

Western education

# What has it done in the Third World

It has been an age long saying that the Western world is helping the third world train their personnel so that they can take hands in their own development. Actually this is the case theoretically, but in practice it is unfounded.

This is not to say that the Western World is not doing anything to help, but as the old saying goes, "Knowledge is power when well applied, but when wrongly or dubiously applied, it ceases to be knowledge but an instrument of the person or persons who applied it". Since Third World started assimilating Western education, things have become worse, instead of achieving development and cultural, there has been social disorganisation, cultural disorientation and above all, economic stagnation. The reason is that Western education is making amphibious creatures out of the people of Third World, their problems are no more looked at in relation to their own reality, rather they are looked at and tend to be treated in the Western perspective. If I am not mistaken, education is the acculturation of people to embrace their own reality and take hands in their own development; in other words education and culture are interwoven.

This type of cultural diad the Western education has carried to third world has caused total disharmony and normative breakdown and it is not ruled out that this will systematically keep affecting their offspring in so many different ways. Invariably this is the conquest of one society by another with the resulting invasion of a different social structure and culture is an instance of both culture conflict and normative breakdown.

To make my argument a bit clearer I have to tear apart the make up of the Western world. The words Western world sounds like if it is a homogenous culture, in the real sense it is not, it is made up of the British, German French, Southern European, and North America hybrid cultures. All these different cultures are camouflaged in one basket called western education, when this is dumped in any of those countries called third world, the basket explodes like a napalm bomb and eating voraciously into the fabrics of the third world societies.

At the expense of the third world the western education has succeeded in creating more markets for the western industries, studies have proved that since the turn of the century consumer product industries have doubled in proportion to the educated population in third world, this has also been proved by the percentage of the wealth of the third world used for consumption. I know this must have aroused people's criticism by saying all this, but before you criticise ask yourself the question, what has western education actually done in the third world?

Western education helps to distort the people reality instead of organizing them to embrace their reality. How did this happen because education had been commercialized in the third world, it has become investments of certain enterprises who expect unregulated profit just like the multinational corporations in the third world. As a result that it becomes very costly and to the reach of a few people.

In the real sense of it true education must endow one with a

creative attitude, help an individual look beyond his surroundings make innovations, discoveries and even inventions. Why hasn't this been the case in the third worlds? This is a million dollar question, this gives an insight into the role of Western education in third world.

Educational institutions universities even secondary schools in the third world are assisted, planned, financed and even directed by external agencies like the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and the Rockefeller Trust. When this type of agencies are running schools in third world what do you expect, they always aim as the multinationals do in all their aide programs at attaining their neo-colonialist objectives by creating a capitalist oriented elite

and by training specialists who are needed by foreign monopolies operating in the third world nations. It is precisely at this stage that the multinational exercise their new found influence on higher education. Under cover of technical and endowment funds, research grants, and foreign assistance the multinationals in collusion with the educated indigens hungry for money and ideal life on earth, manipulate the planning and financing of higher education to meet the need of the multinational corporations - a clear case of the brain drain. The brain drain - a consequence of the involvement of the multinational in higher education - is a serious threat to the intellectual potential of the third world.

When these multinationals get

hold of the educational institutions they shape courses and training to

provide the skilled workers, scientists, technicians and managers needed to run the industries and projects in which the multinationals have invested in a particular economy - consumer products. As a result that education is patterned in such a way as to serve the interest of the multinationals. The influence on higher education planning exercised by these multinationals became so pronounced that they have almost total grip on decision making within the universities and colleges; the courses therefore are becoming too narrowly specialized and devoid of any content that would encourage a critical attitude towards the social

function of the career the students wish to pursue, hence the development of the third world countries are trapped in a low equilibrium level of development. As someone might ask "What is

to be down" I advocate a step backward. The western educationists should review the application of their education in the third world. If I may paraphrase one of my countries professional students he said "if Western education is no more adequate for our development let us turn to oriental educators," that sounds like a good alternative but as a liberalist. I still feel that western education will be more appropriate only if well applied to the interest of the people because what doing is worth doing well.

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EQUUS - a play that is renowned as a sensational of drama, has made its mark has it? For it seems now that moving on from a success viewing in Fredericton EQUUS stop point blank in St. John

## Robbers

A new wave of violent crime sweeping the Middle East, an Arab League Bureau for Prevention blames it on the social change caused by wealth from the oil profit. Ironically, the American intelligence police movies and TV dramas. "Sometimes while reading (Crime) reports, you can see a replay of a movie remember," said Bureau Abdel Wahab Al-Aishmawi Traditional Islamic law

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