

Education

Education is one of the best investments nations can make in their citizens. It is defined by the facilitating of knowledge, techniques, tools in the acquisition of skills and value in different areas of expertise. The objective of education is to create apt professionals who think for themselves and can excel in the area they choose to work in.

There have been some people, especially entrepreneurs, that put down education. Personally, I think this happens because they have not understood the real value of education in someone's life. This essay is divided in tabs that I have found to be relevant in the understanding of how education can be important to people and why nations should invest in good education system.

Definitions

There is some confusion between education and professional education. They are defined differently, and their objectives are different as well. Professional training or training may be facilitated by a specific company or business when new employees are hired. Or students may choose a professional education when they know where they want to work at and are secure that's exactly what they want to do. Education, pure education, is different. Advanced Education has as objective to encourage people to pursue an academic path becoming professors or scholars in the field of their liking. The good side of the Educational System as it is managed around the world is that one can study until one wants to. Someone may take a master's

degree and a PhD, while someone else may take the MSc and move on to other fields. Someone may choose to pursue a bachelor's degree this year, go work for some years and then return to school to further their education. Advanced Education gives some flexibility to people, doesn't impose constraints. People of any age, any academic background, any birth place or culture, can easily go back to school and pick it up where they have left it. It doesn't judge people against any stereotype. Education, however, needs to evolve in time and realize that some of the methods that are still used nowadays may not be the most updated ones. I do not mean they are wrong, I am simply implying that they may not be the most modern ones.

Importance

Education is far more important in one's life than what one may realize it to be at first glance. Negative critics of it, see it solely by the courses and subjects one studies at school: math, algebra, geometry, history, languages, arts, sports, rather than what learning all these different courses and subjects do in one's brain. Truly the importance of education is not uniquely in the subjects one studies, but in the development of other skills that are trained every day of school. School is a hardship. It is a hardship of persistence, and commitment. How many of us would take the commitment of studying for nine years, every morning, every afternoon, new subjects, new homework, group work, individual work, studying hard, being tested,

constantly? It is a strong commitment many wouldn't take or complete, and unfortunately many don't. After those mandatory nine years, there's three more. Harder ones. And then there is college if one chooses to go, for three to four years more, specified study about a subject of student's preference. Master's degree for two – three years more. PhD for four – six years more. It is a marathon in learning. Even if one chooses only to pursue an academic path up to a college degree, which is the most common in the world, one must study for at least 16 years. How many would say yes to something that takes 16 years to complete? Without earning money? For no money?

The level of commitment that studying requires is very high. Many negative critics of education fail to

understand that the rewards of an educational path are far more than the knowledge one gains about different subjects.

Here are some of the character-building traits that are unconsciously trained since elementary through college:

- Commitment
- Discipline
- Self-confidence
- Organization
- Following given rules
- Healthy competition
- Time management
- Being tested
- Defending a body work

- Dealing in a healthy manner with competitors
- Inter-personal relationship skills
- Learning to work in a group of people
- Managing working in a group
- Dealing with authority (teachers, professors)
- Self-reliability
- Learning study methods
- Ability to follow through a commitment without getting paid for it
- Others

There are many inner qualities that are inherited from studying. The ability to live among peers who represent competition all the same, managing that competition and at the same time obey the rules and do not respect them, it's one of Education's best

life lessons. We do not see it in the work world that often.

Improvements

Depending on people's main type of thinking, school appeals more to them or not. Also, even though school strives to develop all different types of thinking, there's some that are not being exercised as well as others.

Types of thinking

Even though we all think, we do not all think the same way. Depending on our preferred way of thinking we, therefore, then perceive reality differently. We also process outer stimuli and will organize reality in our minds differently. Here's different types of thinking and a short description

for each. We are all capable, I believe, of thinking in any of them, however we may have genetic predisposition and personal preference to some of them more than others.

Analytical

Analytical thinking is a type of thinking in which the thinker breaks the whole into its parts and studies their relationships to understand how the whole works using the knowledge about the parts, in a specific direction

Holistic

Holistic thinking is a big picture type of thinking that involves the thinker looking at the big picture and the interconnectedness of the parts through sensing about their interconnectivity, it's about gathering

understanding about the whole through knowledge of its parts, in different directions

Linear / sequential

The thinker can process information in an orderly manner, where knowledge depends on the knowledge acquired before. Knowledge is obtained and processed in a systematic sequential way.

Creative

Thinking outside the box. The thinker can come up with creative and new ideas to solve problems, it involves breaking all other patterns of thinking, sequences and previous ideas and knowledge.

