FORUM: Youth Assembly

QUESTION OF: The Evaluation of Alternative Curricula for the Development of Students' Moral Compass

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INTRODUCTION

What is morality? How does one distinguish what is right compared to what is wrong? Everyone has a different definition of what they consider to be morally correct. For that reason, it is important to take context into account. For example, going over the speed limit is a dangerous action that risks road safety. Knowing that, most people would argue that exceeding the speed limit is morally incorrect. However, what if there was an injured person in the car who was in desperate need of medical assistance? Given this new piece of information, one would be inclined to reevaluate whether this action was indeed "wrong" and instead try to look into it from another point of view. This situation illustrates the multiple parameters of ethics and morality.

In recent years, moral values have been challenged on a global scale. One notable case is politics; Political polarization has been rising due to an increase in partisan social media content. Specifically, it has been reported that voters in the U.S. have more hate for the opposing political party than a love for their own.[1] This has led to an increase in immoral behavior such as political violence with a primary example being the U.S. Capitol attack on January 6th 2021. Another case that is calling for a global re-evaluation of our values and morals is that of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Individuals often anguish over the ethical implications of AI and, especially in professional fields, over the possibility of being replaced by such technologies. Lastly, one trend that is challenging our moral compasses is that of armed conflict; One would argue that war is considered immoral, however, contrary to that notion, 2023 resulted i n more than 122,000 battle-related deaths and is the third most violent year since the end of the Cold War.[2] The Cold War ended 75 years ago, yet the world still struggles when it comes to preserving the progress already made.

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[1] Finkel, Eli J., et al. "Political Sectarianism in America." *Science*, vol. 370, no. 6516, Oct. 2020, pp. 533–36, https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abe1715.

[2] "Conflict Trends: A Global Overview, 1946–2023 – Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)." *@PRIOresearch*, 2023, www.prio.org/publications/14006.

Ethics is not only about preventing harm but also about figuring out the best course of action depending on the situation. The moral compass of an individual determines the decisions they make as well as the action paths they will follow in the future. Children must, therefore, be able to comprehend the complexity of such ethical dilemmas. For young children, the concept of ethos can be challenging to understand. Nonetheless, their adherence to moral values is a crucial part of their character. In light of this, it's critical that children get the chance to learn about their moral values and the surroundings in which they operate. Therefore, curricula on ethics and morality could be highly beneficial in producing responsible citizens and thus averting a great deal of inappropriate conduct. A way that this can be achieved is through alternative forms of education.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Alternative Education

"Education that diverges in some way from that offered by conventional schools. Examples may be found in publicly funded schools, private schools, and homeschooling curricula."[3] Alternative education often works towards a more student-centered approach to teaching and in this context pursues educating students on themes such as morality and ethics.

Formal Education

"Formal education refers to the structured education system that runs from primary (and in some countries from nursery) school to university and includes specialized programs for vocational, technical and professional training."[4]

Curriculum

"All the courses given in a school, college, etc., or a particular course of study in one subject."[5]

Values Education

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[3]The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Alternative Education | Homeschooling, Unschooling and Montessori." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 19 Feb. 2009, www.britannica.com/topic/alternative-education.
[4]Council of Europe. "Definitions." *European Youth Foundation*, www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/definitions.
[5]*Curriculum*. 24 July 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/curriculum#google_vignette.

"Values education refers to the aspect of the educational practice which entails that moral or political values as well as norms, dispositions and skills grounded in those values are mediated to or developed among students."[6]

Moral Compass

"A natural feeling that makes people know what is right and wrong and how they should behave."[7]

Ethics

"The discipline concerned with what is morally good and bad and morally right and wrong. The term is also applied to any system or theory of moral values or principles."[8]

Dilemma

"A usually undesirable or unpleasant choice"[9]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Examples of alternative education

International Baccalaureate (IB)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is an educational system offered as an alternative for the last two years of secondary education in international schools. It primarily focuses on developing students' autonomy and cultural awareness, therefore also assisting them on the formation of their moral compass. More specifically it encourages independent learning and research; similarly to university students, rather than just following instructions, IB students are in charge of their education. Another key aspect of IB is that it promotes universal citizens. A way that this happens is by providing students with the opportunity to learn a second language, along with subjects focused on current events of the world such as Global Politics. Through the independence

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[6] "Values Education." *Linköping University*, liu.se/en/research/values-education.

[7] *Moral Compass*. 24 July 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/moral-compass#google_vignette.

