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Education In Central Asia  
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Education is said to be one of the key points that will give us motivation and drive throughout our lives. It is an essential thing for success and achievement towards any individual. Education is a main attribute that will allow someone to do many things. It is often thought of as a person's ability to want to be something important to the world, and work hard to reach that wanted desire. Education provides people with opportunities to grow and reach their potential throughout the experiences they will encounter during their life. It is not always luck or passion for something that allows a person to attain things they often want. Education is a world within itself that creates the goals and futures for a plethora of people.

Education is commonly mistaken as something that is given to you. People often believe that by going to school they will become educated and their lives will simply fall into place for them. Education is something that is much greater than just 'attending' to a specific place to learn. To be an educated person, an individual must put in the extra amount of time and work in order to fully comprehend and understand this complicated world. The ability to have a place where people can attend to learn and grow as an individual is not something that everyone has. Many people have fought for the right to become educated and receive an education that will help them succeed and accomplish goals throughout their lives. An educated person will almost always have a plan and a path for their life. Education has grown throughout different parts of the world and has improved the lives of many people. In central Asia, the desire for education among women and children in this mountainous area has intensified and become stronger. The women and children who are educated have taken upon themselves a new meaning of self-worth and as attribute of success. There have been many opportunities for the children in Central Asia

to learn at a young age. Also, to help the special needs children to learn and receive an education. Women and children have benefited in many ways for their position and commitment towards education.

Women in Central Asia have found a power and strength within themselves to receive an education that will provide them with a successful and better life. Despite the importance of religious beliefs, cultural differences, and work prohibitions, (Handayani, 2006, pg.1) Women have proven to be a standing force and an example to those around them. They have set the path for many people to follow that will help them gain a better education. Women have gained an attitude of “stability, continuity, and self-reliance.” (Handayani, 2006,1) They have come to know the rewards and growth of themselves as individuals and as leaders to their people. Throughout Central Asia, women have come to understand the need and demand for people to have an education. This has helped them to raise their families in stable, secure, and safe homes. Children are learning from the examples of the women that there are not limitations regarding the ability of what an individual can do and become. The result of the emphasis on education has led to less violence among the cities and towns within Central Asia. Women have begun to respond to the idea of a strong education in a positive manner. “Educated women can read the news and books and have a link with the outside world.” (Mortenson, 2010, pg.1). The self-worth of the children in Central Asia is also improving. The children are growing up in smaller families which is helping to emphasize the importance of education. The children are healthier and better prepared mentally and physically for the outside world. Young girls that receive seven or more years of education tend to marry later in their life and have fewer children. “A

majority of the girls are educated through the fifth grade, and the infant mortality rate drops thirty to forty percent after a single generation.” (Mortenson, 2010, pg.1). Educated young men are more likely to stay in school longer and deny becoming part of gang. Also, they are less likely to become involved with drugs. The self-worth proven by the women and children has grown immensely in Central Asia as the desire for a strong and powerful education has come into focus for them. There is a drastic need for modern technology, telephone system, and highway railroads. They are lacking modern infrastructure. (Libal, 2006, pg. 54-55). However, many women and children are lacking the self-worth and confidence that is necessary to grow up and be successful. They are not investing in the same opportunities as others’. The focus for their lives may be different than developing their mental strengths. Families that do not have the same priorities towards education find it difficult to exist in a high standard of living.

Education has been a necessity for people all over the world in order for them to succeed. There is never a point in learning where a person can reach the climax of their education. A person’s knowledge is enhanced when they are willing to focus and put in the work that it takes to understand new ideas. Mortenson said, “I am convinced that the solutions to the problems lie with the kids, not the leaders.” (2010, pg.1). Schools are being built throughout Asia that the children are able to attend each day. There is also a greater desire for the special needs children to earn an education. In Uzbekistan, there has been a starting program to enhance the education of these children. “Special needs students are one of the most venerable groups in Uzbekistan.” (Handayani, 2010, pg.1). Many special needs children come from poor families who do not have the money to provide their kids the same opportunities of a well-developed education. These

