

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

【Children's Category – 3rd Prize】

Education to Build a Better Future for All
(Original)

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When we think about education, the first thing that comes to mind is the range of subjects we are taught every day at school from morning to evening followed by tests and exams. We believe learning these subjects and scoring good marks in exams are the only way to earn ourselves a reputable future. Many say a good education is the key to a bright future. But what type of education? The kind that prepares you for a sit-at-the-desk-and-work-on-your-computer? Or the kind that will not fetch you a job that needs literally dirtying your hands? If the future is a building, education is the foundation. Education should not only be about preparing someone to make a good living in the future but it should be about creating an ideal world where all living beings can live in harmony with each other.

Education in schools has been largely academic and not wholesome but with the onset of researches and debates, educationists have introduced extra-curricular activities in schools. However, the focus is still on academics and we believe that academic excellence is the only path to a wonderful future. Children should pay equal importance to wholesome education for their physical, mental and emotional development. It will also allow us to explore a variety of options when we are trying to figure out what they want to do in life. The most important thing is helping us figure out what we want to do and make us work towards realizing that goal.

While wholesome education is the best way to develop a child, it is also important that we are allowed to learn and not just be taught. We learn best when we learn it ourselves, be it through mistakes or experiences. Teachers should not only teach whatever there is in the books, but also work on building mindsets that prepares them for whatever future awaits them, mindsets that respects all kinds of people and jobs so that each person can do what he is best at. A good education must enable a child to grow physically, emotionally and socially so that when we become adults, we not only know how to read and write, but also know how to deal with

people. Development of social and interpersonal skills will better prepare us to face reality and other challenges when we enter the real world. Education should be inclusive in that it should be available to all children irrespective of functionality, gender, caste and status. Children of different abilities should to be taught to accept, respect and grow up alongside each other as is the right of every child. This will not only bring a positive academic outcome, but will build social adaptability for a socially harmonious future, too.

Having said that, education should not only be about building a comfortable future for oneself, but about making the world a peaceful and healthy place to live in. Today, there are so many problems in the world as shown in news channels—wars, natural disasters, inequality, poverty, discrimination, etc. The world would be a much better place to live in if people were taught to be more accepting, respectful, caring, and compassionate to each other and the environment we live in. Children should be educated in such a way that they become responsible humans—responsible towards humanity, towards the world and towards the environment for a sustainable future. It should teach us how every individual can make a difference in the world.

Today, education is all about preparing for work; it is about time we change the concept of education. While work is an essential part of life, peaceful coexistence is all the more important and education should help us achieve it. It may be too late to change the present but it's not late to change the future.