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Human Rights 26: Education

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**Introduction:**

**Education as a human right.**

The World Programme on Human Rights Education (WPHRE) was formed in 2004 to encourage the development of a human rights culture.

In 2004, a World Programme for Human Rights Education was developed as a result of the decade's evaluation. The program's first phase concentrated on human rights education in primary and secondary schools. Within the scope of the World Programme and its Plan of Action, all governments were expected and encouraged to develop initiatives. The Human Rights Council opted to concentrate the second phase (2010-2014) on higher education human rights education and human rights training programs for teachers and educators, government servants, law enforcement officers, and military personnel at all levels. "Every individual and every organ of society shall seek to promote respect for human rights and basic freedoms via teaching and education". The UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training's Preamble

Education is a fundamental human right that underpins all other rights. It is a great tool for children and people who are socially and economically oppressed to elevate themselves out of poverty. It also includes the right to education freedom. Human beings have the right to get an education of their choice, free of any restrictions. The United Nations has recognized the right to education as a human right. It encompasses the full obligation to remove unfairness in the educational system at all levels.

Education is a right that everyone has. The entire growth and dignity of each person, the ability to contribute successfully in society, and the deepening of respect for human rights are all goals of education. Education is a crucial human right in and of itself, and it is frequently referred to as a 'multiplier' human right since the level of access to education influences the level of enjoyment of other human rights.

At various degrees of education, the right to education has unique requirements. Primary education must be mandatory and free for all, which will necessitate assessment of both direct and indirect educational expenditures. Primary education is obligatory, which protects this right from abuse by parents or governments, eliminates income-based discrimination, and eliminates incentives for non-attendance. States should build a national framework for gradually expanding and improving the educational system, as well as gradually introducing free education at all other levels, such as secondary, higher, and fundamental education.

The right to educational freedom should be respected by all states. Respect for children's religious and moral views, the right of parents or legal guardians to choose private schools for their children, and the freedom to construct private educational institutions as long as they adhere to national curricula and admissions standards are all part of this.

Every parent has the freedom to choose the type of education that their children will receive

**Question 1: Do you agree that Education is a human right?**

Education is a fundamental right that is required for the practice of all other human rights. Quality education attempts to foster the growth of well-rounded individuals. Equality of opportunity, universal access, and enforceable and monitored quality standards are all required for this human right to labor

According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to education "Education must be geared toward the complete development of the human personality as well as the reinforcement of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Every individual and every organ of society will seek to promote respect for these rights and freedoms via teaching and education."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, preamble. The core of human rights education is "teaching and education to foster respect for fundamental rights and freedoms" (HRE).

Human Rights Education is a legal right under international law as well as a moral right. Everyone has the right to education, according to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and "education shall be dedicated to the full development of the human personality and the deepening of respect for human rights and basic freedoms." Its mission is to "promote understanding, tolerance, and friendship among nations, racial, and religious groups, as well as to support the United Nations' efforts to maintain peace." "School punishment shall be administered in a way consistent with the dignity of the child," says Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Education should focus on the development of a child's personality, talents, and abilities, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, responsible living in a free society, understanding, tolerance, and equality, and the cultivation of environmental stewardship."

Human Rights Education is a valid political demand as well. The Forum Living, Learning, Acting for Human Rights recognizes that the "values that guide the Council of Europe's activities are universal values for all of us and are centered on the inalienable dignity of every human being," according to the message. Human rights are more than only inspiration, according to the message, they are also moral and political commandments that apply to relations between governments and people, as well as inside states and among people.

Human rights education is described as the process of acquiring the necessary knowledge, values, and skills in the field of human rights with the goal of fostering an acceptable human rights culture. Students are taught to assess their experiences through the lens of human rights, allowing them to incorporate these principles into their values and decision-making. Human rights education, according to Amnesty International, is a way to empower people so that they can develop skills and behaviors that promote dignity and equality in the community, society, and around the world. For example, in Kenya, free elementary education was introduced in 2002, and this set an example since people were eager to learn how to read and write. As a result, the oldest man-Kimani Nganga Maruge aged 88 years enrolled in school, and as a result, he was entered into the book of Genesis and was able to go throughout the world. He left behind the legacy that education never expires, which has motivated many senior individuals to seek education, resulting in an increase in adult education owing to demand.

