



“Infusing Peace Education into the Curriculum of Professional Military Education (PME) in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF)”

Commandant

Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces

Objectives

To highlight the importance of peace education in the context of military operations in the pursuit of international stability.

To explore the benefits of incorporating peace education into PME from a Royal Brunei Armed Forces' Perspective.



Introduction

Peace education refers to the learning and teaching about peace and how to achieve it. Peace education can contribute to a culture of peace within military organisations and reduce the likelihood of conflict and violence.

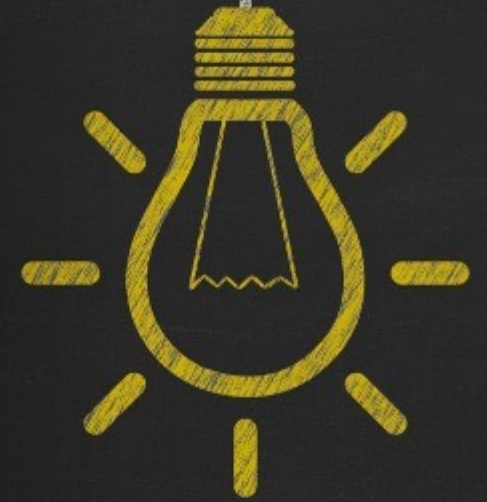
It is vital for the military, and is often overlooked. Integration with PME is needed for the development of knowledge, skills, and attitude.

It shapes the military mindset, fostering ethical operations with conflict resolution, empathy, and non-violence.

DA RBAF's study on infusing peace education into PME – An RBAF's perspective

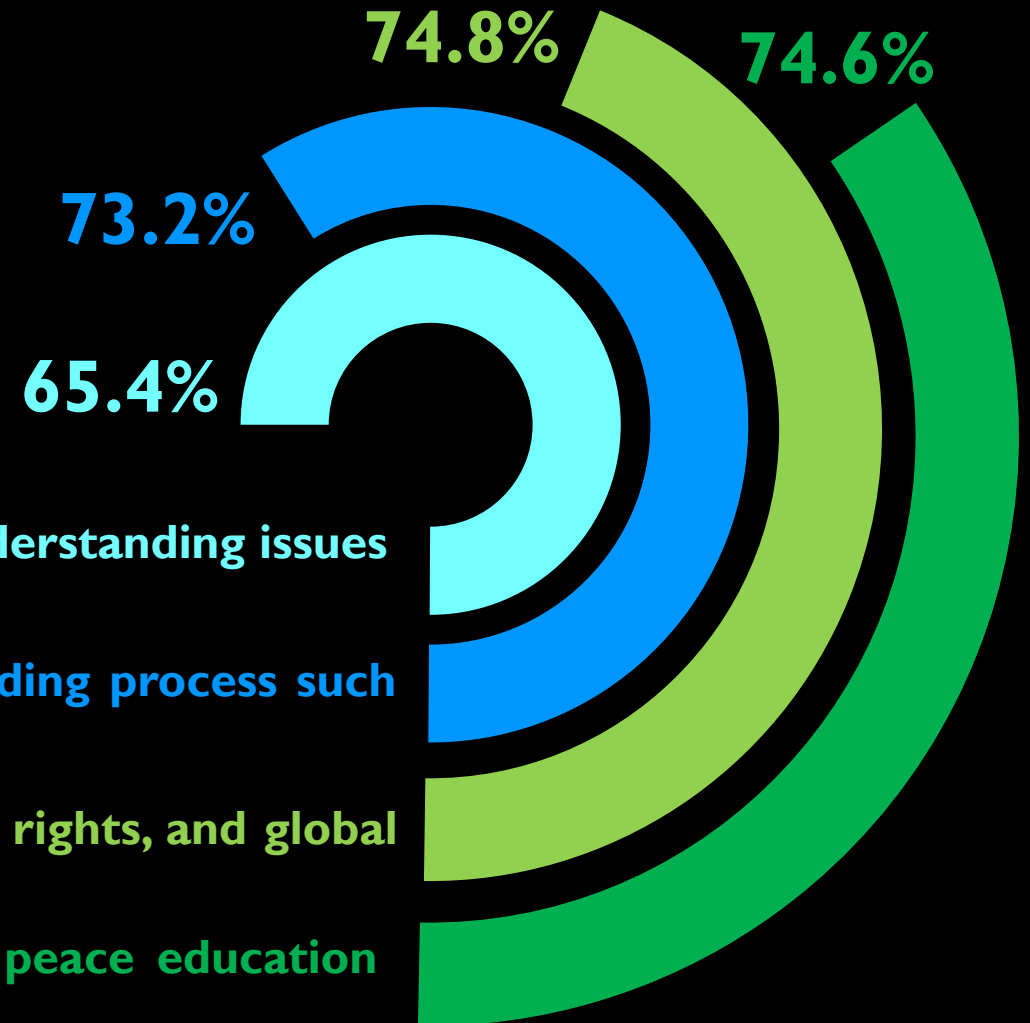
Research objectives

1. To assess the current practices and attitudes towards peace education.
2. To evaluate the potential benefits and challenges of integrating peace education into PME.
3. To provide recommendations for the development of peace education.



