and responsibilities even at the tender age of 10 years. However, a feature that was revealed by this study was children's poor knowledge on the work done by the United Nations System and their (the children's) unconcern about international events.

Based on the experience gained of the projects carried out in other countries and the case study conducted at Royal College, Colombo, the student has put forward a number of suggestions and recommendations which the student believes will be of some assistance to all those who are interested in promoting human rights and International Understanding for world peace.

Finally, an attempt has been made by the student to prepare a series of supplementary readers comprising poems, short stories, activity books etc., and a guide book for teachers (attached to the appendix) as the case study indicated the both teachers and pupils find the introduction of new material stimulating and beneficial.