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Praise of Normality, or school is not a place for smart people.

Life is not fair. I noticed longer life warrants some would agree with that sentence eagerly. Not that it's hard to agree, though. Life's injustice is relatively easy to be noticed. It's already noticeable at the school stage. And it's not even about violent bullies, emotionally unstable teachers or puberty issues. Although just this could guarantee a few traumas. But to that mess, an unfair educational system is added. And there's no many tough guys who could survive polish educational system without some serious mental scars.

Polish school system guarantees equal treatment to every student. Identical, may be said. But fair doesn't mean equally to everyone. In the meantime, public education in Poland seems to be a foundation for the one of three paths of career: engineer, doctor or family disgrace. And I wish I was joking. The fact is though, nowadays going to a college and getting a diploma is believed to be necessary in real, adult life. More scientific subject is chosen, more kudos the diploma gets. Although unserious studies are still better than no studies at all, and, God forbid, graduating from technical institute. This is only for not-intelligent-enough ones. Unambitious ones.

This trend lasts many years now. When my teacher in junior high school found out I was considering going to a technical institute, she was authentically scared. Apparently, I was too smart for that. In a high school, it was common knowledge even for some teachers that students graduating from humanities class would end up working in McDonald. And what an awful thing are being said about artistic schools! However, I am under great impression that schools exist in the first place. I mean, who would like to starve, not stay on the market and become addict in the age of 20?

Well, I would like to. Being young, sweet and innocence child I had a dream, to become a ballerina. Reality deflated me quickly. Nearest ballet school was over hundred kilometres away from my home, so going there wasn't an option. After school courses wasn't an option as well, since no one would find it profitable running such classes in such a small city as mine. And so, my childish dream bit the dust. It would be easy to say, maybe it was for the best. That I couldn't count on going to Royal Ballet School anyway. And maybe it was truth. The point is, I will never get the chance to find out.

How many dreams died this way? Too many. I mean, school is probably not some charity to make children's wishes come true. But does it mean it should kill them? Because that's what school does. And it's not even about teacher saying, 'it's just a hobby, not a real work'. Many children won't gain knowledge that could help them become who they want to be. School will teach them to think inside the box, fill their head with irrelevant facts and torture them with useless subjects.

Sure, many people will use maths. But why do school torment everyone with it? Is this one time, when trigonometric functions will be useful for humanist, really worth hours of suffering? Let's face it, more tears will be shed from despair, and more money will be spent on private lessons, then mathematical knowledge will stay with student, who hates maths truly and deeply. And when they will need maths, they use calculator rather than school's notes.

What is the use of maths for future historicist, and of history for future engineer? Wouldn't it be better to let students decide which way they want to develop themselves? As long as primary school is a good, and probably necessary for life, base, further curriculum shouldn't be the same for everyone. There are no arguments that convince me everyone should know, that Earth spins around the Sun. Sure, it's a common knowledge. And absolutely useless, unless you're an astronomer. Why does school try to teach students stuffs, that are of any use in their future lives? Why doesn't it let students learn only these things they are interested in, or connected to their future plans?

It may appear that's why there are class profiles in high school. And it could be a brilliant idea, if only its execution wasn't some kind of a joke. This 'class profiles' differ between each other only with few hours of classes. Few hours of maths or polish language more, with almost the same curriculum. In my high school it wasn't a problem if someone from mathematics profile wanted to extend art history. But maybe extensions are the freedom of choice students owe? I guess it is kind of true. It's a pity, though, that freedom of choice are only owed to them in the last two years of school education. Well, relative freedom of choice. Students still have to pass basic exam from mathematics, the Polish language and foreign language.

