How can education meet the world we’re living in?

It was in my late twenties when I was exposed to a kind of learning that began to liberate me. It affirmed my best qualities which I had not ever considered before; love and caring. It awakened me back to the power of my body. It showed be the diversity and complexity of every single thing, so that I did not easily accept anything, but questioned everything. I did not feel set in an answer, but accepted the changes of perspectives over time.

I recognised that there is no truth of facts but that I have the power of leading my own path of learning, trusting my own heart in the process and accepting the heart of others. I recognised that there would be divergences of thought and feeling with anyone I interacted with, but that there is immense strength and power in celebrating those divergences as a community of diverse people.

For these reasons, I believe in an education that fosters empathy and critical thinking, where an individual’s world is expanded by different views and perspectives. Yet these views and perspectives must be seen as such, rather than the truth. For that reason, it is important to encourage authenticity so that individuals can discern which views and perspectives speak true to their own heart.

By recognizing their own truth as their own, one acknowledges the truth of others. It is in that way that I believe individuals can act in truly autonomous way, being responsible for their own beliefs and needs, as well as the beings and planet we share our existence with. This kind of education is empathic, towards ourselves and others, in an understanding of the complex relationship between ourselves. It is active, where each individual is empowered to follow what is true for them but with recognition of the truth of others, with the possibility of creating actions that encompasses these different truths.

In this way, education, for me, does not prescribe perfect students to follow a linear path that is predetermined as the ‘right one’, which inherently means competition and parameters of worth. Education is valuing each individual as they are at any moment and allowing the conditions for them to be even more themselves, to recognize their worth and the everyday potential of that worth.

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