

Faced with a food and energy crisis how can society improve it's well being

ID number: 67

Summary:

In search of an efficient solution, one may start with the hypothesis, like in mathematics. The food and energy crisis reveals a deeper and complex crisis, springing from the core of human beings.

Essay:

The treatment for any crisis which doesn't have any apparent solution begins with faith, and the will to solve it; here is the bleeding point, of spiritual nature: people grow lost and confused, as the mass media inculcates us the desire of being what we're not, of having what is not to be ours - which is disconnecting us from ourselves. In this chaotic rush that we are confronted with nowadays, the quality of life declines, as we cannot adapt our level of awareness to the rhythm of the hectic lives we're leading.

Increasing the quality of life by supporting local production and handmade, independent or community products will cut off corporate doubtful policies. Global trade can very well do without corporate giants. Internet can also be a helpful tool in trade. Advertising should be replaced by networking, and there should be laws to limit the aggressiveness of advertisement, and information flow.

I believe children should be educated in a relational informational system, more like the one developed by Rudolf Steiner, which relates the students to the planet system and to themselves, through practical and spiritual exercises. Rudolf Steiner developed an educational system that practically taught children to relate to a growing plant, to consider how the day becomes night and creates time and other essential aspects that nurture spiritual peace and a healthy grasp of reality. The abstract subjects like mathematics are also taught through hop-scotch practice. They also should learn about the mere Decalogue, because regardless of one's faith, this is one of the starting points to a universal moral system. Globalisation is a real phenomenon and there should be taken some universal values so that we can all have a common ground.

More bibliographical references are to be found in books written by Fritjof Capra, the first to mention a paradigm change. He speaks of the relation between oriental spirituality and quantum physics, scientifically proving the universe reacts to our thoughts. He collaborated with several scientists and developed a new universal paradigm, where the power and significance of positive thinking enlighten many of the obscure areas in the interaction between man and his environment.

Another of my references is Annie Leonard, creator of a short animated film describing a global vision on the system that generated the crisis. She speaks of the linear connexions within the system, which are wrong since a sustainable system is circular, that is it end where it began. A man built system always needs to relate to humanity as a point of reference. But the question is: do we know ourselves?

The crisis raises awareness. The crisis is beneficial as it refreshes the system by a redefinition of values. The solution means that humanity needs redefined values to keep up with the changing times. Money is not value in itself. Consume is not value in itself. Excess is not value.

The alternatives are: care for nature, need for light, self respect and respect for others, love of the truth and, most importantly, the ones that have knowledge of the aforementioned should teach the ones that don't. Culture is standing on three piers: spirituality (religion), art and science. All three play an essential role in nurturing a healthy society.

Religion may of support locally by giving strength to people by faith. Religions set the basic moral principles without which humanity is merely animal instincts.

Art may support through design, and together with science design may come up with globally sustainable solutions. Art is also the only way by means of which we may change the actual global scenario, from a post-industrialist, corporate and inhuman landscape to many alternative ways. Artists feel the flow of time; one of the proofs is that history may be retold, where written documents are missing, by visual means. Art may turn the current global skin and may provide alternative visions to open new horizons for people.

Technology may support by improving quality of life and by creating space and time for people. Science is good when not working against us. When is not killing more specimens than necessary, and when it is not creating seedless fruits. Science is beneficial when it serves human purposes and not shabby personal interests. A few practical solutions are represented by the ever more virtual approach; for example, artificial intelligence plays an important role in helping us influence to the minimum the environment. If every student would have an electronic agenda (or laptop) we would be able to save a lot of paper, trees, and natural ecosystems. I believe that people need to learn how to become more "aerodynamic", that is more flexible and wiser in ones interaction with the environment. An appeal for projects on alternative energy resources might also be of great help. Another significant aspect of technology is the mass media, which requires greater attention for research. I personally found that promoting violence on television leads to more violence in the world. What they're broadcasting (on the TV channels) is what they're promoting.

Politics brings together these three central elements. This is the humanist role of the politics: to mediate and preserve a good global flow. Nowadays politics are defined by corruption, blinded by

the shine of the corporate money and not only. In Romania, funds for culture on 2009 are only 0.2 of the GDP and the Erasmus scholarships for the University of Art in Bucharest were accidentally lost by the bookkeeping system. Although globalisation is a dynamic process of our times, problems need local "treatment", as the Greenpeace slogan states: "Think globally, act locally." We may regard humanity as an immense human being, and the head is the science, the heart is the art, his body religion and the nervous system the politics. His veins have always been blocked in various areas and the flow between the cores is hindered. The solution needs to consider the local blockages and support a good general flow.

The union accomplished by an efficient flow between the "political", religion, art and science in a Union representing culture has the vital advantage of resonating in the healthiest way possible with out real Self. And health is the opposite of crisis.