

Education must be a constantly evolving requirement as society responds to the pressures of modern day living. Children no longer have the undivided attention of mothers who now work outside the home. Similarly with the advent of modern travel, greater mobility and independence, grandparents are no longer the once steady and regular source of older companions. Although supplemented to some degree by television, home education with parental participation seems to have diminished. There is, as a result, an even greater need for thoughtful tuition by well qualified, caring teachers, who should be retrained regularly so as to be in tune with social change. Very simply, everyone when young should be encouraged to prepare themselves as citizens of the world. Emphasis should be on those subjects which stimulate the mind in such a way that all levels of comprehension are reached. The motivation of young people is vital, if they are to grow up without a sense of frustration. Children have a natural eagerness when encouraged; their inclination to express themselves by drawing and colouring at a very young age, is just one indication of natural ability without any inhibitions. This should not be stifled by discipline or over-emphasis on any particular subject, however worthy in an academic sense. Much subject matter taught in a general way probably has very little impact on a child's future life.

Education at the present time does not appear to be fulfilling society's needs. Teachers, parents, employers must be seen to be working more closely together in the community so that children are more conscious of what is expected of them in return.

All must contribute more meaningfully if children are to respect and appreciate the totality of effort required of them if they are to achieve that sense of satisfaction of resultant success.

Provision should be made to ensure that education is financed in such a way that all understand that this is the most important investment a nation can make in order to ensure the development of a healthy society. The careful selection and training of teachers, adequacy of staff subject to regular appraisals, and, of course, the provision of suitable premises should be pre-requisites of any education system where all-out effort is the goal.

As to curricula, these should be carefully constructed towards the future needs of everyone - not simply directed to academic prowess - and to encourage the widest field of learning in a pupil's formative years.