This officiousness in gifting polish students with knowledge could be justify, if only this knowledge was of any use. However, I'm afraid it's not. Maybe I am stupid, but after many years of my school education, I still have no idea how taxes work. Polish law system is, even in some simplest (and unfortunately necessary to survive) aspects, incomprehensible for many people. It's a black magic, that even Uncle Google can't light up. Unfortunately, learning simply law issues, cooking or house works weren't included in curriculum, or it was given a lick and a promise. Even sexual education sucks! Graduates in Poland can solve quadratic equation, but they'll fail assembling a chair from Ikea. They can tell who Adam Mickiewicz was, but they don't know how to define their own sexual identity. I mean, they could learn that from books, internet or their parents easily. But isn't school what should prepare them to an adult life?

In Spain or Norway, it is organised way better. In that schools, students are allowed to choose educational path they want to follow. So, if they decide to study science, they will have science and science only. After some time, they will be able to choose once again, if they want to study engineering, medicine or informatics. The point is, they won't be bother with learning history. Of course, implementation of such solution would need rewriting the whole curriculum. Adaptation of the whole personnel, all institutions and programme to new reality. So, I seriously doubt polish government would decide to do such a thing, just to improve the quality of living in this country. But I can always dream about it, can't I?

George Bernard Shaw said, 'there is nothing on earth intended for innocent people so horrible as a school' and I couldn't agree more. If someone give people box with everything, they lost through the time of their school education, they will welcome back their creativity, potential and sense of purpose joyfully. Some may even find their will to live and self-confidence. Polish school system treats most of the students equally. Unless you have an opinion from psychological and pedagogical counselling centre, nothing will save you from going through this path. And this is so unfair! But should anything else be expected from life? At least, life is not very fair.

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Starting from the very first step we make into our lives, we begin moving towards a less or more obvious reason. It is, naturally, a rather less obvious thing for the smallest kids who aren't capable of knowing what's ahead of them.

The older we get, the more knowledge we grasp about the world and what is surrounding us, the more conscious we are of it. The moment we become more aware of the reason is the moment we can initiate an action and actually engage ourselves into it.

The school. A big, if not even a huge part of our existence. It occupies about one third up to one fourth of our lives, depending on each individual's life span. It usually decides about how our future will look like, what kind of people we become, what personality traits will become more and less important to us.

To grow and get a full understanding about life we need to live surrounded by the existence of other people, as well as all sorts of material goods we can learn about through our journey. Even if we wanted to remain separated from the rest of the world, it would not be possible - it's inevitable for us to simply live in a society as at least the smallest part of it. That describes the purpose of school pretty well, but only on the social side.

There are many more sides to it, and another one of them is to obtain knowledge which later decides about our worth and our abilities. It is only natural for not all of us to be able to do whatever we'd like to do. One can be talented in subjects related to science, while someone else can be more into humanistics. It's a rather rare phenomenon for someone to be generally good at everything. When a person of such kind happens to appear right in front of our eyes, we think: "Damn, here comes the renaissance man, meanwhile I am just a good-for-nothing. I'm totally screwed".

On the other hand, people like that are usually liked and truly appreciated by teachers. Why is that so? Why is it even a thing? Why are more talented people usually recognized more easily? Be it the fact teachers don't have to put additional work into trying to make their students understand a certain task, as some might find specific exercises tremendously hard to comprehend, or simply because that's how this world works. The ones who show some sort of a talent and definitely have it easier to obtain knowledge on regular basis than the mediocre or even the weak ones are, unarguably, favored by teachers. Whether you agree or disagree with it does not really matter, as it's not something you can fight against, unless you put a lot of effort into your studies and eventually get noticed by the ones who teach you. It is indeed a sad reality which comes to our minds while going through the studying phase of our life.

A lot of students often give up on their studies due to having a wrong state of mind, thinking about how bad they are at school related stuff. They prefer to focus on their social life more, getting to know as many friends as possible, completely losing the sight of education which is slowly fleeing away right in front of them and possibly losing all the motivation which might sometimes lead into not knowing exactly what to do when the future life comes. No one is going to claim socializing is bad. But it is sometimes a run-away from what should be clearly more important. As a result of the bad treatment and not enough recognition they receive from the teachers, they try to raise their own feeling of self-worth and self-confidence by trying to be cool in front of the other students, trying to gain their interest and their acceptance by de-ranking themselves to the point of being referred to as "lazy" and "bad" students by the professors. It sure raises artificiality amongst them. And it's definitely a bad thing which should NEVER happen. Not often do the teachers realize it can be their fault for how their own students turn out to be, and how much harm it can cause.