[8] Singer, Peter. "Ethics | Origins, History, Theories, & Applications." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15 Apr. 2024, www.britannica.com/topic/ethics-philosophy.
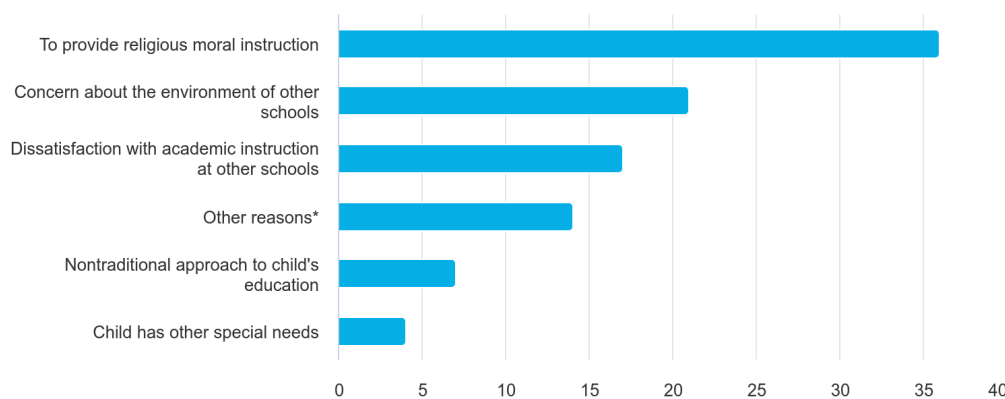
[9] "Definition of DILEMMA." *Www.merriam-Webster.com*, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dilemma.

encouraged in IB, students can formulate their moral beliefs more easily, whereas through their learning about other parts of the world they can learn to appreciate foreign cultures.

Homeschooling

Many parents believe that they should be in charge of their children's education. This has led to 3.1 million children in the United States[10] not going to school and instead being taught by their guardians at home. Many of the classes they take are not like the ones found in ordinary public schools and the programs they follow tend to be designed with more flexibility for both the parent-teacher and the student. For example, Logic, Nutrition and Agriculture are all subjects that can and have been taught in homeschool curricula very often. Parents also urge their children to volunteer, therefore in many instances there are also hours allocated for community service (examples include book donation, sports volunteering, beach cleaning etc.).

Most Common Reasons for Homeschooling in the U.S.

Reason	Value
To provide religious moral instruction	36
Concern about the environment of other schools	21
Dissatisfaction with academic instruction at other schools	17
Other reasons*	14
Nontraditional approach to child's education	7
Child has other special needs	4

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2007

Designed by Research.com

Figure 1: Predominant Reasons for Homeschooling in the U.S.[11].

Just as it can be concluded based on the information provided in the graph above, the main reasons why parents choose homeschooling include personalized religious instruction, special needs of the child, guaranteed social comfort, a better learning environment, and spending more time with their children. Nevertheless, despite the advantages of an education as such, homeschooling is very time consuming, especially for employed parents, while homeschooled children often lack socialization skills.

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[10]"41+ Homeschooling Statistics in U.S.: Key Statistics and Trends." *Bright Futures NY*, www.brightfuturesny.com/post/homeschooling-statistics-in-us.

[11]Bouchrika, Imed. "Benefits and Disadvantages of Homeschooling: A Guide for Parents." *Research.com*, 1 Mar. 2023, research.com/education/benefits-and-disadvantages-of-homeschooling.

Worldschooling

Worldschooling falls into the category of homeschooling. While following a worldschooling programme, children get a chance to travel to countries all around the globe and learn more about foreign cultures such as people's languages, traditions, cuisine, and religion. Families who follow a worldschooling curriculum are in charge of their children's education, but, instead of learning basic home skills like in homeschooling, children have the chance to learn through the world. When becoming acquainted with other races, children can acknowledge and dismiss racism and xenophobia as well as handle situations more open-mindedly when faced with relevant ethical dilemmas. That way, any form of prejudice towards other races or ethnicities could be eradicated as racism is something that is taught and therefore can be easily avoided and condemned. Experiencing different lifestyles and cultures can help students become more understanding and empathetic of other cultures as they learn that different does not necessarily equate to something negative. While this method provides mostly positive results, there is an issue when financing such frequent traveling, as most families can not afford it.
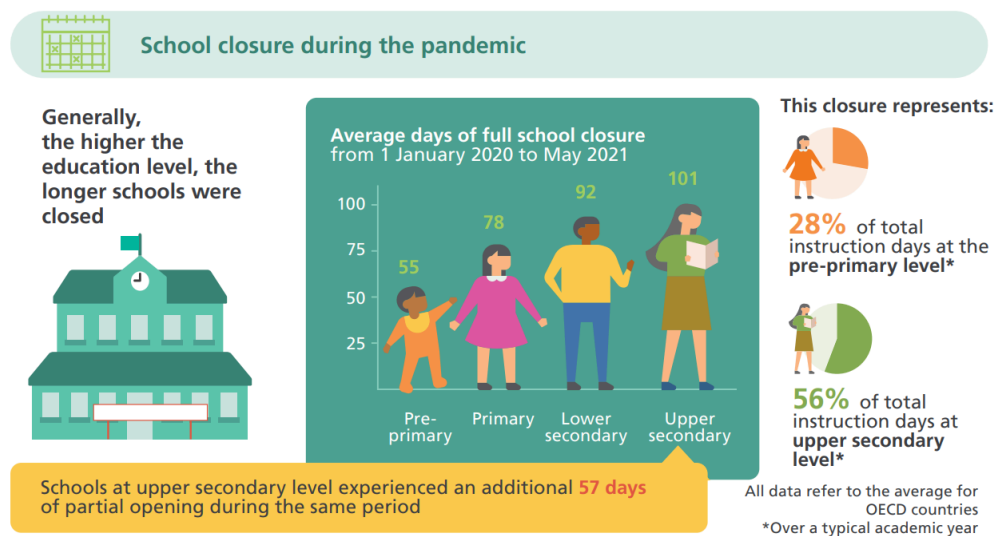
Online Schooling

