Status of education

We live in a world were education is desired but not always attainable. It’s sad to think about but that is a fact, and will always be this until the world makes a change. We have to all strive in order to meet the 3 priorities that will put every child in school as well as improve the quality of education, all while expanding the knowledge on global citizenship. Until we meet these three priorities then we will not be able to develop and grow worldwide.

Jamaica is not exceeding in these three priorities. The first priority that is listed but not met is that every child is enrolled in school. Jamaica’s enrollment rate for primary education is currently at 96%. This means that 4% of children in Jamaica are not enrolled in school. On top of these statistics only 88% of kids enrolled in primary education graduate. There is something that needs to be done to ensure that these numbers increase. As you go up the latter you see these number decrease from 96% enrollment to 88% enrollment rate at the secondary education level. Students are dropping out and not completing. This alone tells us that Jamaica’s education system is not meeting the first priorities on the UN global first initiative list.

The second priority is to improve the quality of education in Jamaica. For one more funding needs to be put into the education system in Jamaica. “Public High Schools ARE NOT FREE in Jamaica!” (Send a poor child) Public high schools should be free, but they aren’t. Students first have to pass an exam in order to go to high school. That alone is reasonable, but once they pass the test they have to turn around and pay for high school. That shouldn’t be the case when we want every child enrolled in school; yet we turn around and deny the poor an education because they cannot afford to pay it for it. How is that meeting the first priority then turning around and charging for an education? We are basically sending low income kids out on the streets since they can’t afford to pay for the education.

Another thing that needs to improve in order to increase the quality of teaching is the teachers. “Attracting qualified teachers is a “chronic challenge” for the Caribbean, and is particularly pronounced within the core subjects - English, Math and Science. With such a predominance of unqualified teachers, pass rates for these subjects in particular have suffered.” (How to improve quality) We stick these kids in a classroom where the teachers aren’t even qualified to teach the kids of the future. Personally having an unqualified teacher try and teach me is a slap to the face. If our goal is to improve the quality of education then we need to invest in educating our teachers, and/or hire qualified teachers and bring then in my raising their salary. Quality of education starts with qualified teachers.

The last priority, foster global citizenship is in need of being met by Jamaica. For one, our teachers aren’t at the level that they should be. We need to take our teachers and expand their knowledge on global affairs and what not. “Teachers can help build ideas and habits of non-discrimination and positive support to the disadvantaged through the way they conduct their teaching of literacy, numeracy and other subjects.” (Priority #3) our teachers is what’s going to help student’s foster global citizenship. Students can learn the issues and problems in the world and understand much more easily without all the discrimination other countries face. Over all I think that as a whole Jamaica isn’t meeting the top three priorities set out by global education first. This is an ongoing problem that needs to be solved.

Resources

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