

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Values Education (Original)

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What comes to mind when the word 'education' is mentioned?

School, most likely. Every subject associated like Math and Science also pop up, resulting in Algebra this, Chemistry that, History here, Music there, and suddenly, we would go off track from the subject of 'education'. Yes, this is the most common form of education. However, education comes in many forms.

On its literal sense, education is the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university. In a broader perspective, education is an enlightening experience.

Education doesn't just arrive in the form of teaching and straight out spoken lessons. Look at the second definition of 'education'. It says that education can come from an experience, and to me, this is the best type of education, ones that you could use in your everyday life as well as in building your future. This education can be added to your morals, virtues, and values. However, how could we implant this kind of education in our children's minds?

Most schools in my country have the subject Values Education. The subject imparts many kinds of this education, but these schools often neglect the said subject. I witnessed many lessons of Values Education, though no one really absorbed the lessons, merely doing the activities required to pass the subject. Students usually just shrugged the subject off, giving more preference to factual subjects. Teachers of this important subject need to reinvent the

delivery of this enriching subject because something is missing that can serve as an avenue for greater causes.

So how do we educate this generation's youth if they themselves do not take these kinds of lessons seriously? This is a large predicament, most probably an unsolved one, and this is likely a reason why some youths ignore warnings and advice, only to plunge into a world of vices. If a solution to this can be formulated, thousands, is not millions, of children will have a better life. They would be steered away from all causes of malice, so they can live freely with no worry of anything bad happening to them.

Values education comes from experience. Our exposure to the good and bad sides of life enriches our sense of humanity. Schools must concentrate on exposing students to the reality that their immediate community needs them—their ideas, help, and involvement to improve the lives of others. Students need to understand that they do not only live for themselves. There is a bigger world out there that can supplement classroom learning. Volunteer works such as peer tutorial, coastal clean-up drive, tree planting, and writing for a community newspaper can develop the leadership skills of young people. In the future, these children will organize community outreach activities for orphans, calamity victims, the elderly, and indigenous people. They may also raise awareness enough to motivate others to donate blood, support medical missions, participate in relief operations, and pledge fund for the construction of schools and hospitals that will serve a great number of people in need.

Education anchored on the deepening of values through significant human experience is an investment that will go a long way. Values education that focuses on involving learners to participate in becoming a source of love, joy, inspiration, and comfort demonstrates better aspects of the human character such as kindness and compassion and showing respect for other people's views. This is the kind of education that we need today. We need a kind of education that helps find solutions to problems that burden people. We need education that makes people understand that the heart of education is the education of the heart. Through this kind of education, we can build and share a better future for all of us.