

2010: Education for Change

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The tendency of things to advance from a lower to a higher level and from a high to an even higher level is still the true and deep nature of a change process. Reality exists in order for human beings to experience it, and by experiencing it they acquire knowledge and increase their wisdom. This is a complex venture of formal and informal education.

Education is another word for constructive progress and prosperity. Thus, every educational venture is concerning evolution, growth, development and change. Yes, education signifies perpetual and purposeful change, a change that produces constructive results. Education means the real modification of the hearts and minds of human beings by formal and disciplined experience, which always constitutes a change endeavor, and such modification is progress.

For this coming year 2010, we have to come to terms with the fact that CHANGE IS ALWAYS BEFORE US. Nothing will escape this reality. We cannot say of any being, object or organization – “This will remain as it is”, for even while we are saying it, the being, object or organization is undergoing change.

Sadness and suffering accompany this change. The human being mourns very often for that which has departed and for the things which are lost and gone. Yet in reality, change is good because it is the open door to all achievements, advancements and perfections. We can prefer the dream and projects for the future to the histories of the past.

Education is about cultivating the mind with profound scholarship and systematic studies. There is no substitute for formal education. Competitive countries, organizations and people are quickly recognizing this empirical fact. Educating for better judgment is also subject to change. Every educational or university course, every thought process and every deed changes a human being. There is little resemblance between the old man and his period of childhood and youth. When this is the case, unfortunately we

are facing some kind of stagnation. A human being not subject to change would be a being outside of progress.

The well- educated human being avoids opinions, speculations or gossips of his / her own or others, and is wise enough to come to term with the changing realities of life. The wise man or woman passes through birth, growth and old age; he or she experiences sin, sickness and death; he or she suffers, studies, learns, aspires and rejoices; and he or she is always looking forward to greater purity and striving toward quality, excellence and perfection.

If human beings were already perfect, there wouldn't be a need for them to be redeemed and perfected! Formal education would have been useless and ridiculous. If human beings could never attain quality, nor excellence and perfection, their aspirations and strivings would have no meaning.

The philosophical and very practical point is that human beings are imperfect, yet capable of growth, development, progress and prosperity by means of formal and informal educational experiences. Without the opportunity of a profound educational experience, there is no significant formal knowledge and without relevant knowledge there is no dramatic change with marked effects.

Change is not only inevitable, but it is also constant and unvarying law: Without it, everything would always remain as it is; therefore, it could neither be growth nor progress. Countries, organizations and people should work hard to understand, plan, implement and consolidate change. When striving to understand change the challenge is to establish why change, understanding its causes and sources plus categorizing the types of change that can be pursue.

Planning for change includes focusing on goals, identifying performance or execution requirements, selecting essential actions, assessing complexity, involving people, selecting a timescale, making plans, anticipating effects and resistance and practicing with pilot projects. Implementing change is about improving communication, assigning concrete responsibility, developing commitment, changing the work culture and creating the conditions for delivering results.

Consolidating change is based on tough monitoring, reviewing or adjusting assumptions, maintaining momentum, and overall building on the achieved progress.

The strenuous struggle of all life, including that of organizational development, is the quest for improvement and perfection. The looking upward of people is evidence of their ceaseless ascension.

Aspirations, correct ambition, ideals and morals aim, while denoting the humankind imperfection, assuredly point to their potential future of perfection.

Whatever the complexities of the times, we are all found in the stream of life, where decisions have to be made and opportunities have to be identified. We must think, and think hard, we must act, and act with tenacity. To think and act with a solid foundation is to experience reality. To experience reality is to learn, change and develop.

We can all aim to Heaven; we are all pilgrims in the land of error. However, if we work hard, without weakening our purpose, we will at last come to the beautiful city of Truth. This is the road and the journey of the well-educated practitioner.

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