How can people use and protect their human rights if they have never been taught about them? In its preamble, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) acknowledges this, and Article 26 of the UDHR grants everyone the right to education that "strengthens respect for human rights and basic freedoms." The goal of human rights education is to create a world where human rights are valued. This is a culture in which everyone's rights are respected, as well as rights themselves; a culture in which people are aware of their rights and responsibilities, recognize human rights violations, and take action to safeguard others' rights. Human rights are as much a part of people's life as language, customs, the arts, and links to location in this culture.

 Human rights represent basic human needs and establish the basic rules by which persons cannot live in dignity. Human rights include qualities such as equality, dignity, respect, freedom, and justice. Rights include the freedom from discrimination, the right to life, the right to freedom of expression, the right to marry and have a family, and the right to an education.

All humans have universal and inalienable human rights. Human rights are universal, meaning that they apply to everyone in all countries. They are unalienable, indivisible, and interdependent, which means they can never be taken away; all rights are equally vital and complimentary, such as the right to vote in free elections, which is contingent on freedom of expression. Individuals are able to learn to read, write, talk, and listen, which helps them enhance their communication talents. Education is thus a human right.

**Question 2: Should all people have access to education?**

Despite the fact that the vast majority of countries have ratified international treaties recognizing the fundamental right to education, millions of people around the world are still denied access to it owing to a lack of resources, capacity, and political will. There are still countries that have not included the right to education into their national constitutions or established legal and administrative structures to ensure that it is implemented in practice. The majority of children and adults who do not have full access to education are members of society's most poor and marginalized groups, who are frequently overlooked by national policy.

Human rights are crucial because no one can thrive on their own, and injustices reduce the quality of life on a personal, local, and global scale. What happens in Europe has an impact on events across the world. For example, the clothes we wear may be created in Asia using child labor, while European colonial legacies contribute to the political and religious unrest in Iraq, Somalia, and Afghanistan, which send desperate asylum seekers knocking on our doors. Similarly, millions of people in Africa and Asia are being displaced as a result of climate change, wars which is mostly due to the activities of developed countries**.** For example, due to wars in Somalia, Kenya has the largest refugee camp in Africa, Dabaab, which has hampered education as a human right due to high intake and a shortage of trained teachers due to its location and security.

Education is the most important aspect of anyone's life, especially a child's. Many circumstances might stymie a child's educational progress, and many people have their own ideas about how well-educated children should be. The harsh reality is that children of upper-class parents are better educated, though the reasons for this are statistically significant and vary. Wealthier parents have more educated children not only because of their ability to provide more educational resources, but also because of their social milieu, educational background, and how they raise their children. Every youngster, not just the wealthy, should have the same opportunity for an excellent education. Many other important factors, such as environmental influences, social status, school, family, and peer motivation, all play a role in explaining why this happens.

SDG 4 intends to reduce these percentages by 2030 by ensuring that all boys and girls have access to elementary and secondary education, as well as equal access to early childhood development programs and affordable university education for both males and females. In Kenya, for example, children from marginalized communities are given preferential treatment in the grading system, and pupils are able to enroll in colleges and universities thanks to bursaries and HELB-High Education Loan Board loans.

The primary goal of education is to promote a person's holistic development. It is also a source of its evident advantages for a richer and happier existence. Education has the potential to improve society as a whole. It helps to create a society where people are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Basic societal standards, laws, regulations, and values are taught through education. Furthermore, high-quality education contributes to our achievement by developing our intelligence, skills, and knowledge, as well as making positive changes in our lives. After all, only exceptional citizens can secure the provision of high-quality education. Good doctors, engineers, attorneys, and instructors are all needed.

