

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH

by:

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It may be considered cliché “the Youth is the hope of our fatherland” but they actually are... So how should a child be trained, so he could have a sense of direction and become one of the hopes of this country?

Empowering the youth can be attained through educating our children. The belief in education is so strong, it is considered as the answer to all our problems, education begins at home, in school, and the community.

Educating our children depend so much on our parents and teachers. The school is just there to assist the children in their needs and not to be solely held responsible for educating them.

Winston Churchill several decades ago, as quoted by Alvin Toffler in the book Powershift predicted that “Empires of the future are empires of the mind”, the advent of the age of information technology is slowly but formidably proving that both Churchill and Toffler were right. These men insisted that the very nature of power itself would shift towards information and knowledge.

There is no stopping global development, in this emerging new world. It can only be met and welcomed with new ways of learning. Both thinking and learning must be equal to the challenges and opportunities of the unfolding global village: visionary, dynamic, creative, liberating, and transformative.

The youth are the instrument towards achieving the vision of youth empowerment. They just probably do not realize that they are luckier by far than adults,

because they have what adults that do not have. And these are laughter, fantasy, spontaneity, acceptance, and trust. These are important requirements in educating oneself.

Childhood carries with it a certain sense of freedom. Kids do not have to worry about putting food on the table or paying the bills. Kids may have to work at getting their homework in on time, but it is not a matter of life and death. It is simply a matter of lower grades.

But childhood freedom from responsibility means less freedom in other areas. As the saying goes, “with privileges comes responsibility”. But the reverse also holds true, with responsibility comes privilege. The privileges that come along with adulthood have a price tag. Their price is their responsibility.

Responsibility is more than providing our children with the material things they need. Responsibility means keeping your promises, even the unspoken ones, and if for some reason you fail to fulfill a promise you take full responsibility.

According to some authors parenting can be the most delightful, most marvelous experience one can ever have, yet, unfortunately, it can also be the most challenging and sometimes frustrating for adults who fail to accomplish expectations.

Bear in mind that the greatest influence we could have on our children comes not from what we say but from how we live our lives.

We must make our children proud national citizens, competent, confident, creative, and appreciative of their native culture, and history. And be responsible, and yet we must also have to make our children global citizens – competitive, productive, forward-looking, pioneering, and cognizant of the intricate demands of international exchange in all fields of social activity.

We must prepare our children for a bright new world, we must help them become masters, not persons but of themselves and their destinies.

References:

Empowering Youth to Change Their World: Identifying Key Components of a Community Service Program to Promote Positive Development

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/223170987_Empowering_Youth_to_Change_Their_World_Identifying_Key_Components_of_a_Community_Service_Program_to_Promote_Positive_Development