Ethics Education for Learning to Live Together
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Two Faces of Education

It is generally said that the solution for building peace and development lies in education. However, education can also be part of the problem when:

• it is used as an instrument for indoctrination or for discrimination;

• it shuts itself to welcoming the other;

• it doesn’t recognise and foster respect for diversity and prevent children to relate and live in solidarity with others.
Some fundamental questions

• How can children and young people learn to see conflict as other than something, which can only be solved by violence?

• How can education help children and young people to build resilience and resistance to violent extremism?

• How children and young people can live together in inclusive societies where they can actively and meaningfully participate in matters that affect them and the communities where they live?
To answer these questions, curriculum developers need to retrieve the very essence of the meaning of education, which is to help children develop to their full potential, according to their evolving capacities, not just intellectually, but also emotionally, relationally and spiritually.
A rights-based approach to Intercultural and Interreligious education programmes, can help to facilitate learning processes that favour dialogue, empathy towards the other, discover oneself in relation to others and build a sense of belonging to a common humanity.
Intercultural and interreligious education can help to improve quality education by offering a child-friendly learning environment that aims at nurturing children’s ethical values, helping them strengthen their identities and critical thinking, building constructive relations with others, and working collectively towards positive change.
Arigatou International is an international faith-based Organization promoting interfaith cooperation to realize children rights, with a special focus on empowering and involving children and youth.
An intercultural and interfaith programme for ethics education. It aims to contribute to the realization of the rights of the child to a full and healthy physical, mental, spiritual, and social development.
Learning to Live Together
The implementation of Learning to Live Together aims to equip children to:

- Learn to live in solidarity with people of different religions, cultures, and ethnicity;
- Be empowered to make ethical decisions;
- Nurture their spirituality;
- And enhance their innate ability to make positive contributions to transform their communities based on values that promote respect for their own culture and beliefs and for those of others.
The programme is guided by an ethics education framework that attempts to promote a new and dynamic way of thinking about ethics in a global and pluralistic society.

The Ethics Education Framework does not promote a new religion, but rather, acknowledges and affirms diversity. It is not a new ‘teaching’, but a new way of emphasizing the building of positive relationships.
Learning to Live Together

Key concepts

- Human Dignity
- Understanding of the Child and Child Rights
- Ethics and Ethics Education
- Spirituality
- Interfaith and Intercultural Learning
Learning to Live Together

Values

- Respect
- Empathy
- Responsibility
- Reconciliation
The educational approach
It is built on learning opportunities and practices that allow ethical reflections, which foster, above all:

- interconnectedness,
- critical thinking,
- the development of imagination,
- critical consciousness,
- self-driven learning
Learning to Live Together
Was developed and launched in close collaboration with UNESCO and UNICEF

Since its inception, in 2008

Reached about 450,000 children and young people
Implemented in more than 30 countries
Translated to 13 languages and going
Learning to Live Together
An Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education

Some examples of local implementation in countries in Europe
In Romania, in collaboration with local NGOs and UNESCO National Commission, the programme is being systematically implemented in more than 40 schools, addressing issues of bullying and improving relations with Roma population.
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the programme has been used by different youth groups to address issues of lack of trust and understanding between Christians and Muslims, and we are now training educators to be included in the curricula.
In Greece with schools hosting refugees and migrants who do not speak the local language nor English, by using sports and play to foster learning to live together.
New Developments

Arigatou International Geneva has initiated a process for adaptation of the Manual to middle childhood years, that is children aged 6 to 11.
Arigatou!
Thank you!

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