Our perspectives are broadened and our consciousness is raised as a result of education. It helps us develop a disciplined lifestyle while also increasing our economic potential. It enables us to comprehend the world outside of our immediate environment. Education is also a prerequisite for the development and modernization of any country. The cornerstones of modern education are humanism, freedom, equality, democracy, and human rights. The curriculum in education is updated to meet the needs of today's society and represents its goals, beliefs, and priorities. The modern industrial civilization has resulted in a plethora of occupations that require specific skills and understanding of information technology.

Education is a powerful change agent that improves people's health and livelihoods, promotes social stability, and accelerates long-term economic growth. Education is essential to achieving each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Individuals may break the cycle of poverty when they have access to education; it helps to eliminate inequities and achieve gender equality; it allows people to live a healthier and more sustainable existence; and it is critical to build tolerance and peaceful society.

People with more education are better able to meet basic employment requirements and have a higher chance of securing better positions. For example, in emerging, low-income nations, each additional year of education is predicted to increase a person's future earnings by 10%.

Gender equality is promoted by education, which empowers women and girls. Giving females an extra year of school reduces teen pregnancy rates by 6% and provides them greater control over the number of children they have, according to a World Bank study.

Children's mortality rates are lower when they are educated. According to UNESCO, a child born to a mother who can read has a 50% chance of living to the age of five.

Access to education is crucial because it promotes the development of critical thinking abilities. This is crucial in teaching someone how to use logic to make decisions and communicate with others (e.g., boosting creativity, enhancing time management).

**Question 3: What is the purpose of education?**

If all pupils in low-income countries had fundamental reading abilities before graduating from high school, entire cultures may be transformed. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 171 million people might be brought out of poverty. But education is about more than just getting out of poverty. It's about quality of life, career options, and a slew of other perks, all of which are detailed here.

**Developing problem-solving abilities:** One of the many advantages of education is that it teaches us how to acquire and develop critical and logical thinking, as well as how to make independent decisions. When children grow up, they face a variety of challenges, including repaying student loans, finding work, purchasing a car and a home, and providing for their families. However, if a person has spent years learning, they should be able to make appropriate decisions in these situations. People are capable of not only forming their own beliefs, but also of obtaining solid and dependable arguments and facts to support and corroborate them.  
By strengthening critical and logical thinking abilities, the educational system teaches students how to make their own decisions. This helps children prepare for adulthood, when they will have to make both big and little decisions on a regular basis.

For example, coming up with answers to community problems or planning how to support a family.

**Self-sufficiency and independence:** It is liberating to be able to read, write, and calculate. When a person can read, they have access to an infinite amount of knowledge and information. They can start a small business once they can calculate expenses and create a budget. Literacy, when combined with the ability to create opinions, allows a person to become more self-reliant and confident.

The key to transforming a weakness into a strength is education. It provides many tools and methods for comprehending and resolving difficulties that lie ahead of us. More significantly, education equips us with the mental agility to make sound decisions and act quickly when necessary. Many studies demonstrate that educated women can more easily face up to gender bias and marital violence because their decision-making abilities have improved.  
  
**Individual equality is promoted:** Discrimination based on race, gender, religion, social class, or reading level has no place in an ideal world. This is where the importance of education becomes apparent. One can develop strong, well-considered beliefs – and learn to appreciate the views of others – through education. Education, according to many experts, is a significant contribution to societal peace.

Education has always been extremely important in society, regardless of caste, ethnicity, gender, or religion. On the basis of their knowledge and skills, educated people are recognized as equals. Furthermore, educated people are open-minded and capable of listening to and accepting the viewpoints of others, regardless of how dissimilar they are.

Education provides the opportunity to be self-sufficient and hence free. It is our safe haven from financial storms and bad judgments.  
  
**Financial stability and security:** The level of education a person has is frequently linked to his or her earnings. Those who complete high school, acquire a degree, diploma, or certificate, or pursue post-graduate studies have additional job prospects around the world. Higher salaries may result as a result of these factors**.** Higher-educated individuals with a diverse range of experience are more likely to obtain high-paying, expert positions. If you want to live comfortably, you must study hard, devote your time and effort to gaining knowledge and achieving a high level of competence. Your qualifications will persuade a potential employer to hire you over another candidate. Studying diligently throughout your school and studies demonstrates that you are not afraid of hard work and are capable of achieving your objectives. Employers perceive this as a major benefit because they all want to hire people who are responsible and informed. Once you've graduated, you may start looking for jobs that will allow you to put what you've learned into practice while also paying you enough to live comfortably.  
  
