THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

FOR

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Albert Einstein said, “Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.” There are two points that can be made about this quote:

* If you are educated then you will know that Albert Einstein is one of the great geniuses of the twentieth century
* If you didn’t know that, you might begin to understand the importance of having an education.

Every day at every turn each person has the opportunity to learn. Why is it so important to be **educated**? What is the difference? The organization Global Partnership for Education offers this distinction when looking at the BIG picture of how having an education has significance for civilization:

“Education is more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is one of the most important investments a country can make in its people and its future, and is critical to reducing poverty and inequality. If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.”

Learning involves the fundamentals… the basics… the building blocks needed in order to process, absorb, retain and synthesize data and convert it into knowledge gathered from obtaining an education. As a person or community or society is exposed to education, the opportunity to emerge from darkness is present. The chance to learn about issues that affect all of us becomes clearer, and the mandate to evolve as a society can be addressed. Education is THE critical component in the process of identifying issues and finding solutions through creative and informed problem solving.

In terms of impact on global levels, education is the first line of defense against ignorance, poverty, disease, and stagnation. Having an education encourages self-sufficiency, economic progress, technological, medical and societal advancement, and the ability to connect with and relate to fellow man in communities throughout the world.

Organizations like the Global Partnership for Education focus on bringing education to marginalized areas around the world in order to fight illiteracy, disease, poverty, geographical isolation, and gender based violence to name a few areas of concentration, but we have to think of the importance of education to our lives, our communities, and our future.

It is as a direct result of having an education that people are more aware of the world around them; the problems like hunger, poverty, social injustice, technological challenges, medical mysteries are discovered. It is through the acquisition of higher education- college, university, advanced educational degrees like PhD, MD, JD, MBA, that people can work to solve the mysteries that are presented as civilization advances.

In the years before the Industrial Revolution, life was simpler, and it was even simpler before that. The bulk of existence relied on an agrarian culture, one that was based in farming for survival. Once the concept of machine production was introduced, new problems…. or opportunities, presented themselves to society. Machine parts had to be designed and built. Factories were constructed to house the machinery. People had to be trained… or educated to run the machines and produce the product. Housing needed to be designed and built to accommodate swelling populations and cities cropped up out of the need to live, work, learn, worship, shop, and do business near the factories. Medical advances needed to be made in order to treat the new conditions and diseases that developed in the Industrial Era. Society has evolved **QUANTOMLY** in the past one hundred and fifty or so years since the industrial revolution and with every succeeding generation the need becomes increasing apparent that higher education is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity. It is no longer possible to find a place in the world without the foundation of a quality education and the quality of the education received by any individual is predicated on the genuine interest and willingness to learn demonstrated by each individual. Every day new industries are being formed based on discoveries and innovations realized and with each new discovery come new sets of questions, issues, and problems that need to be addressed. Response to those puzzles require…. yes… an education.

No sector of society is exempt from the need of education and continuing education. The average life expectancy of a person living in the United Kingdom in 1818 was less than 41 years of age. In 2009 the average age was over 80 years old. Developing nations have shown even more dramatic increases. In 1881, there was rarely an example of an elderly person in India. People died on average at around twenty-five years of age. Life expectancy in India in 2009 was closer to sixty-five years old. These points indicate the importance of having an education and being informed in order to advance communities, society and mankind as a whole.

Prior to the mid-20th century development of the space program, interplanetary travel was truly science fiction. Now thanks to technology…. and thanks to massive amounts of research based on education, there is a manned International Space Station and we can all follow its progress on Instagram!! Scientists have also discovered water on Mars meaning that the possibility of life on that planet exists. None of these discoveries would have even been fathomable without constant replenishing and advancement of knowledge and experimentation through the use of valuable lessons gained through the course of obtaining an education.

Having an education truly is the foundation of life and the future. The publisher Malcolm Forbes said, “The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.” Every day that we live the need for advanced knowledge becomes more and more apparent. The eminent filmmaker and cinematographer Conrad Hall said, “You are always a student, never a master. You have to keep moving forward.” And Benjamin Franklin teaches us, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

When thinking about the question “What is the importance of education?” it’s difficult to give a simple response because its answer lies deep within our souls. The need for education is ingrained in each one of us. As members of the human race it is our function to advance and to evolve. We as a society are kinetic. We are made from continuously moving parts that morph and adapt to new surroundings, opportunities, and problems. As society evolves, it will become even more obvious that the levels of education offered will evolve as well, and each of us will learn, adapt, and continue to face the challenges of the future.