children are often sociably underdeveloped as well as uneducated because they are limited to the amount of other children they can associate with. A project for helping these children and building a better future for them through education is starting to develop. It is estimated that this project will cost \$1,716,880. Most special needs children in Uzbekistan are home schooled or attend 'specialized boarding schools'. Leaders in Uzbekistan are striving to create positive interaction between all of the students attending school. Their goals include, "improving the learning, social confidence, and social integration of children with special needs." (Handayani, 2010, pg.1). Attention has been drawn to the issues of a child education to better teach and understand these children's needs. There is also a hope that the idea of better education for all children in Uzbekistan will result in lower costs. "Inclusion is not only better educationally, emotionally, and psychologically for children with special needs, it is more cost-effective." (Handayani, 2010, pg.1). Schools will work together to benefit these children and teachers will be trained to understand different needs of the children. More materials for growth and development are being provided for these children to help them earn the best education possible. In Asia, there are twelve general schools and six special needs schools. (Handayani, 2010, pg.1). In Central Asia, "145 schools fully or partially supported, 1200+ fully or partially supported teachers, School library projects, 824 graduates from Porter Training Program, Teacher Training Workshops, 64,000 students educated, including 52,000 girls." (2009, pg 1). It is common to believe that children should be at home or working to help support the family with certain needs. The focus for children is not always education. This affects their development and growth in the way they learn and behave towards education.

Women and children have benefited immensely from the improvements in education throughout Central Asia. Women have shown that they can be independent and gain an education for themselves. “Educating girls is extremely important and not just because women in South Asia are believed to be oppressed and subjugated. It is observed that women are actually quite empowered in their own houses in these villages.” (Mortenson, 2010, pg.1). “Some women have become lawyers and now fight for women’s rights and land ownership, and some have become doctors, or studied nursing and returned to their villages to work as midwives, reducing maternal and newborn mortality rates.” (Mortenson, 2010, pg.1). Women are helping other women and children to grow and develop mentally. Their lives are improving and they are finding themselves happier. “Do the women want to be educated? Yes!” (Mortenson, 2010, pg.1). Women are better understood and have grown to understand the importance of a strong and reliable education. In Central Asia, more women are going into the teaching profession as an opportunity to benefit the children. Benefits also include a slower rate in which the population is increasing and a decrease in the infant mortality rates. The quality of life for those who are educated has benefited them and their families. They have gained a new sense of courage and confidence from the education that they have received. Although there are many women and children in Central Asia that are benefiting and improving their lives through education, there are still a numerous amount of people in Central Asia that are struggling without a decent education. A variety of children are growing up with an underdeveloped mind and deprived education.

The growth of education in Central Asia for women and children is improving rapidly. However, there are still many people in Central Asia that are lacking the proper education that they need. A numerous amount of women do not have the education they need to hold a job or provide for a family. Many families are too poor and not able to send their children to school. They re often required to work at home and take care of other children in the home. “More than one hundred million children have no access to formal education of any kind.” (UNESCO, 2010, pg.1). Throughout Central Asia, it is estimated that over eight hundred and sixty million adults cannot read or write. “Agriculture continues to be a major foundation of Uzbekistan’s economy. It employs more than four in ten of the country’s workers and account for an estimated 30% of gross domestic product.” (Libal, 2006, pg. 57). Children are still learning to read and write, but it is uncommon that they will acquire a deeper knowledge that what they are directly being taught. They are receiving a maximum of eleven years of education. “The teaching profession no longer attracts the best and the brightest. The teaching profession has completely lost its prestige.” (Silova, 2010, pg.1). “Experts say they must do more if they are to maintain their place among the world’s best educated countries.” (Silova, 2010, pg.2).

The improvement of education in Central Asia has benefited many people and has helped the development and growth of their country. Women are standing up for themselves and proving that they are capable of holding a job and having a career. Their culture and religion has given some women the motivation to earn a high education. “We want our children to go to school.” (Mortenson, 2010, pg.1). Children are learning leadership and becoming stronger individuals. There is a strong improvement on the self-worth of each person. The benefits and

rewards that have come from the improvements in education in the mountainous regions of Central Asia have helped each individual. The changes they have made for improving education will last them throughout their lives. There are over five thousand schools in Central Asia. Learning and becoming educated is important. "It is when we use our heart to think and become the best person we can be, that we receive the 'best' answers to our questions." (Mortenson, 2010,, pg.1). By supporting women and children in school and careers, we can further help the importance of education and draw attention to the desperate needs for these people.

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