

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

Socio-Education: Share and Synergize for a Better Future

(Original)

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When I was young I did not know what the meaning of education, I just went to school because my parents ordered me to. I just wanted to be a successful woman so I can earn my living. But, when I turned 19 years old, a little experience changed my life. I realized that education is not for earning your living, but for making you become valuable to others.

I was asked by teacher to become a volunteer in his Islamic House. It was my first experience to teach children. I can still remember very well the first time I visited the Islamic House; children were running and laughing, they are in disadvantage situation, came from poor family. But their spirit to learn is rich. I was moved when they noticed my visit and rushed towards me while cried “ustadzah.. ustadzah is coming..” (In Arabic, ustadzah means female teacher). They were so excited to learn something new from me. I felt my heart warm when I saw their smile.

It is ordinary story but it made a big impact in my life, because after being ustadzah I really want to build school for children in disadvantage situation. We have lots of problems, as example in my country, schools are well built in city, but in village and countryside, there is limit access to go to school, children have to walk more than 40 kilometers through river and broken bridge to get to school. We should distribute education. Education is human birthright, so every child no matter where they live must get proper education. School and educational institution are vital places for children and youth to develop their potential and skill, create dreams, make friendship, become valuable person and more to wash away their pain.

Acknowledge is like water, it needs to flow so it keep clean, fresh and beneficial for others. This is why I am developing Socio-Education, founded upon the belief that through sharing and synergize we can help others to get their birthright. Socio-Education is a Voluntary Study Group (VSG) program, it is based on sharing from children and youth to make synergize and

bring this world to a better future.

Voluntary Study Group contains two activities. First, Student from schools or educational institutions which have good facilities and good grades make visit to schools in village or in countryside for two weeks or more, and hold a festival and discuss in school or public place in the city.

First, Teacher in school need to synergize with parents to place their children based on their intellectual ability. Every child has their own intellectual and special skill, like Music, Math, History, Art, etc. but most parents force their children to become what they want, not seeing what their child's potential. In Socio-Education, children can show up what the best of them, and they teach it to the children in countryside. It can bring benefit to both parties. Student from city will feel appreciated because they can use their ability to make others better. And student from countryside get more lessons and inspired because it is child in the same age who shares good experience to them.

Educational festival purposes to fund money and collect books for student in countryside. Youth and children show their culture, deliver speech in their mother tongue, campaign against violence, discrimination, and bullying. Also, they please to discuss about education, health, human right, etc. this place to express ideas, make leadership training, and even share their survival story to get proper education in their disadvantage situation. Every festival, discussion and training should be booked and sent to government and NGOs, so their voice will be heard by people all over the world.

Socio-Education brings multiply impact, youths and children who join this program will have good attitude and wise, because they have seen and felt the world from another's point of view, they get more courage to change the world. In the other side, youth and children in countryside get the same experience, lesson, and chance to speak up, and they will have more power to believe that they can make their life better in the future.