EDUCATION SYSTEM VS. GLOBAL HEALTH RISKS

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Many people show a huge concern regarding the status of education systems as the coronavirus (COVID-19) remains unresolved today. McCarthy (2020) reported that the educational institutions from all over the globe implemented school closures of some sort to combat the spread of the virus.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, such a response to the pandemic is disrupting the education of at least 290 million students worldwide. Nonetheless, it is deemed necessary. The global health risks are so high that continuing physical classes at the moment can be a death sentence, not just for educators and students but to the whole world.

Social distancing is one of the foundations of government response to the unprecedented crisis because close contact can exponentially increase the number of infected. However, it is challenging to implement such a policy to school premises given the size of the classrooms and the number of students. For that reason, the current world education system is profoundly affected. There are two cents presented on different media platforms regarding how global health risks affect the systems. The less taken argument concerning the issue is how the health crisis can potentially cure education systems worldwide.

Kanoria (2020) emphasized that even before COVID-19 happened, education has been stuck in the confines of a classroom. Hence, some youth are shut out of learning because of problems such as poverty, distance, violence, etc. The health crisis can shift education into a more inclusive system, albeit disruptive at the moment.
On the contrary, many people argue that the unprecedented crisis only distorts the education system more and not cures it. According to Burgess and Sievertsen (2020), the best public policy tool available for children to acquire skills is to go to school. But now that the pandemic does not allow them to employ it, other learning strategies need to be designed. Since the normal way of living before is no match with the health risks that COVID-19 poses to the world, education systems are getting reshaped. Moreover, the process is inevitable.

Educators and school administrators have no choice but to shift the learning process in a more secure and efficient medium. One of the media that is heavily used right now is the virtual world. Classes are transferred to different digital channels to make sure students still get the opportunity to acquire the knowledge they need for their future endeavors. However, this tweak to the education system garnered mixed reaction not just from students, but also from parents and teachers.

Some approved and argued that it is only right that the youth continues taking their classes online. They emphasized that students do not have other things to do at home but to study since they are quarantined. Some firmly resisted that the policy should not be adapted given its exclusive nature. Not all students have the capacity to keep abreast of the class transition. According to the World Economic Forum, the number of people who do not have access to the Internet has already reached half of the world’s population. Hence, not every student can fully participate in the said policy.

The education system will remain unstable unless the global health risks brought about by the pandemic are entirely eliminated.
References:


