



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—

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—

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—

...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—

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

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–

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

–Nelson Mandela–

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.

–Bahá'í International Community–

