

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN BUILDING CHARACTER

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Education has played a key role in the improvement of civilization; great advances in science and technology have made human life more comfortable, progressive and exciting. But along with these improvements are different human problems such as poverty, squalor, squabbling, and even war. Something must be in the wind.

What has gone wrong? Or where did our educational system go wrong? What did it lack? Actually, the answer to these questions is not blowing in the wind. The answer is within our educational system itself, i.e., its significant role of building character. This is important in building a strong society with citizens, especially the youth, equipped with good social development.

Consider this. Our young people today have difficulty relating to other people. Why? According to the book *Child Rearing with Vision*, the reason why our young people cannot relate one-to-one with others because they are not taught this important skill. According to the article *Teach our Child to Be a People Person*, this kind of education must begin early in life. Certainly, the school, with the participation of the parents, has a vital role to play in this process. The mission of the school, and of course, the parents, is to produce a student who is people person.

It is also a gospel truth that education has the vital role of developing students with good character and morals. In their book *Israel's Final Holocaust*, Dr. Jack Van Impe and Roger F. Campbell wrote, "War seems unthinkable in this era of unparalleled education. One should think that the enlightened man would have forsaken such a barbaric practice. Yet the twentieth century, more than any other, has demonstrated that

full heads and empty hearts produce violence (emphasis, mine). General Douglas MacArthur said that the problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past 2000 years (emphasis, mine).

Yes, it is the development and improvement of human character should be the paramount goal of education, if we have to create a better world. The development and improvement of character is the foundation of a strong society. Sadly, our educational system has failed in accomplishing this sacred mission. Education may have produced savants in engineering, medical science, microbiology, chemistry, law, economics, industry and businesses, but it failed to develop in them human character that is attuned with God's laws.

It is therefore high time to renew and revitalize our educational system so that it can truly attain its true mission of developing good character that can create a strong nation. After all, that is the real role of education.

References: