Education for Sustainable Peace in the Information Age

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This cartoon is...

a. funny
b. sad
c. both funny and sad
d. none of the above
What education for what future?

- The future is unpredictable
- Schools undermine creativity
- Education systems must be restructured

“We have to be careful that we use the gift (of the human imagination) wisely…and the only way we’ll do it is by seeing our creative capacities for the richness they are, and seeing our children for the hope that they are. Our task is to educate their whole being so that they can face this future. We may not see the future, but they will…our job is to help them make something of it.”

Sir Ken Robinson, 2006

The problem of terminology

Peace Quality Relevance Inclusion Sustainable development The world of work Violence prevention Life skills TVET ICT Values education Human rights Child rights Democratic citizenship Health HIV/AIDS prevention Active learning Classroom based assessment Competency based curriculum Standards Traditional knowledge Multicultural classrooms Mother tongue instruction Convergent pedagogies Learning Differentiated instruction Multiple intelligences Child-friendly schools Gender responsive Critical thinking Creativity Learning to learn
Defining terms

- Peace education
- Learning to live together
- Competencies for life and work
Making connections

- Peace
- LTLT
- Life and Work Skills

Sophists, 5th Century BC

Ibn Rushd 1126-1198
Thinking Peace

- Pax Romana
- Active peace
- Plural peace(s)
Diverse Perspectives

- Cognito, ergo sum
- Collectivist *ubuntu* philosophy

René Descartes 1596-1650

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Peace in Action

“Be the change that you want to see in the world.”
Peace is...

The view from Cold Spring Elementary School

http://www.youtube.com/PeaceLearningCenter

Peace Learning Center, Indianapolis, Indiana USA
Peace education is...

- Thinking peace
- Building peace

Peace education has many divergent meanings...

• For some, a matter of changing mindsets to promote understand, respect and tolerance;

• For others, a matter of cultivating a set of skills...to acquire a non-violent disposition and the skills for resolving conflicts;

• For still others, a matter of promoting human rights, environmentalism, disarmament and cultures of peace

The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, (1999))
Building Peace -- Why?

- War and poverty
- Violence and human rights
- All forms of violence are preventable

*If through our wisdom we could secure elementary human needs there would be no need for weapons of war.*

Mahatma Ghandi
Peace is multi-layered and multi-dimensional

- Individual
- Family
- School
- Workplace
- Community
- Nation
- World
The Big Questions

- What are the roots of conflict?
- What are the causes of poverty?
- How can poverty alleviation be achieved?
- Can sustainable peace (the ultimate goal) be achieved through poverty alleviation? How?
- What are the implications of all of the above for curriculum development in your countries?
Learning to Live Together

- The Dolors Report and the four pillars of education
  http://www.unesco.org/delors/index.html
- LTLT programmes. Activities and resources
- ESD: the fifth pillar?
Education and globalization

- Already globalized or still globalizing?
- What does it all mean?
- What does it imply for education?
Education for the World of Work

- What will life and work be like in the information age?
- A new hierarchy of skills and competencies?
Common spaces, common goals

Peace

Communication
Creativity
Life Skills

Work

LTLT
“Learning to live and work together in peace” requires going beyond training young people as workers and passive consumers in ways that empower them to transform their world into a better place.
Challenges

- Clarifying meanings and interconnections
  - Concepts
  - Objectives
  - Strategies
- Taking charge
  - Imagining
  - Experimenting
  - Refining
- Sharing