**Growth of the economy (as a nation):** The importance of an educated populace in the economic development of a country cannot be overstated. According to research, countries with the greatest literacy rates are more likely to make human and economic growth. Individual economic growth, which is typically tied to education, is the starting point for national economic growth. People with strong academic and educational credentials are more likely to obtain well-paid positions. The greater their schooling and achievements, the more job opportunities they will have. People who grew up poor but educated themselves have a good possibility of changing their life and contributing to a reduction in poverty rates in society.

While also making a difference in other people's lives. Education aids economic growth since it is about gaining knowledge and being able to apply it sensibly to our lives while also improving the lives of others while also making a difference in other people's lives

**Contributing to the community:** The value of living in a stable and secure community is well understood by educated individuals. They are more likely to participate in projects that benefit not only their neighborhood but also society. Furthermore, persons who can afford their own home are more inclined to participate not only in upgrading their homes but also in fixing neighborhood problems. After all, it is critical to get engaged and lend a helping hand to those who are less fortunate in order to make the world a better place for all of us to live. Children who are educated have greater opportunities to make a difference in their communities**.** In Kenya, for example, the majority of those providing education to underprivileged communities are people who received their education in the same region, as well as doctors, nurses, and politicians fighting for their communities' welfare.

**Creating a Modern Civilization:** Education is critical to the development of a modern society. To be able to contribute to modern society, one must learn about culture, history, and other significant aspects. People are molded into leaders not just via their knowledge of (college) courses, but also through their demonstration of how to lead with emotions and true principles. Because educated people can easily distinguish between good and wrong, education aids in the reduction of crime. Bad things are happening all across the world, and only capable leaders can lead us in the right direction**.**

**Crossing Boundaries:** Connecting with people and organizations all across the world is made easier with digital education. There are no longer any borders. The ability to converse and share ideas with people from different countries and cultures broadens our perspectives and allows us to better understand and respect one another.

**Increasing Opportunities for Employment**

Finding a job is difficult, especially during difficult economic times. For a vacant post, you may have to compete with hundreds of other candidates. Furthermore, the lower one's educational level, the more people apply for the same low-paying entry-level job. You will, however, boost your chances of getting a satisfying career if you have the appropriate qualifications and educational background. Do you want to find a strategy to stand out in a crowd of candidates? Learn, educate yourself, graduate, and obtain as many credentials, skills, information, and experience as you can.

**Question 4: Why would education be a human right and not just a commodity for those who can pay for it?**

Education is not a luxury. It is both a human right in and of itself, as well as a necessary component of the realization of other human rights. It encourages individual liberty and self-determination. Individuals can exercise all of their rights with education.

The World Programme on Human Rights Education was established in 2004 to promote the development of a culture of human rights. Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights. It promotes individual freedom and empowerment and yields important development benefits.

The right to education has been recognized as a human right in a number of international conventions, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which recognizes a right to free, compulsory primary education for all, an obligation to develop secondary education accessible to all.

Both individuals and society benefit from the right to education. It is fundamental for human, social, and economic development and a key element to achieving lasting peace and sustainable development. It is a powerful tool in developing the full potential of everyone and ensuring human dignity, and in promoting individual and collective wellbeing.

Education is a human right and a public good and thus a basic public services. Governments and other public authorities should ensure that a quality education service is available freely to all citizens from early childhood into adulthood. In terms of global human rights education, the United Nations plays an indispensable role. The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna reiterated the critical role of human rights education, training, and public awareness in the advancement of human rights. The United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, which runs from January 1, 1995, to December 31, 2004, was declared by the General Assembly in 1994.

