

JUNGLE SCHOOL

Adaptation of a script of a Spanish Audiovisual.

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Intent of this Fable.

- ✓ *The main objective of education is formation, not Information*
- ✓ *The ideal of integral education is a myth, a Utopia.*
- ✓ *Our School syllabuses are not sensible and adapted to the needs of our students*

The Fable

Once upon a time, the animals in the jungle decided to open a school for their children. They called a general body meeting of all the inhabitants of the forest. Unanimously they agreed that in keeping with modern trends in education, it was imperative that all the citizens of the forest should learn all arts and sciences. Their slogan was: **'Integral education is a must'**.

A 'unique' plan of education was drawn up for all the animals to follow. Every creature, big or small, should learn all the animal trades. The youngsters – without distinction – would be taught flying, running, swimming, climbing trees, jumping, making nests, boring holes, singing, chirping and the rest. That would be a compulsory, all round, integral syllabus of education.

On the opening day of the school, one could hear the teachers telling the pupils: 'In our school, my dear children, you will learn all the things all the citizens of the jungle do. Anyone of you will be able to fly like an eagle, run like a deer, sing like a nightingale and climb trees like a monkey. It will be fun!'

A few days later, you could hear the following exchanges between a teacher and a **tortoise**: 'Come on! Run! Faster! Faster! Can't you catch up with the hare?' 'Teacher, I can't! I can't!' Of course, you can! Come on! Try, try again! I can't teacher. I tried my best! You, lazy boy, can't you run for nuts? I see that you are disobedient and uncooperative. If you do not try again, I'll fail you.' Finally, the tortoise failed in the race. He could not make the grade. He became a failure, and so he dropped out of school.

Next day, you could hear another teacher yelling at a **baby elephant**: 'Come here! Show me how much you learned already to climb a tree! Quick, come on, fast climb! Why are you not moving? You lazy bones! You are useless. You will never learn a thing.'

Needless to say, the elephant also failed his class and dropped out from school.

And so **the eagle** was also a failure for not learning to swim, and the monkey for not flying, and the horse for not chirping. Before the end of the year, all the animals had dropped out of school. **All had become failures!**

Finally, the school closed down. From then on, life in the forest went on as before. Each animal went practicing and perfecting his skill; yet, things were not quite the same. **The**

school had taught one and all the same lesson; that they all were failures and drop-outs; that none of them had made the grade!

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

- Integral education is chimera , an Utopia
- Not all children are born with the same talents, abilities and needs..
- Many an educational plan is sort a procrustean bed to our children
- There were no school failures in the world until schooling was invented
- No child is born a failure. Schooling make them feel like failures
- Failing to get a grade in school doesn't make anyone a human failure.`.
- Education has to be pupil centered' 'not subject-centered'
- Schooling is meant to give formation to our kids not just information
- . Our educational system aims at training our children for a living not for life. .
- God gives children to the world, , schooling turns them into robot like personalities.
- Do not let your schooling interfere with your education
- Competitiveness' is not right tool to form children, but to deform them
- Teaching primarily is not meant to secure high marks in but to impart knowledge.
- Our school system is like a defective Xerox machine turning out spoiled copies of a perfect originals..
- Our educational stem needs a Copernican revolution
- Wisdom is better than knowledge.
- Knowledge without wisdom is a running-away horse.

