

A DIFFERENT KIND OF EDUCATION

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Abstract: *This work contains the onset of a very effective subject in the pedagogy of nowadays. There are so many ways and alternatives of education in the 21st century that is so hard to decide which one is the most proper. Any kind of instructing that follows the interests of the child is the best way to educate. The society has also a great word to say when it comes to this theme. Building the future correctly means raising a strong generation that is always ready to stand up for itself and its beliefs.*

Key words: *education, outdoor learning, different, borders, society, future, imagination, experiencing.*

Education has been an often debated subject since ancient times. No matter how it was defined it always had the child in its central point. From the beginning of the times, there has always been a concern referring to the child's best interests, to make a better world through education, to build the future on the most solid bases, as well as possible. It all started with the instruction throughout family and continued with the one in the formal environment. To educate means to prepare the individuals for the future life in a group. Therefore, it came the need of healthy members of a healthy society, both mentally and physically. The society understood this need and came with a helpful hand in order to maintain balance and to build a world that can offer a proper environment for the development of the child.

A lot of time has passed since then but our modern society is still concerned to discover and offer the best ways of education still for the same purposes. To educate has to be a matter not just for experts in education, for teachers or for parents, it has to be an issue for all individuals and members of the society. There are so many books and articles, brochures and leaflets of how to do it, when and where. So many ideas, ways and styles that can be

used to educate, but still a single goal: the child. When we think of education, we often have the image and idea of an institution where there are lots of pupils and a person in front of them, eventually giving them information. But in the modern times there are so many sources of information, so many places and ways a child can get informed that the idea of the teacher staying in the front of its class and dictating empty sentences that pupils have to memorize and then reproduce by heart it's long forgotten. Or this is how it should be. The purpose of modern education is to show kids the way they can learn, but not necessarily by cumulating knowledge but also by living, experiencing, trying, adventuring, tasting, feeling and discovering life, but real life exactly as it is.

Modern education should not create a perfect image of our world but show children the real universe with its good parts and its flaws. A twenty first century child should be able to face life and its struggles, to be brave enough to ask questions, to be curious enough to search for answers, happy enough to follow his own path even if it is different from what he had encountered before, to be adventurous enough to walk on roads never walked before. The modern society does not need people who are insecure and never know where to go but on the contrary, individuals that are strong in mind and heart, who trust themselves because they know themselves and they are sure of what they want to become and where they want to be.

When we think of a different kind of education, the first thing that comes in our mind is to make changes. Teachers often complain that they do not have enough resources to educate and there is also the problem of financials that has to be discussed. People often think of big changes that need a lot of time to be valid. They think of massive changes in the curriculum and start with the doubt that this change is ever going to happen. The only thing that human beings do not see when it comes to education is that nature and human nature has already given them every single thing they need to bring out what is best in every single child.

Considering the fact that every child has its personality we need an education that is focused on the individual. If we build up a system that is preoccupied of developing and building every child's personality in its own pace, then half of the war against the institutional education is half won. Every parent has the desire to offer the best learning system they can to their children, but what it is to be done when they have to face a system they do not believe in and the types of education that seem to be different are too hard to reach? They end up by indulging themselves in the solutions offered by the society. This is the first wrong step that people do, cutting the wings of brave little birds willing to fly and start their lives properly. Day by day, the same society that once wanted to create perfect individuals now does

exactly the reverse, by wanting individuals who can be easily manipulated and led. This is why more and more children become sad and bored with a lack of creativity and imagination not knowing what they want in life, living someone else's dreams. Unfortunately in the future this is the kind of individuals who are going to rule our society and fulfill the needs of our modern world. At this point the main purpose of education is already lost. The question is what can we do to avoid this dangerous circle of cause-effect? The answer is going back to the idea that I have pointed out earlier. It is all about getting back to the roots. Showing the children how to use what is already built in their mind, soul and body, what nature has given them. The only duty of a real teacher is to help children discover and use what they already have. To help them find and follow the direction they feel attracted to, to develop their abilities, to bravely follow their dreams and build up a future they feel they have to build, doing the things they like, want, feel attracted to.

