

**THE QUEEN'S
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION- 2018
Theme : 'Towards a Common Future'**

**Category: Senior
AWARD: BRONZE**

The Unseen Brilliance of Education in Life

Reva Rudra, X D

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

Nelson Mandela

Education is an opportunity for us to understand the world, and become better individuals. It enables people to have a different perspective about the world and society that we live in. Education is a means of understanding society, culture, science, moral values and history. Though, some countries, particularly in the West, may top the charts as far as education is concerned and may be referred to as developed countries, yet, more needs to be done, to make the world a better place. I aspire for the development in social equality, conservation and management of resources, fairness towards all ethnic groups, religious harmony, political freedom and political stability globally! Attaining education and using it in an apt manner is the path to a fairer future.

Has anyone ever thought what a fairer future is? To me, a fairer future is one where all the people in the world are treated equally, irrespective of their gender, caste, race and financial status. By education, I mean not bookish education, I also mean, education of the human mind, education on moral values; as moral values are the foundations of any society.

Once the foundation is laid, the people will have to understand the fact that they have to prepare themselves for a better future. Since, our mother Earth is getting depleted of some vital natural resources, the people of today need to plan and work towards the betterment of the future generations.

The burning issue of today's world is conservation of water. Scientists are even predicting that by 2050 people might have to start counting the glasses of water to be consumed by each individual. People would only be allowed a certain amount of water to be used for household chores. With the depletion of the ozone layer the necessity of water would increase more and more. True education would be when the people of today realize this grim situation and work towards avoiding it and will not waste water. When people would understand the importance of this commodity and start saving water, rather than splurging it, that would be the day when the true education will start for a better future. The most recent instance that attracted the world's attention in this matter is the situation which Cape Town is in today. The warning bell for the world at large has rung.

Scientists are predicting that around year 2050, the quality of air would be so polluted that people would have to use oxygen masks to go outdoors. In cities like Hong Kong and Delhi, the rise in the pollution levels is extremely alarming. If people will not realize this grave problem in time, then the time would soon see them in the graves.....that is, if there is place left for graves! There are but a handful of researchers who are struggling to discover the solutions to utilise these pollutants for better causes. But there is a huge gap before they

succeed in implementing them. The right kind of education would be to support these people and also to teach others, to convert the negativities of the environment to positives.

Across the world, food is being wasted in tons every day, whereas on the other hand there are deaths mounting up every day due to hunger, in the same world. Are we not educated enough to do the proper division of these food resources amongst people? In my view, knowledge and working towards it would be the education for a fairer tomorrow.

Social inequality has still not left the world and this is a really perturbing fact. Social inequality has already led to many problems. For example the apartheid system in South Africa had caused a lot of trouble for people. Blacks had been secluded from the Whites in all the possible ways.

Reforms are yet to be ideated to empower the women of today. In most of the Islamic countries, girls are not allowed to attain education, women cannot roam around without covering their entire body, they cannot swim in public swimming pools. Whereas, in most of the other countries all the women are allowed to study, they are free to dress up in whichever way they want to. This difference in mind sets is the result of one society being educated and the other, well not so educated. Why should there be differences amongst people; if women in one part of the world have the right to dress in whichever way they want, so should the women in another part of the world! All of this is because of the narrowness in the minds of people in some countries.

The way Kim Jong Un is conducting nuclear missile tests is appalling, he is a threat to the world! The way he is governing North Korea is distressful, it is like a nightmare! The Constitution of North Korea states that the country is "Democratic"; it is true that there are elections held every five years but, with the name of one leader on the ballot paper, isn't that intriguing! It even gives the citizens the "Freedom of Speech and Expression" but all the domestic media outlets are owned by the one-party state and no reporting is allowed that isn't sanctioned by the government. This means that the websites owned by the country's government are the only ones that are operational, and the reason for this is because the government doesn't want any information to be leaked through any other sources.

People like Kim Jong Un and leaders of Muslim countries are well educated but they are not contributing to a fairer future because they are using their knowledge in an inappropriate manner in other words, they are using it exclusively for self-betterment.

On the other hand there is uneducated youth scattered across the world resorting to crime and corruption, putting the whole world in distress. Education should be utilized for the betterment, reform and upliftment of the society on the whole. Its aim is not subjective but very objective.

We have been blessed to have had people like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela in this world, who tried to spread their message of peace and equality amongst everyone. Are we trying to follow their path? This is a question we all must ask ourselves. To follow their path, the education of today needs to be reformative and experimental.

What does education truly mean? Does it mean studying in the best school or getting an umpteen amount of degrees? No it doesn't. In this fast paced world, people have forgotten the true meaning of education. It actually means to attain knowledge which can be used for the betterment of an individual and the nation. Nowadays, the scenario is that learning is no longer a priority it is just a survival in this cutthroat competitive

world. Education should be aimed at self- knowledge and making us better individuals, people will become open- minded and flexible to new ideas, it is not only about the course books, it is even about actually learning and implementing new ideas.

It has been stated in the ancient Vedas as well about '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbkum*' meaning the World is One Big Family, We are told that the world is one big family at international platforms but are we encouraging people to do so in the institutions, schools and the work place? The answer is 'No'. I believe that this can only be accomplished through education as it helps in spreading this message across the globe. We are not citizens of a certain country, we are global citizens.

In a shrinking world, it is not enough nowadays to think of only one's country. Hence the purpose of education must also be to contribute to the world. In this too there is much scope. The purpose of education must be to instill in all that there is only one world; artificially divided by countries and borders. Men and women must begin to feel that they owe something to the world and that they must do their utmost to make it a better place. Education leads to a fairer future by reducing poverty and with it comes knowledge, power, safety, security which helps in harmony and brotherhood thus helping in attaining world peace.

If the purpose of education does not include contributions to the country and to the world, then education becomes mostly purposeless. This reform has to start at the grass root level i.e. in the schools of each city, country and in the whole world. Each child should be given a larger picture of the society as a whole so that he or she can make contributions towards a fairer future!

When this happens we will be truly be educated, *the world will not be broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls*, but would be a march towards a new dawn.