

Expectations of school ?

Miguel Argibay

We used this painting by Miguel with the caption "what should they expect of school?" to illustrate Mick Waters' article in ET [2].

This led to discussion about whether it was appropriate. These children are on the way to school in Argentina. They are poor and have a poor education far removed from the debates we were having about curriculum. Apologies.

We found his email challenging - so we share it here ...

Thanks for the Elephant Times and my picture of a girl and boy going to school on a horse ...

What parents and children expect of school is to have a hot meal once a day and learn some reading and maths. It is a very poor education for poor people. Teachers also get very low salaries. This kind of education will never be enough to give a future to these children.

It is important to explore the links between poverty and education. Nowadays when new technologies change so quickly producing knowledge and the need of technical skills, this means that the gap between rich and poor is getting bigger and bigger. These different lives lead to different perceptions of the world and to different beliefs. This effects not only how the world is seen but also what is understood and how people act.

It looks like everything is global but, though we all face global issues (climate, economics, health) there are different levels of knowledge, understanding and different tools to act for a better world.

Some groups have sponsors and are running very fast, but 80% of humanity plays in other stadiums, other theatres. They've never been sponsored, they never were trained, they lack information and they fight mainly for survival, and stick to tradition or religion to get some clear references and protection in a world that changes so quickly that no one can understand.

Miguel Argibay was a partner in several Tide-projects.

He produced Basque and Spanish activities using the development compass rose.

He is now retired, lives in Vitoria, in the Basque Country.



The idea is that many groups in humanity feel harassed by different 'storms' they don't understand and they can't control.

Here you can imagine people suffering war or repression living between ruins, with nothing to do except looking for food and shelter. Or imagine refugees camps.

It is very difficult to claim that these groups will have a better future.

Children that live in poverty, violence and fear have very low chances to get an education and to understand the value of knowledge and the effort necessary to learn and study hard during several years.

Some journalists ask girls and boys in refugees camps what would they like to be, and they answer: *Doctor, Lawyer, Engineer, Artist, etc.* But this won't be possible for 99% of those in such camps. **That is the reality.**

