



*The Importance
of Education*

Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent. Its acquisition is incumbent upon everyone.

—Bahá'u'lláh

Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.

—Bahá'u'lláh

The best gift from a father to his child is education and upbringing.

—*Muslim Hadith*

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

—*The Bible: Proverbs 3:13-14*

Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess, for in them are the promise and guarantee of the future. They bear the seeds of the character of future society which is largely shaped by what the adults constituting the community do or fail to do with respect to children. They are a trust no community can neglect with impunity. An all-embracing love of children, the manner of treating them, the quality of the attention shown them, the spirit of adult behavior toward them—these are all among the vital aspects of the requisite attitude.

—The Universal House of Justice

A child without
education is like a bird
without wings.

—*Tibetan proverb*





The education and training of children is among the most meritorious acts of humankind and draweth down the grace and favor of the All-Merciful, for education is the indispensable foundation of all human excellence and alloweth man to work his way to the heights of abiding glory.

—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

Wherefore, O ye loving mothers, know ye that in God's sight, the best of all ways to worship Him is to educate the children and train them in all the perfections of humankind; and no nobler deed than this can be imagined.

—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

—*Chinese proverb*

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—*Nelson Mandela*

Education is for
improving the lives of
others and for leaving your
community and world
better than you found it.

—Marian Wright Edelman



In the minds of many, the aim of education is limited to empowering the person to achieve material well-being and prosperity, with little regard for his or her responsibility towards others and humanity as a whole. Such a materialistic approach to education will continue to exacerbate the disparity between the wealthy few and the impoverished many—perpetuating the injustices of social stratification and contributing to the increasing instability in the world. If, however, material education goes hand in hand with spiritual education and moral development, it will be the means for ensuring the well-being and prosperity of humanity as a whole. Instead of emphasizing competition, education would do well, at this point in history, to foster the attitudes and skills necessary for cooperation; for the very survival of humankind now depends on our ability to cooperate and on our collective commitment to justice and human rights for all.

—Bahá'í International Community

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

—*Martin Luther King, Jr.*



When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts.

—*Dalai Lama*

To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.

—*Theodore Roosevelt*

Because every child stands in need of education, particularly in moral values, it is essential that education be provided for girl children, who will be the mothers and first educators of succeeding generations. Educating mothers is the most efficient way of ensuring that the benefits of education are diffused into society as a whole. Providing women and girls equal access to education will also make possible their full participation in society, which Bahá'ís believe will be the catalyst for the creation of a just society and the establishment of lasting peace in the world...

When all the benefits are taken into account, educating girls yields a higher rate of return than any other investment that can be made in the developing world.

—The Bahá'í International Community

A prayer to end with

O Thou kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness. O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity. O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness.

Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

—*'Abdu'l-Bahá*