

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## **Change Mindset through Focused Education and Save the World** (Original)

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I dare say a new brand of education is the only hope for peace and a better world. Only through the knowledge gained from education can people think, plan and contribute positively towards the betterment of the world. However, the subjects that we study at school today are insufficient to mend the holes and gaps created by the acts of irresponsible people of this world. There are many issues confronting this world that require immediate change or we would face destruction of different kinds that may bring a major catastrophe, that includes the destruction of the entire world. To prevent this sort of destruction there must be infusion of new ideas in education or rather a new perspective of education that can change the mindset of people and the way they see the world.

Education must be geared towards creating an inclusive society rather than focusing on creating successful individuals. Education should focus on global needs rather than focusing on the needs of a single community. Education should focus on creating awareness on the importance of peace and harmony rather than focusing on enhancing the wealth of individuals and their nations. Education should focus on saving the world rather than destroying it. Education should focus on finding a path where all religions and beliefs can meet at a point of reality where war and destruction can be eradicated and people stay united. This sort of education is neither taught by teachers nor available in books. Therefore every government should create this awareness through education in schools and it should come in the form of structured syllabus so that students and parents alike will take it seriously.

From the day I was born until today I have been told both by my parents and teachers alike that to have an ideal life I must study hard to get good grades followed by a well paying job,

a car of my choice, a dream house, get married, have kids and get them to continue the cycle. I have never been taught to work hard and be successful with the intention of helping the people of this world, to better their lives, to help unite the people of this world, to lend a helping hand to those who are suffering from illnesses, to help care for children who are dying of famine and to help people in war-torn countries. I only know of all these when I read newspapers, magazines or watch television. Why are such important things not brought to our attention in schools?

Adults need re-education and children need a new perspective of education to change their view of the world. Every individual must study the sufferings of the people of the world, both past and present to be able to understand and act accordingly. This subject can be called as *Social Responsibilities*. This subject must highlight the complex and longstanding problems of people and ways to help solve these problems. In this way more people will reach out to those who are suffering and many complex problems can be solved. It has to start somewhere and starting it at school for the young children and simultaneously educating the adults through media may help solve the problems.

Another strategy to reach people would be to teach good values when they are still children. In school children like me should be taught to care for not only my friends and family members but also to reach out to strangers and people of the world. Everyone should be taught to grow up learning to love one another immaterial of their ethnicity or religion. All these must be indoctrinated deep in the mind and hearts of children so that they will grow up loving and helping anyone who needs their help not just the people in their country but also people of the world. Community service should begin when children are in primary school. Only then it becomes a practice that will work effectively.

Focused education is the only way to make positive changes to solve the complex problems that the world is currently facing and it must begin now.