In December 2011 the General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training. The declaration is considered ground-breaking because it is the first instrument devoted specifically to HRE and, therefore, is a very valuable tool for advocacy and raising awareness of the importance of HRE. The declaration recognizes that "Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education and training" and that "Human rights education and training is essential for the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the principles of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights." The declaration also contains a broad definition of human rights education and training which encompasses education about, through and for human rights.  
The Declaration places on states the main responsibility "to promote and ensure human rights education and training" (Article 7).

The right to education is identified as a human right and is understood to establish an entitlement to free for all also compulsory primary education for all children. An obligation to the secondary education accessible to all children as well as access to higher education. The right to education is one of the most fundamental right but also human right. The right to education to eliminate discrimination at all levels of the educational system, to set minimum standards and to improve quality of education.

Every kid has a legal right to education, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nonetheless, many people consider education to be a privilege. According to UNESCO estimates, 258 million children and youth were out of school at the end of the 2018 school year. More than 129 million of those were females, with 58 million of them in basic school.

As important as education is, it assists people in becoming better citizens, obtaining a higher-paying career, and demonstrating the distinction between good and wrong. Education teaches us the value of hard work while also assisting us in our growth and development. As a result, by understanding and respecting rights, rules, and regulations, we may help to form a better society to live in.

Education is a fundamental human right that is required for long-term social and economic growth. One of the most important predictors of progress is girls' education. Basic education investment is critical for human development and pro-poor growth

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Education is the most significant tool for improving humanity and advancing civilization's modernity. Education is regarded as the most important pillar in every government, as it holds the entire nation together and guides the state to ultimate success.

The right to education is pivotal in the pursuit of development. Over the last ten to fifteen years, civil society and UN agencies have made significant progress in bridging the gap between development and human rights, allowing the theoretical frameworks of both disciplines to be integrated in reality. A human rights-based approach (HRBA) blends development theory and practices with the legal framework for human rights to operationally promote and safeguard human rights and address the inequities that are at the root of development issues.

Education's primary goal is to create a peaceful and happy community. It is impossible to create a calm and joyful living society without education. People can learn how to live in a society and how to make it peaceful and pleasant through education

**Conclusion**

Education is the most significant aspect of a person's existence; it makes sense, has an impact on the intellect, and changes one's character. Education is a fundamental human right. The right to education refers to the right to know and the right to modify one's life and lifestyle. Primary education, secondary education, vocational education, and higher education are the several sorts of rights to education. Every child is entitled to a primary school education. "Education is a right that everyone possesses." At least in the early and fundamental stages, education must be free. Elementary education will be required of all students. Technical and professional education must be widely available, and higher education must be open to everybody on a merit-based basis." For the development of human personality, education must be free. Human rights promote understanding, gender equality, and international friendship among all nations.

Education should be free and accessible to all, at the very least at the primary and fundamental levels. It should be possible for the government to make it available to citizens. Governments must ensure that schools are available. "State parties recognize the right of the child to education, and in order to realize this right gradually and on an equal footing, they shall, in particular, make elementary education compulsory and accessible to all." Primary, secondary, and post-secondary education, as well as basic education, should be provided to all. Primary education shall be compulsory and available to all, according to Article 13.2(a) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Basic education should be offered to everyone.aa

As Nelson Mandela put it, "education is the most potent weapon you can employ to alter the world." It assists people in becoming better citizens, obtaining a higher-paying career, and demonstrating the distinction between good and wrong. Education teaches us the value of hard work while also assisting us in our growth and development. As a result, by understanding and respecting rights, rules, and regulations, we may help to form a better society to live in. Learning languages through educational procedures allows people to interact with one another and share ideas, expertise, and best practices. It teaches us how to live in peace.

Every child, youth, man, and woman has a human right to education, training, and information, as well as essential rights that are contingent on the realization of human rights, as well as a responsibility to human rights education. "Education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance, and friendship among racial, ethnic, or religious groups. Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all. Secondary education, including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all. "All people should have equal access to higher education." Respect for human rights and human rights education must be demonstrated..

Therefore Education must be relevant, accessible, acceptable, and adaptive in order to be effective. Every person who want to gain their basic learning knowledge will be able to benefit from educational knowledge.

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