

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

An ideal education for a better future
– A combination of knowledge and skills
(Original)

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We are living in a world with many complex problems, from local to global, from economics to society. An education that would help us address these challenges and find the solutions must be a kind of learning where people are not only provided with knowledge but also provided with skills and contexts to apply this knowledge and strive towards actions.

Traditional education in classes with teachers teaching students, which many of us have been going through, has been running for such a long time. The main purpose of the tradition method is just to erase illiteracy or to provide people with qualification for jobs. However, nowadays, in the world of globalization, the stress has been placed upon community rather than individuals. It requires people to be aware of other issues rather than just those of themselves. In order to do so, an education with the aim towards a sustainable world and a better life for all should be created.

First of all, as other kinds of education, an ideal education to approach this purpose should be the one which provides enough knowledge about the world. It may not only be the one with humanities subjects of thousands things to memorize, but should be the one with integrated information coming from different brand of subjects that may be relevant to students' interests or benefits. For example, instead of having students remembering all history, an ideal education should be where students are kept updated with current occurrences happening in the world, which might be related to their country's history or may affect their country's benefit. An ideal education may not also be the one with too many principles without any practical application. It should be the one where principles can be derived from students' observation, which allows students to discuss and propose how the world functions around them. A science subject should always go along with experiments. Math should not be just

about the numbers, but should be about words and figures that students are facing with everyday. This kind of education, hence, can help students boost their initiatives by binding the learning with students' interest and helpful applications.

Furthermore, in order to actually take actions, not just only addressing world's issues, an ideal education needs to provide people with skills and contexts to apply, thus, bringing students closer to the solutions of these problems. As proposed above, students should be opened up to observation, discussion and reflection. Knowledge should not blindly be the one and only belief, but should be the knowledge that offers the chance for critical thinking and further development. Knowledge should not only be discovered in class environment also, it should be found in the real world context. An ideal education should include students in learning from doing projects such as community services. This will help students quickly be able to identify the problems and familiarize them with proposing and implementing solutions. Of course, these actions must come from students' genuine interests, not complied, which can be traced back to the art of inspiring students through providing interesting knowledge and opportunities of active learning. To be inspiring, an ideal education should not focus on difficulty of the subject, instead, it should provide enough range of knowledge for students to try and find their interests, which can be developed further with passion and skills.

To sum up, an education to build a better future for all should be the one where students are inspired to care more about the world and are provided with enough skills to take actions towards world's problems. The ideal education needs to be a combined effort of teaching and learning, of teachers and students. It should be a real opportunity to learn and practice.