THE CURRICULUM FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Onyango Chelsea Atieno
Strathmore School of Humanities And Social Sciences
Content

- What is wrong with curricula?
- Could character and values be the most important things to be learnt?
- Why curricula should be value- oriented and character- oriented.
- How will character and values eventually lead to better education and better world progress and development?
- Towards a better world.
Introduction

What really is the essence of education?
What is wrong with the bureaucratic system?
What is wrong with curricula world over?
What is Wrong with Curricula?

- Despite centuries of formal education we are still fighting high rates of:
  - poverty, inequality, suicide, prejudice, depression and divorce rates are on the rise among other issues
  - 1 person dies from suicide every 40 seconds (WHO)
  - Doctor-assisted suicides in Belgium
  - Can we say that curricula are development oriented?
What is Development?

- Development according to Amartya Sen:
  Our capability to lead the kind of lives we have reason to value. Development as freedom.
- What really is freedom?
- Do we have a reason to value a life of drugs, unhealthy living, lack of self-respect and respect for others, hatred, corruption among others?
- This is the society the curricula we do have produced
What is Development?

- Economic development has not necessarily led to social and individual development.
- Rich people and celebrities in the West caught up in crime and drug abuse.
- High rates of social evils despite going through formal education.
Struggle Education

- Governments adapting new curricula e.g. Kenya
- More like the Western curriculum
- 50% divorce rates in the West
- An indication of an innate need
- A society in need of character and values
- Is this the best direction to look towards?
Struggle Education

- A curriculum that has produced intelligent individuals and made progress but there is a lack of values and character
- Lack of self-awareness
- Can we say that most curricula have failed?
A need for character and values

- If this is not the direction we should be looking towards, what is?
- Could the development of character and values be the most important aspect of education?
- Could students be more intelligent if they had a sense of values and a well developed character?
- Should the curriculum then be more character-oriented?
- Let’s see…
Intelligence and Progress

- Importance of learning arts and values while still young
- Can intelligence, character, values and self-management be learnt?
- Neuroplasticity?
Tyron’s rat experiment

- Robert Tyron’s experiment
- What matters really, is it genetics or breeding? Let’s see…
Rosenthal’s Rat experiment

- Rosenthal’s experiment
- Attitudes and expectations
- Can we therefore influence younger generations to learn intelligence?
Neuroplasticity

==

Ability to rewire brain
Neuroplasticity

- The brain’s ability to change, remodel and reorganise in order to adapt to new situations.
- Neuronal circuits are formed and strengthened when we learn new things.
- Does this apply to character and attitude?
- But how can these things be learnt?
The Stanford Marshmallow experiment

- Psychologist Walter Mischel and delayed gratification.
The Stanford Marshmallow Experiment

- We can now see the importance of character. Something that seems simple such as delayed gratification can determine an individual’s success.
- Let’s find out what else character and values can do.
- We can identify certain aspects of a child’s personality and help in the development of their character.
- The curriculum should focus on individuals.
CHARACTER AND VALUES

- If character and values were the focal point in all curricula,
- There would be less poverty
- Fewer social evils
- More intelligent individuals
- Higher life expectancy
- Food security
- A problem-solving outlook towards life

- More luxurious lives
- More time with our families
- Responsible leaders and individuals
- And generally less problems in the world
- We would have a better environment
- Less suicide and depression rates
- More food
Towards a better world

- Curricula however have produced anything but that
- Having seen the benefits of character development and values, the curriculum for human development is one focused on character building and values.
- This is therefore the basis upon which all subjects and curricula should be developed.
THE END