

## **THE VALUE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION AS AN ENGINE TO PROMOTE POVERTY ERADICATION AND TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The present recommendation for discussion intends to create a holistic vision of education. In fact, we believe this is imperative to be dialogued with the international community of Rio+20, because it represents the basis of all moral values of the global citizenship. For this reason, we propose a reform in global education with a humanistic and philanthropic vision that intends to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication, while also contributing to the other Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

As stated in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 by the United Nations, education was declared a Human Right:

*“1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.*

*2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.*

*3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”*

This proposal seeks to increase the previously stated Human Right. Because we live in a world where our decisions and actions affect others on a global scale, we must acknowledge and accept the notion of global citizenship. Young people are the inheritors of global change and for that reason the values and attitudes instilled in their education now will have an effect on the way global matters are addressed in the future. Therefore, 21st Century citizenship needs a global education in order to see the future as their own evolution as a species, without any type of ethnocentrism.

But, how could global education contribute to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication?

Firstly, by creating a new multi, inter and trans-disciplinary subject for formal education, in primary and secondary school: *“Education for Life”* (for example), we could integrate the MDG in theoretical and practical contents of the educational curriculum in all United Nations

countries. This material must articulate and support cultural, transversal and innovative methodologies through multi, inter and trans-disciplinary contents, because the understanding of the MDG in a global world requires the development of different skills such as natural sciences and human sciences.

Here we have to know that the Council of Europe has proposed this idea to be integrated by 2015 in **47 countries**, but what is going on with the rest of the countries of the world? the most needed people? So our proposal here is to create a discussion about this situation in order to promote a big inclusion of the other countries in this new educational plan that teach our students for the future world.

(you can read more about it here: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEguidelines-web.pdf> and also here: <http://www.gecongress2012.org/> )

But to integrate the MDG into the educational concepts (between others, like Human Rights) does not mean creating a homogeneous education or westernizing the education, because all of the governments which participate in the UN will have to readapt the MDG in the educational contents, according to their diversity and historical-cultural characteristics. That's mean that each country has to create its own curriculum, but with a "*common minimum curriculum*" in order to create awareness about the global problems.

Now is the time to discuss a new education that forms awareness of our global citizenship. How could we attempt to achieve the MDG if our states/countries do not integrate those contents in their educational curriculum? Is it possible to develop this awareness which achieves a sustainable development and poverty eradication, if we do not teach them with the same democratic moral values?

Secondly, while building an awareness of global citizenship, we could view informal and no formal education as an engine of change to create a peaceful society though international cooperation. Why not articulate a social network based on helping the most needy people? Could our governments create a new international service of volunteers which is equivalent to the military service in terms of national duty? This could be one of the most beautiful pieces of humanistic education and philanthropic actions to achieve the MDG.

Third, we propose a reform of multi, inter and trans-disciplinary education reform in the curricula of the universities in all the countries that are part of the United Nations, in order to teach "reading the world" through a new academic graduation: "*wordlogy*". An innovate proposal with a humanistic vision to increase citizenship of 21st century awareness of the new paradigms that exist in the current era of globalization. In addition, wordlogy should be taught with the same curricular contents in all universities in different countries, giving the opportunity

for students to study this new degree each year in each country, since the only way to be conscious of the economical, political and cultural dynamics that are successful in this inter-relational world is simply by traveling. Therefore, this new academic degree supplies an instructional tool to achieve citizens participation in the creation of a humanistic and global thought, founded in the progress and evolution of human beings as species: *the homo concienciatius*, which could achieve the MDG.

And finally, we would like also to create a space to discuss again about the Human Rights of 1948, in order to extend them, creating the obligations for the new citizens, because in all the constitutions of all countries there are "rights" and "obligations", but there are not "obligations" from a supranacional authority for all the global citizens. Now it is time to discuss about it in order to create new spaces to help the needed people.

For all these reasons, we want to create a democratic debate in Rio+20 in order to attend to the global problems from an educational perspective, because we think that this is the basic way to achieve the MDG: creating a global citizenship based on **philanthropic and humanistic moral** values. And to those proposals the United Nations, as a supranational institution, has to articulate new ways for the different countries to restructure their educational systems, in order to achieve the MDG.

Will it be possible to create global citizens if the governments which signed the MDG in theoretical framework do not put any change into practice? We have remember that the world in which we are living, it is not a gift from our parents, if not a borrow from our children, and what will they think if we do not do all we have in our hands to improve the world? Thinking in sustainable development future is also thinking about our children.

**Please, vote for this proposal so that we may talk about global education in Rio+20 debates on June 16-19th.**

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