Education for a Just and Equitable Post – oil Future

Akpezi Ogbuigwe at University of Bradford, School of Law Conference 2023





Talking Points

- A Post Oil Future?
- How do we educate for a post oil future
- Rising to the Challenge of Education for a just and equitable future
- Our Choice



A Just & Equitable Post Oil Future?

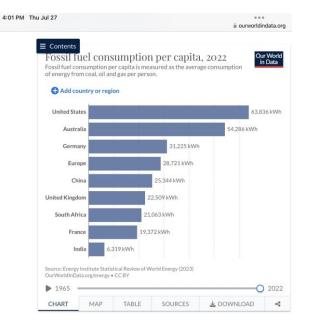


The gravest effect of the phasing out of fossil fuel will be borne by the least users like Africa and other developing nations.

 Should the solution be phasing out an otherwise useful commodity or for high consumers to reduce their consumption – a shift to responsible use?

• The rapacity driving over consumption will also sooner than later infect the so called greener alternative and we would soon find ourselves back to ground zero.









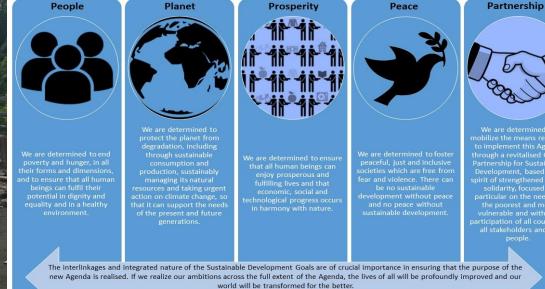
Its Difficult to see but we must prepare current and future generations for this future through education

'Bleak' U.N. report urges drastic action on climate



Unprecedented cuts in emissions are needed, according to new findings





RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATION FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE









Peace and Justice Political voice Social equity Kindness Responsible use of the resources

Educating for a just and equitable future

- We must inject some humility and respect into education so we can co create knowledge that is meaningful and fair to all.
- Education must engage with the difficult issues and players that have made justice and equity a mirage inspite of decades of inspirational efforts in formal and informal education.
- These include societal and structural changes that promote sustainability, youths proactive engagement, and the engagement of Disadvantaged learners of all categories
- In many countries for instance, education must address local concerns of impunity, good governance, justice and equity otherwise in real terms the future we want will be a mirage and the reports and data that will be submitted to global meetings and COPs will have no bearing to the actual experiences of the people on the ground.
- We need to Embrace a new compass for education ask right questions like:
- In what ways can you imagine your field of work or workplace becoming more just and beneficial to more people?
- How can global systems be more just and beneficial to more people?
- There is the need to promote and encourage Sustained reflection

Difficulties

- Strong, absolute and obstinate political agendas
- If we are to break through those agendas, then education needs to be located in the larger frame of those social political agendas
- This ethical reflection and redirection is difficult to do. It is easier by far to focus only on the formal processes of education as we know it
- We can't always put the leadership pressure on the youth it's about ALL of us taking a lead.
- A just and equitable future will not take root in society if localised in schools. You cannot teach justice in the classroom and perpetuate inequality and injustice in governance. The key influencers of society are businesses, government and intergovernmental processes including the UN organisations. Justice and equity must be seen to be taking root not only in form but in substance

Challenges for Higher Education



- How do we provide professional development opportunities for administrators and staff to raise awareness and respect for the value of justice and equity?
- How do you convince people who think they already know to continuous learning, unlearning and relearning?
- How do we imbibe and put in place a culture of professional development for faculty to describe their course content, research and service in terms of constant improvement reflecting new models of knowledge, technological advances and ethics?
- How do we model a culture of continuous improvement and advancement in our Faculties towards a just and equitable future?



Yes. A World of Different Stokes but Education well done today will change our world tomorrow





No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

> Madiba Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Antonio Guterres said "Our future rests on solidarity. We must repair broken trust. We must reinvigorate our multilateral project. And we must uphold dignity for one and for all".



The 3 realms of higher education

Teaching

Research

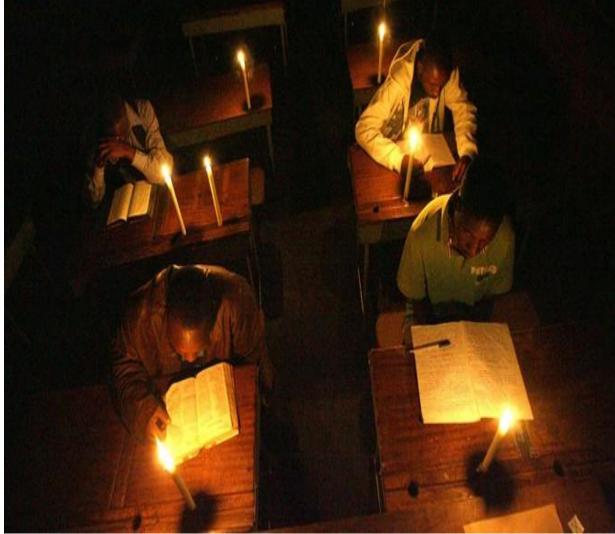
Outreach/community service

Sustainability (future thinking, big picture), innovation, ethics (justice, respect & equity) must be evident in all three



University of Yesterday

"Here are the students of today attending the universities of yesterday being taught by the teachers of the past with methods from the Middle age to solve the problems of the future"



We must not give up on Educating for a just and equitable future



- Paul Hawken giving a Commencement Address to the Class of 2009, at the University of Portland:
- "When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world"





A CONTRIBUTION TO HOPE

Let us be the ancestors our descendants will thank (Winona Laduke)

Our universities, Law Schools becoming living labs, producing a highly motivated, skilled graduate force with the tools and mindset for problem solving, accountability, peace building, innovation and change.

'Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it' Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)