Education to Build a Better Future for All

(Original)

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We dream of a better tomorrow, one that brings happiness instead of sorrow, and love instead of hatred. This is a goal we'll have to work hard to achieve. Education is understood to guarantee a better future but the question is: how are we to spread education that brings with it positive change in the individual and society? Increasing the number of schools, making them affordable to all and creating awareness about the importance are not yielding the desired results. When you meet somebody, it's not by your degrees that they'll know whether you are educated or not (and you most probably won't be carrying them around with you), rather they are going to judge that by the way you talk, behave and interact with people in general. Sadly, these are the values our education system does not seem to be successful in giving us.

In imparting education, priority should be given to the instilling of basic values in the students, values such as compassion, patience, love, hospitality, empathy and humility. If these are taught first, the rest becomes easy as the environment becomes conducive for learning, each student helping others along the way. Fights start because we cannot tolerate views divergent from our own; we think that we are right and that our knowledge is absolute. The world would be a better place, and so many conflicts could be avoided if people were truly educated.

With greater education comes greater responsibility. Those who are more educated are usually the leaders. If they have no proper sense of values, they will use their position for their own good, not thinking about others. Technology has made our life better but it has also made it worse. According to the Dalai Lama, **"We have taller buildings but shorter tempers, we have wider roads but narrower viewpoints."** There is no doubt that technology has helped make our lives easier but it has also made life more dangerous. Technology doesn't create only airplanes, it also creates fighter jets. It doesn't only create nuclear power plants but also nuclear bombs. If humans don't learn to live together in harmony, their own creations will seek

to destroy them. Humans will kill humans by the education that they gain if they are not taught the basic values of brotherhood first. The attacks at Hiroshima and Nagasaki are examples of the chaos that can be brought about by the unwise use of technology.

Education doesn't start with schools and it doesn't end with schools yet schools play the singular greatest role in our educational life, and if these schools are not serving their purpose, we cannot get the better tomorrow that we dream of. Every kid is special, every kid is a genius-- they only need to discover their hidden talents. If they are taught the right way then they continue to get education their whole lives. **"You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives."** (Clay P. Bedford.)

So, in essence, in order to build a better future for all, we should start implementing this at the individual level, and step by step, it will extend to the national and international level. Big things always start small. We need to impart purpose-directed education in our educational institutions so that students not only become doctors, engineers and lawyers, but also become humans in the true sense of the word.