School closure during the pandemic

Generally, the higher the education level, the longer schools were closed

Average days of full school closure from 1 January 2020 to May 2021

- Pre-primary: 55
- Primary: 78
- Lower secondary: 92
- Upper secondary: 101

Schools at upper secondary level experienced an additional **57 days** of partial opening during the same period

This closure represents:

28% of total instruction days at the **pre-primary level***

56% of total instruction days at **upper secondary level***

All data refer to the average for OECD countries
*Over a typical academic year

Figure 2: Pandemic effects on schools[12].

By mid-April 2020, the coronavirus pandemic forced the shutdown of nearly all educational institutions around the world, affecting over 1.6 billion learners across more than 190 countries.[13] Specifically, upper secondary schools were fully closed for around 100 days on average. As a result, schools and institutions transitioned to online learning platforms, such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, and other educational technologies. Although distance learning accelerated the technologies' development, the limited access to it, as well as the digital illiteracy of both students and teachers, made it difficult for students to get the necessary knowledge. This led to schools in upper and secondary education having to partially open for 57 days on average around the globe (as seen in Figure 1). For instance, schools and universities that previously relied on in-person education began offering fully online courses as well, while others were created for the sole purpose of online learning.

That being said, online education did not come without challenges. Many individuals from Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) did not have access to technology, while an even higher amount was digitally illiterate and was unable to participate in online lessons, or had difficulties with their internet connection. In addition, educators also faced issues getting students to engage in such online learning environments. Nevertheless, online learning perfectly illustrates the educational system's ability to adapt into ever-changing circumstances.

Values Education

Values education takes place inside the classroom and with proper specifications and guidance, it can be applied to any age group. It aims to assist students in developing their moral principles and ethical awareness, especially in regard to current global concerns. This includes helping them understand different political views, societal issues, and the challenges of modern life. Such curricula embrace knowledge on legal frameworks and political, governmental and judicial systems. Students are also encouraged to develop their own well-informed opinions on social and political issues while also respecting the viewpoints of others by learning to have productive conversation and consider different opinions from their own. Finally, values education also embraces democracy while acquainting students with ethical behavioral manners, such as how to treat others

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[12]OECD. "*The State of Global Education: 18 Months into the Pandemic.*" Sept. 2021, cdn.theewf.org/uploads/pdf/OECD-State-of-Education-report.pdf.
[13]UNESCO. "Education: From School Closure to Recovery | UNESCO." *Www.unesco.org*, Unesco, 2020, www.unesco.org/en/covid-19/education-response.

and take responsibility for their actions. This kind of education can be applied in current educational systems as it aims to create active, conscious and well-rounded citizens with civic responsibility.

Benefits of Alternative Education

Alternative education offers a plethora of advantages which lay in its differences with formal education. Firstly, one significant difference from standardized schooling is the fact that in alternative forms of education such as homeschooling, students have the opportunity to focus on unique abilities or interests they might have (for instance, some students are talented in sports or different forms of art), some of which they might want to pursue professionally later on. That being said, certain forms of alternative education provide a more student-centered approach to learning, allowing the lesson to become tailored specifically to each student's needs. For instance, this means that the material as well as teaching method can be specifically adapted to the needs of the child, while also creating a disability-friendly educational environment.

