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Essence of Education

Degree Degree On The Wall

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Degree Degree On The Wall

Who is the educated one of us all?

I was at a doctor's clinic with severe headache and fever complaint. The doctor's room was a well decorated one. Interior at its best, furniture and other accessories were the finest too. But what I admired the most was his room's wall. The wall was full of his degrees and transcripts and spoke a lot about the doctor's career and qualifications. The wall showed all the conferences he had attended, specialization he had done, places he had visited and seminars he had been part of. Suddenly we were interrupted by a knock at his door. It was one of his staff. The staff boy was allowed to enter the room. He reported that the clinic locker was short of some 20,000 bucks and he had no idea where the amount was. The doctor who was very friendly and gentle a



while ago suddenly changed. His facial expressions changed and followed by the pitch of his voice, ignoring his patient, he started interrogating about his lost money. I was astonished at the tone, harsh words and impatience on handling the missing money issue. Suddenly I found myself lost. I was lost in questions that kept running my mind. What had happened to the tone of this fine doctor? Was his demeanor with the staff in front of his patients, appropriate? Was the loss really that big for the doctor? Was his selection of words suitable and lastly the question that pinched me was "Is he really an educated doctor?" Are these degrees hanging on his wall really his! or are they just beautiful, laminated, wall hangings.



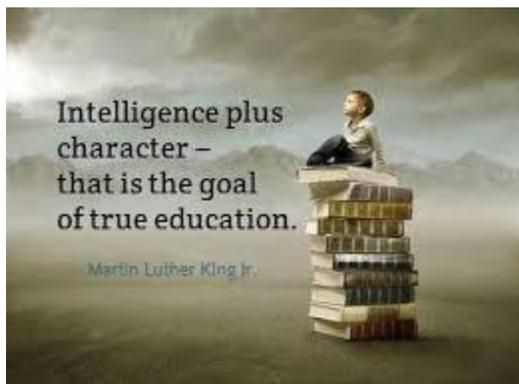
We are still running in some rat race. We are really confused as to what education really is. A mean person who has no control over his emotions and no control on his words, be a highly educated one or are these qualities not necessary at all for someone to be educated.

Education is perfectly defined by Noble Laureate Guru Rabindranath Tagore:

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake”
Rabindranath Tagore



Today’s students have their minds full of fear, the ambiance is such that they work under heavy pressure. Question remains whether they are getting educated or just learning with fear due to this cut throat competitions in every field. The very system of present day education has the ability to generate discontent among the students. We need to redefine education. We need to realize the real essence of education. We as parents, when it comes to our child’s education run after the same three or four reputed schools. The criteria of finest education, set by our society is to get your child schooled from “that” school. If your child is studying in that prestigious institute only then he will grow into a well-educated person. If he happens to be in some average school, the chances are bleak that the society we breathe in will accept him as an educated person. But the question, still remains there. Are these institutes really educating our children?



I really don’t know whom to call an educated person but I see children from good, well to do families, littering around, throwing garbage rolling down the panes of cars, clustered outside tuck shops or malls while waiting for their turns, chewing gums as they talk, answering their elder, I question myself is that what they are being taught? I see people on streets walking and on roads driving but I see no civic sense anywhere. On top of it these acts are considered “cool”. Aren’t our institutes responsible for developing civic sense, distinguishing between right and wrong and teaching how to

live as a good citizen?

What people think of Education is generally a form of learning whereby knowledge, skills and habits are poured in the minds of an individual through instruction, training, sharing, and communicating. In a nutshell education is usually understood as a transfer of information and knowledge from one individual to

the other. But there are so many other things which a child learns from his family, his environment and surroundings, his society and media.

We all complain that citizens of Pakistan do not keep their country clean. We complain people are rude, impatient, uncivilized but we never tell who is responsible for all this. Parents fulfill their responsibility by sending kids to famous schools but is it really enough.

The success of Pakistan is hidden in the true essence of education. Educationist from all levels should gather at a platform and develop strategies where they can promote basic manners and decide standards of education. Sometimes, it's a pleasure to see the less privileged children. They seem more patient, more respectful and more organized. It's not this that all is bad but what is bad needs to be improved. Success of an individual is hidden in his education and upbringing. Education is discriminating between right and wrong, black and white. Education is empathizing. Education gives you power to understand others both, mentally and emotionally. Education is a never ending process, one keeps learning as long as he continues to live. In the end, I would like to quote the words of Isaac Asimov, "Education is not something you can never finish".

We can't just blame and sit back. A lot needs to be improved. I, you and all the stake holders need to sit and make Pakistan a truly educated nation. Where values, manners and sunnah of our Prophet prevails and every one of us be the living example of the teachings of our religion. Pakistan being an Islamic State needs to show the true colors of Islam. People need to be educated that the hatred they carry, the impatience they show, the language they use is not us. Let's be educated and spread education in its true essence.

Illusion of Education

Rohana Tariq

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"The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge."

Once a Chinese king sends his Crown Prince to a monastery for education. The master there sends the



Prince to the forest and commands him to observe and report on the sounds he hears. The Prince comes back after some time and enlists the sounds of forest as chirping of the birds, humming of the bees, roars of the beasts and whining of the snared. The master discontented with his reply sends him back and instructs him to hear more. The flustered Prince spends days and weeks and months there but to fulfill his master's desire. One day when he wakes up he could hear some unusual sounds, on listening intensely he discerns them as sun warming the earth, the

flowers opening and wind whispering to the grass. He excitedly rushes back to his master who approvingly nods and announces him to be ready to receive knowledge, training and thus be educated. Human beings are referred as social animals, in order to tame this beast, it is to be educated, so that it conforms to the norms and values of a society. Over the centuries of civilizations human race has attained a standard of education a minimum of which is necessary for everyone to acquire and display. Our education has a lot to do with academic achievements but simultaneously its role in our demeanor,

articulation, appearance, values and thinking cannot be denied. It defines who we are and how we respond and react to different people and different situations. We live in the era of science, where science has opened the window of rationality and logic for us, simultaneously it tends to take us away from the subtleties of human emotions and sentiment and consequently relations. We feel like having a logical, factual explanation for everything and ones that cannot be explained tend to lose their place and importance.

