

EDITORIAL 2(2012)3**DAMIR HRŠAK**

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In the previous Editorial, I reflected on the importance of holistic education within the frame of the turbulent beginning of the 21st century. Many impressive scientific discoveries can easily become the means of inflicting pain and injustice in the modern world unless they are democratically controlled and used responsibly by holistically educated individuals.

There is free will which makes people chose between good and evil. However, education and, above all, the upbringing play the crucial role in the process of choosing the side. Uneducated people have narrower insight into the matter of things which makes it more difficult to make a quality decision.

Depriving somebody of knowledge means making him/her less free and it is one of the most brutal forms of enslaving. Unfortunately, it is still being a trend in the modern world. Keeping somebody away from knowledge is most easily achieved by depriving the person of education. Uneducated people are most easily manipulated through the media by deluding them with non-existent damages and simultaneously hiding real disasters from them.

Depriving certain groups of citizens of their human potentials through accessibility of quality education is a form of betrayal of the country's future. It is painful to see how currently it occurs throughout our planet and one cannot but notice how many governments and governors use the method to enlarge their powers. And it does not happen just in North Korea, Somalia and Belorussia.

Malevolent people seek the meaning of their existence in temporary economical and political power and the indulgences they bring, while benevolent people find their purpose in the permanent outcomes of their benevolence, nobility and kindness. Malevolent people can only reach an intensive but temporary fulfilment, while benevolent ones manage to develop the capability of immersing themselves in long-lasting happiness. A quality or holistic education provides sufficient number of coherently structured information enabling people to develop the potential to become benevolent. By learning skills we find our place in the society and contribute to the success and quality of the society as whole.

Malevolent people know that life-long education, together with the holistic approach to environment presents a threat to their system of domination. Taking advantage of people and nature is a sustainable system that can survive only in the societies where the educational system generates inequalities presenting it as undisputable necessity.

There was a notorious argument against Moses during the Jewish fled from the Egyptian slavery, stipulating that Moses bereft the Jews of pots full of meat. It is such a miserable but contemporary argument. However, it is the holistic education that can explain why freedom is a better choice than slavery. It is holistic education that explains why it is necessary to have a more justified distribution of wealth on the level of certain countries and the world as a whole.

It is the holistic education that can make us realise why it is necessary to show the respect to mother Earth as a precondition of using its fruits freely, while taking advantage of the planet as a source of raw material that can be privatized and used without any responsibility is a path to painful and savage destruction.

Holistic approach to environment without holistic education, and primarily without holistic upbringing, can be perceived as just a lonely voice in the open space. Holistic approach respects and integrates the material and spiritual components of existence, developing kindness and amicability. Young people brought up on holistic grounds are the basis of every righteous society, presenting its power and future.

Every righteous society necessarily becomes a successful society, too. Unjust societies can operate apparently successfully for a while, as once were the empires of the ancient Egypt and Rome,

but injustice is unstable state of the matter and unjust societies undoubtedly fall apart in a very painful process full of violence and death. Unfortunately, disintegration of an unfair society does not necessarily lead to creation of a fair one.

It is only possible to achieve the righteous society through the process of spiritual evolution in which holistic education and the holistic approach to environment play crucial role. In Europe at the beginning of 21st century it is possible to build holistic educational systems and promote the necessity of benevolence.

I hope that the new French wave of benevolence, as revitalization of the concept of freedom, brotherhood and equality will eventually engulf the whole Europe and that justice will not be a word laughed upon by bankers and big corporations. The time will show if my hopes are in vain. Hope and work in hope is what we are left with. *Operae pretium est sperare et in spe agere.*