YOUTH CORNER

A Lesson Students Must Learn

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The education system is flawed. It has failed to teach students how to sustain the Earth's resources and failed to teach students how to care for the Earth, which just happens to be their home. The education system is failing our world now and in the future. It is time we step back and assess the core problems in society, because as humans it is our job to protect our home.

Proper education for children is the key for our community to thrive because these children will be the future leaders of our world. How could we expect our world to be better if we are not teaching students what they need to know to improve the world? The only way we can upgrade the quality of our future leaders is to upgrade our education system. And by upgrade, I don't mean only providing students with the same privileges as everyone else; I mean teaching students about self-efficiency, problem-solving, and how to properly nurture our world with a deep level of care.

The youth is our future, this is guaranteed. So why do we continue destroying the future? Our education system is being solely corrupted by profit and arrogance instead of focusing on the child's education. Children are not program-based robots, they are humans who are given the important task of caring for our earth, and this can only be improved if the education system is improved as well.

One of the major problems in the education system is the lack of attention brought to people with disabilities or differences in learning styles. Some people in society often define a learning disability as ADHD or even label a slow reader with dyslexia. Students are even being held back unfairly simply because they learn differently. Although these learning disabilities cannot be completely cured, we can still provide them with proper support so they can succeed in not only school but in life. This brings up the next problem, which is the "set-up". Schools and people in charge of developing the education system rarely care if the child succeeds; they simply don't care if we make it or not. They make us feel like we failed for life. Do we want our future generations to have this corrupted mindset at such a young age? Aside from differences in learning, students are suffering from depression, anxiety, stress, and even suicide due to academic stress. And the cause of this academic stress is simply the education system. Students, unfortunately, develop these conditions at such a young age, corrupting their dreams, goals, and passions. Having these three things in life is crucial for people to make the world sustainable and a better place. Without proper education and proper care for the student's mental and physical health, these dreams, goals, and passions will simply disappear due to the education system engraving the word "failure" into these young minds. How will our world be able to improve if students are essentially being taught that they are a failure unless they are able to surpass all the standards of the education system? This is simply a chain reaction. If students are not given proper learning opportunities and genuine

education, then our future will not improve for the better. This might seem like a small thing now, but in 20 years these students who are being heavily corrupted and discouraged by the education system will carry these aspects with them for the future. We need to work to help piece back the puzzle pieces of the system because this is the first step to achieving a high quality of life.

Now that we have assessed the core problem rather than pretending everything is fine, we can come up with a solution. This problem will be solved if we include ways to improve sustainability in our education. Knowing what all the presidents did, knowing how to multiply 3-digit numbers mentally, and knowing how photosynthesis works are important, although learning how to improve our planet is truly a skill that young students must learn! If taught properly, this knowledge will carry with these children for the future therefore they can make their mark and help us grow. Learning how to improve our planet will not only teach students about energy waste, air pollution, reducing, and recycling, but also how to be self-sufficient, how to problem-solve, and how to be efficient and effective daily. How do we get all of that done?

1) By teaching students about social and economic advancements and the environmental impact these developments have.
2) By teaching students about the dangers of pollution and climate change.
3) By using our resources more smartly.

More attention needs to be brought to teaching students about social advancements, economic developments, and environmental factors. We need to help our environment and ecosystem stay in balance for us to live happily in this world. The current generation is constantly surrounded by technology and other advancements, and it is this generation who can use these advantages that others may see as dangerous, to our favor. We have the power to make change faster through how much humans have learned and evolved, although nothing can be completed unless we are taught about sustainability and the connections it has to a human's existence.

People are always saying our generation is a lost cause, although I see our generation as a new group of individuals who can and will help further grow our earth smartly and safely. All we need is a real and honest education on this topic that has been in hiding for many years. Teaching students about the dangers to the environment such as pollution and climate change, not only will affect the development of the atmosphere but the development of humans as well. Just by simply learning the basics of the dangers of pollution, climate change, and toxic resources in our world, students will begin to stimulate an interest in maintaining a healthy environment. As humans, we need clean air to breathe, but through these toxic habits society has adopted too, we are infusing our bodies with toxins that can severely harm us and our future generations' physical health as well. Our health is the direct result of the environment's status, and it is about time children are aware of this.

The smarter we use resources and understand the problem and solution behind current world problems, the more we will help our world become sustainable.

Students must learn the value of our natural resources, not just what they are. We know water, sunlight, minerals, and air are natural resources, but have students learned how to properly protect these natural resources and use them to improve the lives of humans? We need to create quality communities and learn about ways to support our natural environment permanently. What are the chances students know that LED bulbs consume less electricity than regular light bulbs, that car gas releases 1.7 kg of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for every 10 kilometers, or the number of benefits eco-friendly products do to the environment, or even how covering the pot of the stove with a lid when cooking can save up to 25% of energy? These are very specific, but students must be able to think critically about these daily tasks in life and think of ways to improve their tasks while helping our community. We need students to start thinking about their actions at a young age so their future will be filled with new, effective ways of sustainability. We need to start thinking smarter, not just for us, but for the people who will come after us.

Students are not simply programmed robots to follow the same course as the past generations. It is our job to implement those skills and to help the community and world grow into a better place to live for all. And this can only be achieved through improving our educational system and providing real learning to our future leaders, rather than treating children like programmed robots. I cannot stress enough the importance of incorporating the education of sustainability into a child's learning course. The amount of benefits that would   follow will truly

help develop and shape communities that our homes and earth will thrive on. This by any means is not a small task. In fact, it will take decades upon decades with millions of people collaborating, but with proper early education, this goal will become a reality. This simply is not a project where every country is by itself. This is a project in which everyone can join forces on a project in which everyone can have the same goal. However, this goal can only be created if the youth are aware of how much a human's role can harm or change their world.

It is the future generations' role to acknowledge the stereotypes and choose whether to follow them or not. And these decisions can only be made properly with genuine and raw education on how our world works.I am not blaming students. I am not blaming teachers. I am not blaming adults.

My sole goal and purpose is to bring attention to the core reason why our world is not improving as much as it could. This starts with educating the youth, and we must know how much humans need to care for the earth, we need to learn what helps and harms the earth, and we need to know our responsibilities on this earth are not only to make money, but to help our present and future be a healthier, safer, and a sustainable place to live in. It is the youths' responsibility to create a better world for us without destroying it first. Students must be aware that they can make changes. They have the power to provide greater opportunities for humans and the planet, we just need the courage to make this change. Earth gave us all a home, and in return, we must protect it; this is a lesson all students must learn.