Critical

It's a type of thinking that exercises evaluation of a situation, so thinkers can evaluate about authenticity, worth, accuracy, validity and value. In addition to objective thinking, critical thinking includes evaluation, construction and reconstruction of the problem and its solutions. Critical thinking also explores other aspects that could weight into the conclusions and knowledge about the whole and its parts as well.

Abstract

Abstract thinking is a type of thinking that deals with ideas and abstract concepts. It emphasizes meanings and hidden messages and allows for the understanding of complex theories and possibilities.

Abstract thinkers tend to understand problems in a conceptual deep manner, rather than by only what's visible. They search for the meaning behind words, actions and everything in between.

Concrete

Concrete thinkers think about problems and situations in a literal manner. They only consider for what truly happens, objects and things. They do not think about ideas or in ideas. They take words in a literal manner and think in terms of concrete things and actions only.

We all can think in any of these types or thinking, however all of us have perhaps a genetic predisposition to some of them more than the others and develop through the living of life.

School and education help its students develop critical, analytical and linear thinking more than any other thinking type. Oscillating between abstract and concrete thinking according to the courses.

Even though people who pursue education up to higher levels are more capable to critically think about subjects, problems and questions, there are some improvements that could be added to education. Some of them are:

- Explore applications of the knowledge acquired in school
- Add financial courses / entrepreneurial courses
- Add economy classes
- Add experiences with money

- Add communication classes and courses
- Invest in creative thinking and encourage it
- add concrete thinking classes tied in abstract thinking classes such as math and physics, to learn about real life applications of the studied concepts

Entrepreneurial Mindset

Problem: Some students complain that school has taught them nothing about money, finances, and know nothing about how to start their own business or make their ideas come true.

I do believe Education fails in not exploring entrepreneurial subjects. There're millions of people who could be great entrepreneurs and have a lot of good ideas but simply do not know how to do it. It is true that some people are natural concrete

type thinkers, and these will not have difficulty in learning how to do it by themselves, however natural abstract type thinkers may need to study how to do it and think a lot about it before they do it. Concrete thinkers usually do not like school. School's courses are somewhat abstract to them and they do not see much value in that type of thinking. Whether abstract thinkers usually enjoy school and are fine studying their whole lives without exploring about the possible applications of such learning.

Solution: Classes that teach how concrete type thinking, applications of ideas, how to do it, how to start a business that values their own assets and value

If school could include concrete thinking courses and applications to student's ideas courses, then

concrete thinkers would likely to start liking it a little bit more. At the same time, these courses would benefit abstract thinkers to filter their own ideas, into probable to work and probable to not work parameters and learn what to do with them.

Concrete type thinking classes would benefit both concrete thinkers (making them enjoy education a little more) and abstract thinkers (teaching them what to do with their ideas and how to make them work)

Thinking Outside the Box

Problem: At times school and education feel outdated in their approach to real and nowadays problems

At times in education, creative thinking (think outside of the box type of thinking) is not valued as

much as it could. Creative thinking is now more encouraged than has ever been before in Education around the world, however this creative thinking could be taught to apply in different problem-solving situations in life. Also, it would be evolutionary to apply creative thinking to society or one own's community's.

Solution: Insertion of classes or activities where creative thinking is stimulated, encouraged and cherished. What new ways do we have to solve these problems?

Creative thinking has many applications, at times in Education these are not explored, so many students end up feeling it has nor real value in the so called "real life". If Education chooses to utilize creative thinking more, artists and creative people would

feel more aligned to education and perhaps wish to pursue it further.

Classes where creative thinking is stimulated can prove to be very beneficial to students of all thinking types. Creative thinking can be applied in solving problems. Classes with real life problems to solve, where students are encouraged to think outside the box (creative thinking) would stimulate students brains to create more unique and efficient solutions to the most various problems / challenges that life may handle us.

Usually people with creative thinking skills are very original in the way they solve their problems in life, opening new ways to generations to come.

Creative thinking is important in the world.