But just because you cannot do much against it, it does not entirely mean you're at the dead end. Just because not all the teachers treat their students the way they should does not mean someone must be bad. It is something to wish for in our current educational system to be able to study with a teacher who actually cares about equality and makes sure to involve every individual rather than stiffly trying to teach them things they were told to include during their lessons. While some of us might be blessed with a teacher of such kind, who clearly does care about each person getting to learn stuff the way they can enjoy it, others might not be so lucky and instead will be treated rather coldly and with not much interest on the teacher's side. In a case like this, it is important to take things into your own hands and take care of it the way you think is the most efficient. After all, every of us should remember it is our life and not someone else's.

The most important thing we learn at school is the fact that the most important things can't be learned at school.

Every person in his life is constantly restricted. The world we live in is determined by patterns, stereotypes and rules. Every day you have to be strong enough to face the problems, choices and obstacles. Moreover, it is obvious that you should think positive and be productive! You want your life to be perfect, right?

However, if you want to have skills to deal with reality, you need knowledge, which is based on experiences. People start to create this kind of abilities in childhood, needless to say that this is crucial period of life. I think about those times when I slowly reached a height of one hundred and thirty centimeters, I can see what made me who I am and what kind of knowledge was major to create my personality and for instance, my value system. At this age, when young person shapes his life, he starts education. Then meets the patterns and stereotypes for the first time. Moreover, his knowledge and value are defined by programs of education, numbers and means. Same thing with perception of his own intellect.

Albert Camus said that "School prepares children for a world which doesn't exist". Education is strictly limited to curriculum, so every student has to deal with subjects even though he hasn't predisposition to do it. It is very harmful for young talented people, because their passion can't be developed. They have to focus on things, which are imposed to them. What is more, young people think that they have to learn things that can be useful nowadays because of economy. If it isn't, there is no time to expand themselves. School is a morgue for talented people. It is a paradox because after all one of the most valuable things in people's life is passion and talent! It makes every person individual and special.

The leader of "Pink Floyd", Roger Waters in one of his the most popular song "Another brick in the Wall" showed what education looks like nowadays. It became a reason of traumatic experiences in his life. Extract of this piece, "We don't need no thoughts control" pays attention to very important issue in the education system. School imposes on students thought patterns, views and how they should create their morality and conscience. Moreover, teachers make a judgement of it. It is another paradox; they are completely strange to students! Because of it, young people are aggrieved, their self-assessment is lower. I am also confused as teachers are our judges and we are supposed to listen to them, but why? They are the same people as students.

Have you ever wondered what kind of skills can you find the most useful? At bottom, the most important abilities and behaviors people master during the whole life. For instance, when you are a child and you play with other kids outside, at work, in relationships. It is another paradox that at school, teachers which are supposed to be our authorities and mentors, doesn't teach the most important thing which is real life and how to deal with reality. Among young people is a lot of teenagers with depression, eating disorders and other mental problems. Needless to say, that kids in primary school are hooked on drugs. What's more girls who are still kids, became mothers. If education had been more adapted to young people, it wouldn't have been such a horrible problem. There are no subjects like psychology or sex education. I hope that it will change one day.

I would like to mention that I'm not the opponent of education. I feel like every person should have basic knowledge about our world, history, math, languages and anything which can be more or less useful. I am not convinced of the way that these things are passed to young people. It is frustrating that students are closed in patterns. It kills individuality, talents and passions. I feel like there is a lot of things that I would change. Who knows, maybe I will have my chance in the future. Today, after all these years of education I can notice that "The most important thing we learn at school is the fact that the most important thing can't be learned at school".

Why are you talking during my class?

Why are you teaching during my conversation?