A different kind of education should observe and treat every member of it in order to be able to help them find their way offering them a personalized instruction, counseling, attention and not lastly love.

From the very first time when it came to theoretical ideas everything was fine but the difficulties appeared when the theory had to be practiced. We are facing the same issue here and now. Why is it so hard when we have all the resources we need and the best experts in the world? What can teachers do in class to practice everything they have learned?

First of all it is time to give up on all misconceptions. The only thing that matters here and now is the child and its needs today. They should start with the optimistic idea that they will succeed no matter what. The power of the positive thinking will automatically transfer to the children. If a child is told that he can do whatever he wants the results will get better and better. It is very important to emphasize the positive aspects of a child's behavior instead of the negative ones because this way the individual will want to repeat a certain behavior in order to be appreciated. It is as simple as this. Even if it seems like with one flower we cannot bring the spring, we will be surprised to find out that little changes can lead to huge reforms. Family is the first place where children can leave their imprint. Even uneducated parents can be reinstructed in a positive way by following the behavior of their children.

Another step is to break out from the usual pattern and let our imagination free regarding education. This can be done by teaching the children to be their own teachers. This means letting them find their way in their own time and in their own place. Establishing borders is not a proper

way of education. And neither is giving them everything on the spot. Helping them in everything and answering their questions is a smart way to offer them directions worthy to take into account.

A different education means being practical all the time, in all situations, not only as teachers but also as individuals. Being practical means not being afraid of using all our senses to explore the world that surrounds us. It is the same for children. Confucius has a famous quote about how we can teach differently: "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." I think that no further comment is necessary. This means I will have to forget everything about how to do things and let nature follow its course. It is not a problem to get dirty hands and clothes in the classroom and outside if this leads to a new phase in the development of the child. It is not an issue to touch, use "dangerous" instruments, try out new things and explore if you bring a smile on the child's face, if at the end of the day the child can show up something, feels that he has an accomplishment or is thankful for being a step ahead.

Changing the scene should never represent a problem. Using nature should always be the first choice. There have been researches done lately about children's preferences regarding the instruments used in education and gaming. The results were astonishing and should be a signal for all teachers or educational experts. It was clearly shown that children prefer nature and its elements instead of using prefabricated toys in their gaming. Even in the most fitted classrooms or yards we can see children using branches, pieces of wood, paper, stones, water, sand, bricks, ropes, leaves, sticks or other materials found in nature. Are not these facts enough for making changes from a theoretical education to a practical one considering the fact that this is what children prefer? Should not that be the most important thing, if we all say that we have a child based educational system? Let us take children out from the artificially illuminated boxes and move them outside, in the nature, where they can find themselves and their own instruments of gaming and why not learning. Outdoor learning and outdoor education come as useful instruments in order to emphasize the practical learning. Only a few hours of outdoor classes monthly used both for learning and gaming can bring a bonus to every educational system. There are so many activities that can help teachers to use outdoor learning as a connection between disciplines.

I have experienced parts of outdoor learning concept during my studies in Norway. It is well known that in Norway there is one of the best educational systems in the whole world. If they could implement this why not try to learn from the best? It can be weird in the beginning but the results are promising and satisfying. Some parents would definitely object this idea because taking kids out in nature, showing them surviving skills or life hacks

can be sometimes scary, but we are nature and we have nature and it is proven that the best type of education is done in nature, using nature.

These are only a few of the handy facts we can operate with either as teachers, parents or useful members of the society. Let us all get together and form brave, intelligent, passionate, loving human beings for a different world, always ready to stand up for themselves and for their beliefs.

The world is made of happy teachers, strong engineers, loving doctors, passionate artists, dreamers and makers, doers and believers, singers and dancers, lovely people who try to follow their dreams, to chase their future, to make the world a better place. These are the children that need to be educated, observed, directed, loved and appreciated. Every single soul is a future teacher, doctor, dancer, artist, engineer and so on. That is how we should see every one of them.

A different kind of education? After all it has never been about a different kind of education but about the right kind of education. Every kind of education that has the child in its center is the right kind of education.

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