Results

"A study of RBAF personnel from various ranks and services shows widespread agreement and support."



Peace education in RBAF may be beneficial in understanding issues relating to conflict resolution.

It may build on the knowledge of the peace-building process such as under the UN.

It may integrate with lessons on security, human rights, and global issues.

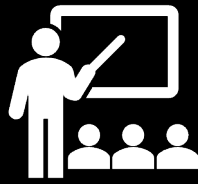
It is worth studying the potential expansion of peace education into PME and the course curriculum.

Results

65.4% agree that peace education in RBAF may be beneficial in understanding issues relating to conflict resolution.



The philosophy of peace education teaches people nonviolence, compassion, and reverence for all life.



It creates in the human consciousness a commitment to the ways of peace.



Education as a solution to conflicts at any level.

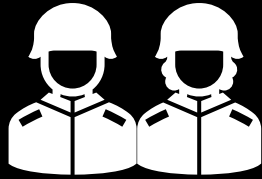
It is also key to RBAF's international commitments such as UNIFIL since 2008.



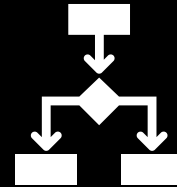
Peace education also contributes to the in-depth analysis of root causes of the problems that bring about severe conflicts.

Results

73.2% agree that peace education may build on the knowledge of the peace-building process such as under the UN.



Military personnel should have an understanding of world institutions promoting world order and also their limitations.



Peace education encourages military personnel to consider the long-term consequences of their actions.



Recently in 2021, UNITAR has also co-organised a master's degree programme called the 'Strategic Peace and Conflict Studies Programme'.

Results

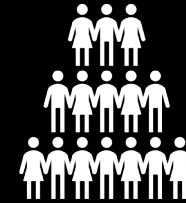
74.8% agree that peace education may integrate with lessons on security, human rights, and global issues.



Emphasis on education to dispel prejudice to create a world of shared values.



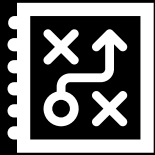
Peace education fosters empathy and cultural understanding, enabling military personnel to engage with local communities more effectively.



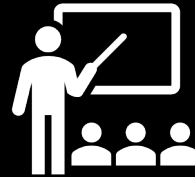
Peace educators need to be more attentive to the needs of the local people, and to help them understand how they are linked to world political, economic and social systems.

Results

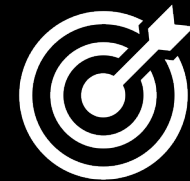
74.6% agree that it may be worth studying the potential expansion of peace education into PME and the course curriculum.



Military personnel studying peace provides a challenge from a peace education perspective, since the military exists for war.



Teaching peace to the military include respecting but not privileging military experience, emphasising the just war tradition and the awareness of students of the case for non-violence.



Emphasis on empathy and ethics into PME curriculum and pedagogy are critical components of the reformation of peace education goals due to its potential to rediscover shared similarities with others.

Challenges and Opportunities

Current PME faces time constraints, resistance to change, and the prioritisation of traditional military education and training.

Challenges can be overcome by:

- Phased implementation.
- Curriculum reviews.
- Emphasise the relevance of peace education in the contemporary security landscape.
- Highlight the importance of interdisciplinary approach including the incorporation of international relations, and security studies.

Opportunities

Cross-cultural dialogue helps parties in conflict to liberate themselves from interlocking situations.



Collaboration and partnerships with education institutions, NGOs, and peacebuilding organisations to develop and implement peace education initiatives.



We must include both the military, civil servants, education institutions and NGOs into senior-level development programmes and PME to ensure they remain integral and relevant to our policies and operations.



Conclusion and Summary

The role of peace education is to address violence peacefully, and contribute to positive and peaceful social change.

Military personnel must understand world institutions promoting world order, possess empathy and ethics and develop a broader perspective.

Collaboration and partnerships with education institutions, NGOs, and peacebuilding organisations to develop and implement peace education initiatives.



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