In Pakistan we have different parallel systems, rendering their services in the field of education. Two main domains are public and private. Generally, a child starts going to school at the age of 3-4 years and since then starts a chain of actions which directly and indirectly makes him realize that his salvation is only in good academic performance that is good grades and hence starts a circle to come out

of which is almost impossible. Our society mainly considers a child's academic performance as a true manifestation of his or her talent and potential as it ensures a financially secure future. Yet education does not stop here its meaning needs to be defined and understood beyond conventional boundaries.



“The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why.”
Mark Twain

The essence of education lies in its power to empower us to discern and question the authenticity of rules and regulation that govern our lives. It should enable us to live a life of faith and virtues in such a way that we understand and surrender to their importance acknowledging and valuing it rather than



blindly following. We should be ready to endure all the hardships in the quest of knowledge and prefer it over any material gain. The essence of education lies in our realization of our role in the cosmos, in this extensive divine drama of existence. The essence lies in raising us from pedestal of an animal who fights and competes for foods, shelter and security and imbue us with the spirit of sacrifice, love and care, patience and endurance and self-realization. Ideally education should be a fine amalgam of faith, values, culture, art and scientific knowledge. None should be compromised at the cost of other. Until and unless we attain this we cannot be deemed as EDUCATED. An educated person must hold a sense of

responsibility towards society and humanity, he must ensure the balance which is required for the smooth successions and balance of this world and cosmos, he must not exhaust himself only for the gain of worldly pleasures and comfort for himself and the ones close to him. If education fails to impart this sense in us, then it is not education but a mere illusion of it.

Inculcating Positive Attributes in Youth: A True Essence of Education

Farrukh Adeel

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“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”

Aristotle



We all live in the age of Information Technology and social media. The youth (16-22) of today has access to thousands and thousands of informative websites and internet apps on the palm of their hands through which they are learning facts, figures, current affairs and globalization, without any guidance and supervision from their families and teachers. However, on the other side there is no check and balance available on the authenticity & relevance of the available information in accordance with the societal norms and standards of the demographics we are living in. Hence the role of education becomes more essential in this era.

When we talk about Education it does not mean classroom or subject teaching. The role of education is to groom the personality of a student in such a way that he/she is furnished to demonstrate positivity and optimism in the time of despair and hopelessness.

“Education is not preparation for life, Education is life itself.”

John Dewey

The positive personality comes from positive attitude and positive attitude is derived from tiny but important attributes. The true essence of education is to inculcate these tiny but important positive attributes in the youth of today. These attributes cannot be learnt from any textbook or internet websites but only infused from the actions of their teachers, mentors and family members. Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) once said

“The best among you are those who have the best manners and best character”

Sahi ul Bukhari (Vol 8, # 6029)

Here are some of the positive attributes that we must demonstrate to our youth in order to equip them with positivity and optimism to face the modern challenges of globalization and detritions of moral and ethical standards of society.

Respectful	Knowledge will give power, but character Respect.
Confident	Confidence may not bring success but gives power to face any challenge.
Disciplined	Suffer the pain of discipline, or suffer the pain of regret.
Energetic	The world belongs to energetic ones.
Honest	Never feel sorry for being honest.
Motivated	Dream won't work, until you Do.
Trustworthy	Trustworthiness is gained through person's action, not mere words

The list may go on and on but the most important thing with today's youth is their mind-set that we need to bend to positivity and optimism by giving them proper guidance and counseling. In the end I would like to end my article with these thought provoking words by William Deresiewicz

“The essence of education is to make minds, not careers.”

Essence of Education

Sobia Butt

Lecturer – English



The essence of education is to impart knowledge that justifies to be treasured, divulge morals as well as encourage in students the ability to separate the true and good from their replications and intelligence to desire the prior to the end. We prefer to be called human beings though there is a very fine line which few understand than being human.

Europe has not progressed because of technologies; Europe has gone on the top of quality life due to the change in attitude. The significance of education is based on the secret how you apply the learned behavior, many people read a lot but learn less and ultimately application goes unsuccessful, if we are seeking knowledge for getting jobs after the completion of degree then we have decided to be a slave throughout the life but few of us have learnt that education only works when you apply or practice. The concept of Education is used to contrast the human to a better human. It could be of many dimensions, if we are not just of animal interest that's called material interest, we might be talking of human values, of remembrance, of compassion and conscience; or in one-word essence which comes by getting education that of course does not depend on degrees but the triple E, Ethics, Eligibility and Evolution.

If the question is where the ideal of education comes from, it is much easier to answer: from our Prophet, who not only learnt but practiced each and every word written in the Holy Book which is the true essence of education.

It has always been a mystery to mankind that what could be the key knowledge to understand universe. Many of the people have explored universe through logic and science, few of them rely on the discovery of philosophy and religion but very few wise men and women have conquered themselves by learning new productive behavior and new horizon of thinking process. So in my opinion the Essence of education is to modify thinking style and alter behavior in positive context.



**COMING
UP NEXT**

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