

Tapping the Potential for Wisdom Inherent in Humankind

How to Salvage the World from Educational Bankruptcy

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The greatest disease that plagues mankind now, a terminal illness that is hardest to cure, is not AIDS or cancer. It is the painful situation of worldwide educational bankruptcy and the complete degeneration of moral standards. Think it over. If the educational system were healthy, everyone would abide by the law and honor moral precepts. There would not be such an abundance of poisons which undermine the innate goodness in people's minds. The reason that people's conscience and innate knowledge are lost is because of educational bankruptcy and moral degeneration. Nowadays, scholars do not act like scholars, teachers do not act like teachers, and students do not act like students. As the saying goes, "They try to stop water from boiling by stirring it, without turning off the fire beneath the pot."

What's meant by "trying to stop water from boiling by stirring it"? For example, young men and women don't restrain themselves, but give free rein to their sexual desire. And yet they are afraid of having children, so they use contraceptives or take the pill. That is called "trying to stop water from boiling by stirring it." It is a method which only provides temporary relief but no long-lasting cure to the problem.

On the other hand, what's meant by "turning off the fire beneath the pot"? It means female students should respect themselves and remain pure, and male students should aspire to honesty and uprightness. Young people should not engage in promiscuous behavior. Before they are physically and emotionally mature, they should not become involved with members of the opposite sex. And even after they come to maturity, they should be patient and wait until they are formally married. That way students will have no reason to resort to abortions or to use contraceptives.

By turning off the flame, the water will naturally cool. If we do not remove the flame, it is impossible to cool the water. Most educational institutions are aware of this principle, and yet they refuse to deal with the problem at the source. Because young men and women engage in loose behavior before they marry, after they get married they also quickly get divorced. Very often a child from such a union does not even know who is its father and who is its mother. Such children are unwanted and do not experience the warmth and support of a healthy home life. They have no concept of their social obligations. Typically, a child may stay three days with his father and four days with his mother. The father feeds him with poison, saying, "Why did I divorce your mother? Because she is a flirt, and she is rotten..." And when the child visits with his mother, the mother says to him, "Your father is the worst kind of person in the world, That's why I divorced him!"

The child is pumped full of feelings of resentment and enmity. In addition, the father brings his girlfriend back home and pays no attention to his child. The mother brings her boyfriend back home and neglects the child. Such children feel totally alienated and quickly become troubled. Filled with hate, rage, and depression, they grow up to become maladjusted and unruly adults. They follow the bad example of their parents. Since there is no education in the family to speak of, school teachers are not able to work together with the family to create a supportive environment in which to raise the child. When such children arrive at school, they are often angry and hostile, and vent their anger on their teachers. Worse still, some teachers teach their students new ways to be bad. As a result, the number of delinquent youths is daily on the rise.

If we wish to salvage this deplorable situation, we must start from the basics. Before men and women are fully mature, they should abstain from sexual activity. Young people are like tender sprouts. If you pull out the sprouts before they have ripened, take those seeds and plant them in the soil, the next batch of crops will become dry and shrivelled. Likewise, if young people who are themselves not fully developed give birth to children, their children will not be strong, robust, and intelligent. The situation gets worse as this pattern is perpetuated generation after generation. As the quality of the human species declines, people become more and more stupid. Ultimately, this could lead to the destruction of the country and wipe out the entire human race.

Therefore, young people should abstain from sexual activity until they are fully mature. After they are fully grown, they can marry legally. They should never divorce or have abortions. In view of the population explosion of recent decades, every couple should be allowed to have two children but not more. If America can be a leader in this movement and call out to other countries, other countries will respond and adopt this method. As the saying goes, "You should mend the roof before it rains. Don't wait till you are thirsty to dig a well." We should view the world situation in a large and far-reaching perspective. The method I have just brought up is a way of preventing a universal calamity.

After parents give birth to their children, they should do a good job of raising them. They should teach their children to cherish their bodies, their families, society, and country. Parents should never let their offspring develop freely without exercising any form of discipline or moral constraint. If they insist that this is freedom, then they have completely misunderstood freedom. At best such parents are abusing freedom. Children should not be allowed to watch television if it interferes with their school work. Nowadays, television programs are laden with violence and pornography, which stunt the development of children's intelligence, wipe out their innate potential for goodness, and turn them towards crime. To counteract these problems, parents and teachers should work together to administer a sound ethical program that teaches young people to cherish their bodies, respect their parents and elders, and bring forth the genuine wish to serve society and mankind. That way, we might still have a chance of reversing the tide of adversity that is upon us. Otherwise, we will be swallowed up by a wave of madness that will obliterate the entire human race.