

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

**Category: Senior  
AWARD: BRONZE**

**“How does Education contribute to a fairer future?”**

*Prachi Rana, XI E*

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”,* said Nelson Mandela.

In my opinion, “A good education is the foundation for a better future”. I believe a good, challenging education is a fundamental part of a person’s life. Education contributes to a peaceful and a safe future by grooming an entire generation in terms of etiquette and emotions. Education creates awareness among the present and future generation from which springs the knowledge to question the facts, there arises wisdom from which great thinkers and scholars are born. Education provides courage; it imparts discipline, devotion and diligence. It teaches patience. Through this an entire generation is filled with wisdom, which will create a safer environment for them.

Well these are my views but it depends on what you mean by education. So far the answers have been “typical” not really thinking outside the box.

For most people, education opens up doors and opportunities. But for others, going into their own business and doing other trades is a key. We all have to find our joys, our interests, and what we do brings satisfaction, even if it means a few not-so-great jobs to make an entrance into the highly-profiled job we really want to achieve.

There is the typical school education...good grades in school, then college or university, a masters or PhD and then...and that’s the big question. Today a degree will not get you automatically a good or great Job! 30 years ago probably, but these days, there is no assurance.

Everybody these days knows what to do if they want to (told by their parents most of the time...) become a Doctor, Engineer, Professor, Lawyer etc. It’s easy to explain for most people! Good grades...etc.

How would you explain to someone how to become an Entrepreneur if asked? Is it not a dream for most people to become their own boss, to own their own company? I believe it is.

Most people would not know how to answer that question. Why?

Our society has these crazy values about people. If you have a degree then you are smart and have earned a reputed place in society.

Well the question remains if these “values” are still in place and have the same meaning as 30–50 years ago?

Today it’s all about fast money. People do not want to work hard, they just want to chill and have the good time. Well that reflects what is going on with most Governments today. Incapable to handle their politics! Most countries are in huge debts!! Why and to whom do we ‘the people’ owe this money to?

Since the gold standard fell under President Nixon, the US and many other countries are printing paper money like crazy. The problem is there is nothing that holds or backs up the value of it. So eventually this money will flood the market! It happened before and it will happen again!

Here in the Philippines, a 3rd world country, the educational level for the majority of people is extremely Low! Meaning that over 50 Million people are poor, but not only do they have no electricity, no fridge etc. but the educational level for many of those is that they did not even finish grade 3 in public school, which is free. So what does their future look like? Not much, it's a basic daily survival each day. A bowl of rice, a bit of salt for the taste and that's it!

Having 5–15 kids is a blessing and not having enough food, clothing, medicine for them is Ok, or let's says accepted and normal...education is not a must but going to church is.

A country that has been so corrupt where most politicians enjoy living like Kings, about 20 dynasty families controls the entire country. Leaving the country as Oversees Foreign Workers to earn enough to feed their (lazy and uneducated) family and come back home has become "NORMAL" for most of these families. The government makes small fortune out of this modern slavery, since most of the OFW are deployed to Saudi Arabia and work as Domestic Helpers for around \$ 3–400 a month salary. And that's a small fortune for these families in the Philippines, considering that most make around \$100 a month. This is mostly the case for people living in provinces. In metro manila, called the gates of hell, where around 10–12 million people live, life is a bit different.

The problems remain and are not likely to be solved soon, since the government makes a lot of money from these OFW or Oversees Foreign Workers! WHY? Because they go through a ridicules process, where every government agency makes money before they can leave. Endless documents and papers, permissions, medical exams etc. makes it a huge business for these Philippine Overseas Employment Administration accredited Manpower agencies who are just exploiting the uneducated young people.

And I guess they keep on multiplying like rabbits, since these Oversees Foreign Workers are just about the only export for the Philippines, so it's their only real income for real money for this corrupt Government! \$30–35 Billion US are transferred by OFW to the Philippines every year.

So education is extremely important, but not the physics course you had or I will have in grade 11–12, or the economics course, but the education about life, money, relationships, friendship, honor, etc.

Education on a level is that we will be a peaceful and loving society without waging wars and living in peace and harmony. Is this a Dream? No, it will become reality...someday. Until then I will try to help as many people as I can by donating my old books and by many other options.

As for fairness, for some, it seems the more education, the enormous leverage into the workplace a person would possess. For some people who are like today's politicians, they also have found corrupt in education.

But Education does not mean that everybody will study the same thing.....

Education means everybody will study what they want In order to be Successful!

For fairness, the more education means more people able to employ critical thinking skills to discerning fact from fiction, not hindered by ideology; they would be able to be well versed in history and the sciences to understand trends and behaviors, statistics, economy and even different cultures and traditions. More education equates to more capacity at understanding yourself, your motherland, your world, and to be objective in your presentation and assessments. Education has been called "the great equalizer" because, in a modern, open society, we have started toward a meritocracy, where people are measured by contributions and accomplishments. Normally, a student growing up in poor village which

is separated from a town or a city, or from poor neighborhoods, will have a very limited future. There isn't much local economy in these areas and transitioning out is difficult.

It is less stereotypes, less falling for manipulative rhetoric, less hate-mongering, because you would be able to identify the true causation and factors, than merely going the stupid way out and blaming a minority. That is the benefit of education and how it can bring fairness.

Bring on education; bring on a more humanistic approach to the world. We might just gain world peace if we do it right.

So then what?

I feel like I have a satisfying life, based on what I see as nurturing my natural instincts and adding what I am getting from continuing education. From what I have seen of my neighbors, many women are drawn to gardening and the fabric paintings, which make sense considering our evolutionary path. So I garden and make fabric paintings. I learn them not at school, but in my own learning with passion, I have added both to my daily curriculum.

I have an intellectual side too that I nurture. I took several foreign languages in school up to Grade 10, and have tried to get more fluency and to add others. This has not been easy since I don't travel much, but it has been quite fun. I write diary entries for pleasure, play guitar in a tiny local orchestra, and make sketches in a probably vain dream to someday sell enough to have a steady income stream. These pursuits don't come in a straight line from my education, but I feel as though the habits of precise thought and reliance on evidence do. I will not be as focused, happy, or effective if I am not educated and deprive of self-education.

Jim Rohn has said "Formal education will make you a living; Self-Education will make you a fortune."

My vision for the future of public education: all students, regardless of social status, race, religion, gender, or minority, have equal opportunity to pursue a high quality education.