Emotional Intelligence

Problem: Society is not that sensitive to emotions, feelings or inter-relationships. There's many people who do not know how to deal with disagreements in a peaceful manner, or how to manage their own emotions without "self-destructing"

Emotions drive people's decisions and choices and there aren't many courses about them. It is important for people to understand themselves and their feelings. We would as humanity, considerably evolve in interpersonal relationships. We all hurt and we all have bad moments, but mistreating others only contributes to more suffering and hurt. People's sensibilities are different, and according to these people deal better with different environments. I have always felt there is an imposition by society and an exaggerated emphasis

and approval of people who are extroverted and the go getter personality. Personally, as an ambivert, I am not one of those. I thrive better in friendly environments, cooperative and helpful. To me, education was good because it allowed to succeed being the way I am. However, I often think how much better I could be dealing with cut throat competition and copycats (that to me feel as insensitive) if I had had emotional intelligence classes at school and have been taught to deal with these situations, learning how to look at them in an emotional positive manner. Other people have other personal experiences. If we have learned how to identify our own emotions and how to manage them in a positive manner, probably introverts and sensitive people wouldn't hurt as much in the world

working for their dreams. Creating a world for extrovert loud people is not a good strategy since more than 30% of Human population is introvert, while more than 50% are extrovert and around 20% of people are ambivert (introvert in hostile environments and extrovert in friendly environments).

Solution: Classes and / or projects that teach and speak about Emotional Intelligence. That teach how to deal with emotions, feelings, how to identify them, relate them and overcome the least desirable ones.

Knowing how to deal with frustration, lack of self-confidence, bad grades, arguments at home, arguments with peers, disagreements, competition, would help all students. Many schools have psychologists and people who help students going

through rough emotional times, however a class on Emotional Intelligence would benefit all students. In an Emotional Intelligence course, we could learn about to deal with our own emotions and other people's emotions as well, leading to a better leadership ability.

The Real Value of Education

The real value of education is not in the subjects one studies, but in the mindset and way of dealing with others and problems in life. People who have studied for a long time, often are much less aggressive and much more tuned into dialogue and diplomatic approaches to solve problems other than aggressive stances or actions. The real value of education is in the way people see things. People

who have studied further in their lives, are known to be calmer, more receptive and more allowing to other cultures, other people, and different mindsets. The real value of education is that highly qualified people seldom embark in aggressive physical conflicts with others (unless they have some psychological illness). People who have studied further down the path are usually more opened and willing to understand others and different points of views. The real value of education is helping people developing critical thinking more than any other type of thinking. Critical thinking allows people to discern through a problem, to evaluate it and make a value judgment about it, connecting the dots and specially adding new thoughts to a problem, to solve it. Critical thinking is

fundamental to people who want to think for themselves. The purpose of education has never been telling people what to think, but to think. To find their own way in thinking. The purpose of education is to develop people's mind and brains, so that they can think for themselves, create for themselves and do things by themselves. The purpose of education is knowledge. Knowledge. And then wisdom.

For many years people have been justifying Education for economy purposes, saying that candidates who have studies are more able and capable to honor their new positions and so boost the economy because they are more skilled for possible competition haven't been lying. However, it is incomplete. People who have studied are more

able to solve problems peacefully and seek more and more often for dialogue than by force. The proverb that reads: "Education's roots are bitter, but their fruits are sweet" is true. The real value of education is in the way of being of those who have completed it. They have learned the hard way the meaning of endurance, commitment, persistence, reliability, healthy competition, respect for authority, respect for rules, think for themselves, analyze and relate different ideas, and the most beautiful of all... acceptance of others as they are. It is not likely that people who have graduate degrees to be racist or closed minded towards other people's religions or economic realities. people who study until later are more pro healthy competition than cut throat competition without any rules.

Students who want to become the best students know that they need to stick to the rules, otherwise their test or presentation will be dismissed and, in many cases, negatively graded. This influences people and their behavior. Cut throat competition is a very aggressive type of competition that obeys to no rules, it follows the “whatever it takes” this type of competition is focused on the achievement only, and not the process to achieve whatever one wishes to achieve. In terms of inner development, it isn't great help. It doesn't teach people how to succeed on their own, following well established rules, and respect for superiors.

Education works many times as a mind work, and its benefits are more inwardly seen at times but life changing. Also, it stimulates a passion for learning.

People who enjoy learning new things are proven to be more accepting and allowing of other people, their ways and cultures.

Knowledge is power.

When we know, we know. Many problems in the world descend from ignorance about a specific subject. The stance however facing something we don't know is at times clearly different. Many people, when they don't know about something, they make assumptions about it based on their perception of the subject, whereas people who have studied are more prone to listen to what others have to say about the subject and / or research a little bit about prior to draw conclusions or state affirmations.

The world can advance fast if countries invest in a quality public education. This would mean, updating the educational system to meet the times we are living now. Times have changed, students have different dreams, school should never stop in time, but advance, evolve and meet their aspirations.

Knowledge is power, there's no one in the world who regrets knowing about what they know. Knowledge can make humanity jump to the next level of evolution fast, more emotionally capable, more emotionally aware with a better mindset.

Thank you for reading. If you would like me to deepen this subject let me know. I will be happy to help.

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