

"Education is a key to national progress."

A. Introduction

B. Education is a key to national progress:

1. Education as a foundation

Natl. Progress link. <sup>of</sup> democracy

- Case study of Scandinavian countries

2. Education as a means to economic growth

- Case study of South Korea

3. Education as a driver of change

- American Civil Rights Movement

4. Education as a unifying force for social cohesion

- Creating a tolerant society

5. Education as a broader tool for empowerment

- Alienation of poverty

6. Education as a catalyst for environmental sustainability

- Case study of Costa Rica

7. Education as a promoter of healthcare

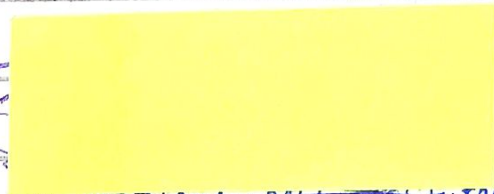
- Case study of Cuba

8. Education as a pathway to global competitiveness

- Case study of China

repetition

9.



- Stanford, MIT Institutes

10. Education as a source of soft powers

- Universities attract foreign students



C. Pre-requisites for education to drive progress:

1. The curriculum must be linked with industry and job market
2. Sustainable progress demands strong investments in teachers and research

D. Conclusion

How democracy social cohesion and sustainability drives the progress ... Create the link with the national progress

There are countries where democracy has flourish but not on the path to natl progress why??

The end of WWII came when US dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan Surrendered and accepted the defeat. After this historical defeat, Japan decided to transform itself through education - the most powerful weapon according to Nelson Mandela. It was this decision of Japan - prioritizing education - because of which today <sup>Japan</sup> ~~she~~ is one of the most developed nations in the world. Education is a tool that has potential to transform the fate of an individual, society, and a community, leading towards the national progress. History is full of evidences that speak loudly how education played a crucial role in progress of nations. For example, the basic foundation of democracy is education. Similarly, the major force behind the economic growth of a country is education. Apart from these, it is the education that acts as a driver of change,



Creates social cohesion and a pathway to global competitiveness.

Moreover, education is a broader tool for the empowerment of marginalized communities in a society. So, it would not be wrong to agree with the fact that education works as a key to drive national progress.

Education is one of the basic foundations of democracy. In democracy, there is popular sovereignty. To utilize this popular sovereignty, people must have awareness about the system, their rights, and duties. All of these can be ensured only through education. The uneducated people do not have the tendency to demand their rights or make the leaders accountable because they are unaware about the system. In Scandinavian countries, the democracy flourishes because people are educated and well-know about their rights. These countries are the top ranked democracies every year. Hence, it can be concluded that democracy and education goes hand in hand.

In addition to this, education is one of the major force behind the economic growth of a country.



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The national progress is directly linked with economic growth which depends directly on education. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the century of knowledge economy, especially through STEM education. Through getting education, one becomes able to develop some technologies like AI chatbots or vaccines that will enhance the economy of a country. South Korea is one of the best example in this case as ~~the~~ South Korea transformed its fate through the field of education. Thus, education not only improves the living standard of an individual, but also drives national progress.

Further, education is one of the major drivers of a change in society. In a society, there are different Kind of people having different issues that need to be addressed. If not by proper means, then a movement is required, and to make that movement successful, education plays a major role. For example, American Civil Rights Movement achieved its goal because of the leadership qualities of Martin Luther King Jr. - who led it effectively without using violence. Because of an educated individual,

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being



Martin did not created chaos. Had this movement led by a violent man, there would have been a civil war in the United States. Hence, education gives one the practical lessons to lead in a difficult situations in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts that damages the nation.

Furthermore, education acts as a unifying force for social cohesion. A society having people of different ethnicities, languages, or sects is more likely to welcome violence. In order to avoid from these conflicts, education works as a shield. Through educational institutions these people come close to each other and develop a bond with between themselves. Education creates a peaceful society by instilling love, tolerance, and respect for everyone. For example, Islamabad is one of the most peaceful city cities of Pakistan because of educated residents. Thus, it is the education that unites the people living in a society, and ultimately creates peace in country.

Moreover, Education is a broader tool for empowerment of



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marginalized communities. The people living in the rural areas have to face the problems of poverty. Education gives one the opportunity to get a stable job with handsome salary. If a person from a rural background secures that job then his lifestyle ~~would~~ will be changed. Through education that person becomes able to break the shackles of poverty and contribute to the well-being of his family. Thus, education improves the standard of people living in a society that ultimately leads to national progress.

Apart from these, education works as a catalyst for environmental sustainability. Today, the world is facing climate change - an existential threat to the world. It affects the people through floods, heatwaves, and other catastrophes leading to crises in a country. Climate change needs to be addressed through practical strategies that can only be ensured through education. One of the best example is Costa Rica which reduced the environmental disasters through taking measures with the help of education. So, if countries want to avoid the



damage - catastrophical one, they should use education as a tool to spread awareness about environmental sustainability, because a stable environment is basic requirement for national progress.

Another keypoint is the role of education in promotion of healthcare. People around the world are going through various diseases - from a normal flu to deadly blood cancer. Education promotes healthcare by creating awareness regarding disease, developing efficient machinery to cure those diseases, and making brilliant doctors who utilize those machines to cure patients. For example, in Cuba, the mortality rate is very low because the mothers, there, are educated, and an educated mother treats her baby well. Thus, education not only empowers an individual with knowledge, but also imparts him the knowledge to live.

Similarly, education provides a pathway to global competitiveness. The world is a global village now, and nations are competing with each other. To win this competition, one requires strong educational system as it gives one the



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tools and knowledge to develop those technologies required to get an edge over another. For example, it is only because of the education that China is competing with the US today in fields of science and technology. Recently, China's DeepSeek AI caused US Nvidia company a damage of more than \$500 Billions. Hence, only through effective education a nation can compete globally and drive national progress.

Apart from these, education works as a source of soft power. The use of soft power is one of the major strategies of today's diplomacy. Universities attract foreign students due to their reputation all around the world, and when these students come to those universities, they get involved in the culture of that country, and through their research and innovation benefits the host country. For example, Stanford, Harvard, and MIT attract thousands of foreign students every year and increase the soft power of the US. Hence, universities not only provide knowledge, but also influence diplomacy.

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However, for national progress.



through education, there are some pre-requisites. The first one is that the curriculum should be linked with industry and job-market. In schools and universities, only that curriculum should be taught that has practical applications and will benefit the students in future. Otherwise, the students will have degrees only, and the unemployment ratio will surge which will hamper national progress.

Another pre-requisite is investment in teachers and research. The teachers should be well-trained as they have to develop the future of nation in the face of students who will work in different industries, leading to national progress. Apart from teachers, investment is also required in the field of research. A well-trained teacher require those resources through which the students will be trained, otherwise his job could not be done. For example, imagine a teacher telling students how to make panadol, on a whiteboard because there are no chemicals ~~not~~ available. Hence, to drive national progress,



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investment in research and teachers is required.

To sum up everything, it is no doubt that education is a key to national progress, but that needs some pre-requisites. It is the education that works as a catalyst for environmental sustainability. Similarly, it is the education that empowers individuals, gives path for global competitiveness, and works as a source of softpower. From individual level to international level, it is education that is the first and foremost requirement for national progress. However, it is facing some challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve national progress: the first one is link of curriculum ~~and~~ with industry and job-market, while the second one is strong investment in teachers and research. When these pre-requisites will be filled, only then education will become able to drive national progress. Individuals and officials all are needed to pay heed towards the looming issues, so that the weapon of education - as mentioned by Mandella - could be utilized effectively.