

Education for a Better World

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Abstract:

We are well into the twenty-first century. But even as technology, communications and globalised business and trade continue to advance rapidly, humanity is still confronted with problems like mass poverty, glaring inequalities in socio-economic conditions and opportunities, environmental degradation, conflict and violence. Progress in these spheres lag far behind the advances in the former spheres. More significantly, these issues call for fundamental re-thinking, re-orientation, and re-direction of human affairs. Technology, trade and public policy would then serve new, humanitarian ends in place of merely commercial and power-related goals. Education is the key means through which this transformation could be achieved, through inculcating in students and youth the vision of a better world, the will to advance towards that and the practical skills to make it happen. The presentation provokes students to re-examine unquestioned assumptions and aspirations, towards making a paradigm shift in thinking. Such a shift would then transform students' perspectives on the role and value of education. And thus define a new generation of qualities and skills, which can help to realize a better world for all.