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American Education and Impact on the Global Workforce

Schools play a vital role in society by shaping the minds and skills of individuals, enabling them to contribute positively to the community. Schools provide the essential foundation for learning, growth, and development, allowing students to become capable members of society. However, a country's economy relies on the outcome of the school system as current students represent the nation's future workforce. It is therefore essential for schools to prepare students for a global workforce. However, like anything else, there are flaws. Despite being a leading system on the global scale, the American education system falls short in adequately preparing its students for the global workforce due to outdated curricula and a lack of emphasis on practical, real-world experience.

Despite the role of real-world experience in fostering workplace readiness, the American education system falls short in providing opportunities for students to gain hands-on knowledge and skills essential for success in the modern workforce. According to Agus Prianto, a member of the Indonesian Board of Economic Education, engaging in interactive activities ties together theoretical and practical knowledge(Prianto 214). Integrating theoretical understanding with practical application in the learning process is often missing from the American education system. The current structure of the American education system tends to separate theoretical learning from practical experiences, hindering the development of a deeper understanding of the

material. Consequently, students are deprived of opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios, putting them at a weakness in the global workforce.

In a world where grades tend to serve as qualifications, grading the true understanding of the material is important. True understanding has to do with how concepts from a book connect to the real world. To do this, Research shows a positive correlation between practical work and the academic attainment of most students in science (Shana 211). While practical learning is beneficial in many ways, opponents might argue that students might miss the bigger picture in concepts. In his paper, Castillo argues the dangers of practical learning in solidifying conceptual flaws. While the study conducted by Castillo shows the negative effects of hands-on learning of science, it is important to consider that hands-on experiences can have lasting benefits in education. Hands-on experiences provide students with physical interactions to develop a deeper understanding of concepts. Real-life objects offer a three-dimensional and interactive learning environment, enabling students to make connections between theory and practical application. Additionally, hands-on experiences help improve critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity, which are essential for success in a global workforce.

The curriculum in the American education system requires significant updates to align with the evolving global workforce, ensuring students are equipped with up-to-date knowledge and skills. In his Forbes article, Somashekar talks about how the curriculum should be focused on exposing students to different subjects by saying, “creating opportunities to test out real jobs are just a few ways schools could help students try on lots of different hats”(Somashekar). And this is true; exposing students to different subjects and fields helps them fine-tune their interests. This is something the American curriculum is lacking due to standard-based learning and set graduation requirements. Similar thoughts are expressed by Pellegrino in his article, Rethinking

and Redesigning Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. In the article, Pellegrino says, “we know a great deal more about the nature of competence and the development of expertise in multiple areas of the curriculum…However, very little of that knowledge has been used to date to shape the nature of our curricular goals” (Pellegrino 1). This is true as well; humanity has made advances in all the fields, but our curriculum remains unchanged after decades. Our latest knowledge has to be incorporated into schools’ curriculum to better prepare students for the changing knowledge and needs of the world. Failure to prepare them with up-to-date knowledge will mismatch the outcomes of the education and the needs of the global workforce.

In conclusion, the American education system holds a critical position in society, shaping the nation's future workforce. However, its effectiveness in preparing students for the global workforce is hindered by a lack of practical learning opportunities and an outdated curriculum. The separation of theoretical understanding from practical application disconnects students from real-world contexts, depriving them of experiences that foster deeper understanding of content. Incorporating hands-on learning and updating the curriculum to reflect current knowledge and needs is utmost important. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, schools can empower students with skills and knowledge to thrive in the global workforce.

Works Cited

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