A POINT OF VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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History would tell us how the human race struggled to survive in an environment where everyone is considered a competition including oneself. Survival of the fittest says it all. Way back then, the fight was more on physical strength. Those who could stand against all possible odds have higher chances of survival. Nations who had greater military strength would rule over those who are weak. Those who can, will.

In this very competitive world where everything seems to have gone way far advanced, survival becomes more complicated and thus, difficult. Physical strength, is of course, a basic requirement. You have to at least be able to lift a finger, or walk, or move around to get where you desire. However, physical strength could only bring us as far as our physical limitations and restrictions could such as age. One will lose his strength at one point in time.

The second requirement is character which may be considered as the most important part of survival. Building character builds or develops connections which one may need to go between points. One’s character opens or closes doors for opportunities to uplift his own quality of life. Character may bring one person farther than what physical strength can and in some cases, building the appropriate character would be enough not only to survive but even climb up the social ladder.

However, we cannot always hide from the truth. There are a lot of people out there who have the appropriate qualifications in terms of physical strength or character to
perform a specific job or function but they are not given the opportunity to do so or be so. Something is missing and surely, any person would agree that it is education.

Education gives us the means to better hone our physical strength and develop our character. We start educating our children at a young age hoping that they will have the necessary characteristics to survive and prosper in life. However, in this constantly evolving times, primary and secondary education are not enough to secure a desirable future.

There probably could be no argument to contradict the premise that higher education adds to a person’s human capital. It is what it is supposed to be and, theoretically, it delivers what it promised. Higher education gives a person a sizeable advantage over those who do not have it in many aspects. A college graduate becomes more saleable in the labor market as the market tends to filter people by their educational qualifications. Employment thus becomes easier which would then fire a chain reaction as employment increases a person’s capacity to afford desires, afford health insurance, afford medicines, be more involved in the community, spend more time with family and prepare for the future. One thing leads to another and it all starts with the stepping stone which gives a person a better chance to withstand the demand of the economy and the society.

What higher education can provide is a secret to no one. Everybody knows what a person can achieve given a college degree on hand. This is why mothers teach their children the value of dreams and education and why fathers work all day. It is already a common knowledge that higher education adds to a person’s human capital.
The problem that exists is not of the ignorance of the importance of higher education. Instead it revolves on the issue: if higher education can provide all those pretty words, then why is it that many of our people remain poor?

The constitution grants free basic education but higher education remains expensive, making it very elusive for many. In other words, basic education is a right but higher education is a privilege. It is as if the system is rigged to make sure that not all of the populace can have college education. And also alarming is that of those who are currently unemployed in the country, about 25 percent are college graduates. Our own economy cannot even sustain the supply of manpower and provide jobs to those who need and deserve it.

This scenario is what is causing our dilemma. Many cannot afford higher education and those who can are not even sure if they will be employed afterwards. Furthermore, despite knowing how higher education could contribute to a higher quality of living, some of our people would think that it is only for the intellectually and/or the financially capable. For this, our government should not just provide equal educational rights but also equitable solutions to guarantee that each will benefit from the basic education curriculum thus providing every student physical, emotional and intellectual readiness to enter college. Equitable provisions are also warranted to bring each of our high school graduates inside a college institution and wait for them to come out with a degree. And finally, rigorous efforts are needed to develop an economy that will provide those in the manpower list a job that will suit and further develop their potentials.

Our society gives high value for higher education for a good reason. We need our people to be happier in their lives and be more productive. Those are the end goals. Our country needs people who can withstand the challenges of our times. The world needs more of these people. Higher education can lead us to a more sustainable and desirable future. The only thing that we would need now is a system that can help make all these promises happen.
References:

Commission on Higher Education

http://www.ched.ph/