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Topic Guide

“Education in the Postmodern Society”

Introduction:

As we are now living in a postmodern society, the education system faced significant changes compared to 20, 30 years ago. We are going to talk about the difference in the education system between modern society and the postmodern society. The impact on the society of a different education system and the problems that might have caused.

History of the topic:

From the gymnasiums and private tutoring system of Ancient Greece and Rome, to the system of apprenticeship developed by the guilds in the Middle Ages, from Europe’s oldest Universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, to Africa’s newly built schools by International NGOs, such as Build Africa, Education has always been an integral part of societies around the world.

Throughout the years, different approaches towards education have been adopted due to various cultural and social features of the countries, regions and people across the globe. These historical approaches and other external influences have shaped today’s educational systems in each country. This led to a vast diversity, each educational systems possessing unique aspects, yet all sharing common features.

Past action (by the UN or other authoritative bodies):

From its very foundation, the UN has focused on the importance of a free and high-quality Education. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, **The Right to Education** is presented through Article 26:

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(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

In 2000, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the members to create a campaign that would highlight the UN's development efforts and provide realistic long-term goals. Consequently, the Millennium Development Goals were established with the purpose of being achieved in 15 years. The second goal was related to Education: To achieve universal primary education.

In 2013, the progress towards reaching this goal was tracked as it follows:

- Enrolment in primary education in developing regions reached 90% in 2010, up from 82% in 1999.
- Progress on primary school enrolment has slowed. Between 2008 and 2011, the number of out-of-school children of primary age fell by only 3 million.
- Gender gaps in youth literacy are narrowing. Globally, there are 95 literate young women for every 100 young men in 2010, compared to 90 women in 1990.

Some tendencies have also been observed:

- Poverty is a key factor keeping children out of school, but gender and place of residence also matter.
- One in four children who enter primary school will probably leave before reaching the last grade.
- Literacy rates among adults and youth are on the rise, and gender gaps are narrowing.

Most recently, in 2015, the *Sustainable Development Goals* were designed and intended to be achieved by year 2030. Education again is part of the goals: "*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*". Will this goal be achieved?

Possible considerations for the future:

In this section, you will need to consider all of the past and current actions which are taking place in regards to education and think about how they might change in the future but as well as how they might impact the future. How will education evolve?

We must take into consideration the fact that technology is playing a bigger part in our lives each and every day. That will and must change the way in which students learn and are being taught. Information is a lot more accessible because of the development of many different technologies and you will need to consider how that changes the way in which students learn. Do you think that technologies will play a bigger role in your country when it comes to education or not?

Also, jobs evolve and change. Some jobs are now done by AI, so new jobs have and will continue to appear. Do you think that children will learn different skills in school to help them better prepare for the future? What jobs do you expect to see in the future in your country?

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Conclusion / Summary:

There are many challenges of education in postmodern society. You will discover some potential problems that might appear in your country and find a possible solution for the issue. This study guide will help you with that. Good luck.

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