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Topic Essay 2: Develop a Plan to Ease Poverty

Poverty in the United States, among other countries, is a nationwide issue that severely impacts the lives of individuals from as early as birth if coming from a poverty-stricken family or background. What is the cause for poverty? Many factors; but the number one cause is the lack of a provider or providers that could financially support (work-wise) a number of people. To have the credentials necessary for obtaining work, education is strongly advised, if not required. In other words, education would be the key solution for decreasing poverty; if more people were educated and trained in a skill (at a young age), career opportunities would open up and thus would ensure a lifelong status in moderate to high financial success.

In the vein of coming up with a plan to give education for everyone—including all races and social classes (even the impoverished)—I would devise a school that would revolutionize learning structure and affordability of the American education. This institution would be characterized as an academy consisting of three schools of primary, secondary and tertiary education. In turn, these schools would contain the appropriate grade levels pertaining to each age group (Primary: Pre-kindergarten thru 4th Grade, Secondary: 5th Grade thru 12th Grade, and Tertiary: Undergrad thru Postgrad years).

The reason for why I would devise these three schools under one system is to build a close, tight-knit community of students within the same learning stage of development. Therefore, in this structure, the primary school (for example) would end up having students within the confines of an environment where sociological differences can be accepted without too much conflict (as typically seen in schools where different age groups lean toward a different

understanding of another's approach to learning and behaving). Hopefully, in this setting, issues involving social racism and social discrimination would be countered greatly.

The reason for the inclusion of a school that incorporates tertiary learning (a.k.a. college education) into the one academy system is to narrow the rocky and often problematic gap between the high school and undergraduate transition. To elaborate on the transition, it is a common occurrence in the educational world for an individual or individuals to have to face not going to college due to high cost of tuition. This scenario hits the hardest on students coming from low class families and poverty-stricken backgrounds. To facilitate this recurring problem, my system would incorporate the first two years of college education into the last two years of high school. In other words, students could obtain their associate's degree upon graduating high school. Having this outcome would be advantageous; by having students graduate with a degree at their arsenal would ensure a career opportunity without the need to further education immediately due to cost factors (and even if so, my program incorporates bachelor's, master's, and doctorate's degree stages at reduced tuition because one flaw I find in the education system is how often the same courses are repeated which this system avoids doing, allowing for electives to be doubled up as high school courses).

Although there is certainly more to be said about this educational project, I must stress the realistic priorities and goals of implementing such. For one thing, it would take a period of at least 4 years to see my efforts in taking in students to commit to the high school/associate's degree program work and on top of that, another few years to see if graduates end up taking job opportunities given their educational background. A simple timeline describing the founding and

growth of the academy would start at 2-4 years for the construction of each school, 13-15 years for the minimal completion of the inaugural class to graduate with a bachelor's degree, and 22 years to oversee students complete their education from Pre-K to doctorate's degree. On another note, I would plan on funding this school with the use of endowments, funds, and even donations (from willing parents and businesses). I find that these methods are derived from some to most colleges and schools nationwide. Nevertheless, the total cost of envisioning this project would be in the hundred thousands, if not millions (depending on the level of demand for students to be enrolled, requiring the construction of multiple academies across many states in the U.S.).

In the end, I see education (at least from Pre-K to Grade 12) as an opportunity for everyone (even the impoverished) to seize without the constraint of having to pay. Additionally, given the close environment and structured system of educational tiers that I highlight in this planned academy, my utmost goals are to strengthen the quality of learning while still maintaining appropriate sociological and psychological behaviors in the student body. For me personally, it is my greatest ambition to envision this project and implement it as I have been a critic of the educational system for years and been supportive of increasing and strengthening quality education for all age groups. It is something that I plan to follow after I finish my own education and something I look forward to for helping capable learners, namely learners who unfortunately come from not-so-great financial backgrounds.