Furthermore, with alternative education students have more time to cultivate their creativity and sharpen their problem-solving skills. This way, children learn to think in an unconventional way, as they get to focus on complex problems, and instead of focusing on time-consuming tasks like endless memorization, the focus is shifted on understanding the material at hand. In addition to that, alternative education also aims at the acquiring of modern day life skills, such as cooking and digital adequacy among others. This way children can be integrated into the real-world without feeling insecure, by having already acquired some useful experiences. Students become more autonomous, as their schedule is often more flexible, therefore being able to cultivate their interests while not feeling overworked.
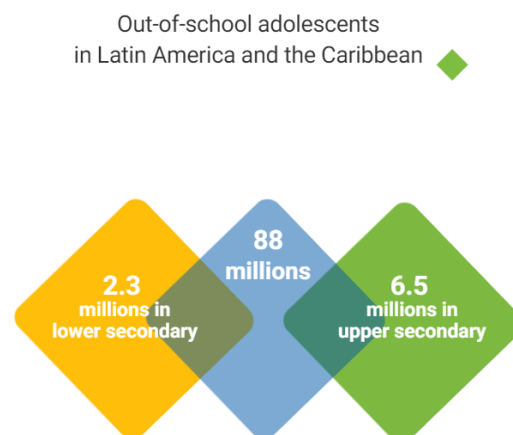
Out-of-school adolescents
in Latin America and the Caribbean ◆

88
millions

2.3
millions in
lower secondary

6.5
millions in
upper secondary

Figure 3: out-of-school youth in south America[14].

Finally, one other benefit of alternative education is the fact that it can be helpful to regions with high amounts of out-of-school youth, like South America, where a total of 88 million adolescents do not go to school as mentioned in Figure 2. Considering the fact that many alternative schooling methods take place outside the classroom and do not pose any financial burden, individuals who would not have had the opportunity to receive any sort of education, are given the chance to do so.

Standardized Vs Alternative Education

The standardized curriculum followed by public schools in most countries has been proven to put a strain on students' mental health. More specifically, it is strongly test-oriented, while requiring a large amount of memorization, a task many children and adolescents struggle with. Moreover, many students feel that they graduate high school missing important skills necessary for their adulthood. For instance, many high school graduates experience difficulty when selecting between different political parties and nominees as they lack insight into where they can obtain the information needed to make a decision as such. On the other hand, alternative forms of education do not conform to these norms and instead aim to cultivate students' values and morals in a manner that allows them to assess and create their own opinions on multiple matters. Contrary to the standardized curriculum, alternative education envisions the creation of responsible and sensible citizens of the future, while not strictly focusing on specific subject-knowledge.

Importance of presence of ethics in different environments

Aside from the fact that it is important to behave morally correctly, ethics follow us throughout our entire lives. Different occasions require a different handling and therefore refer to a different aspect of "morality". That being said, there are multiple branches in the study of applied ethics.

One example of a specific branch is family ethics, revolving around the fact that in order to raise responsible and honest adults, one needs to be a quality role model. Another branch is professional ethics; specifically, one's behavior has a great effect on people's perception of them and that is particularly accurate in workplace environments. Furthermore, there is bioethics, which revolves around ethical matters concerning the beginning and end of life. Two well-known examples

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[14] "Alternative Education, More Opportunities to Thrive | UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean." *Www.unicef.org*, www.unicef.org/lac/en/alternative-education-more-opportunities-thrive.

of moral dilemmas that fall under the category of bioethics are firstly, the question of whether abortion is ethical or not and secondly, whether the practice of euthanasia can be considered moral. Finally, some other branches of the study of ethics include social ethics and environmental ethics.

In conclusion, moral dilemmas and ethical standards are everywhere. Whenever decision-making, there are multiple aspects and parameters that one has to consider before choosing the most optimal course of action. All of those factors, as well as which one is "correct" and which one is not, constitute the primary interest of ethics. This is why it is important that children not only comprehend the study of ethics, but are also properly informed on how they can set their own values and principles in order to be able to properly comport based on any given context.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Finland

Studies show that Finland has the 2nd best public educational system[15]. What makes Finland's schools unique is that there is no national testing. Instead, students' performance is assessed by their educators based on the assignments and objectives they complete throughout the school year. This way, the focus is shifted on learning and comprehending the material instead of just reciting information to achieve good grades. The only national examination takes place at the end of upper secondary school and determines university admission. This system has led to many students' pursuit to higher education as they tend to be more receptive and appreciative of the learning process. In general, there are no major disadvantages associated with their educational system except for the fact that the lack of standardized testing tends to impede international assessment.

Philippines

Many citizens in the Philippines do not have access or do not complete formal education. This is caused by both students dropping out of school and the absence of a public school in some communities. In response to that, the government has provided an Alternative Learning System (ALS), officially established with The Governance Act for Basic Education, which consists of informal and non-formal educational models. These include community-based education from mobile teachers, instructional managers, etc. Such education tends to take place either outdoors or at home.

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[15]"Most Well-Developed Public Education Systems." *U.S. News & World Report L.P.*, www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/rankings/well-developed-public-education-system.

That being said, the Philippine constitution, both recognizes and endorses alternative forms of education. Overall the program aims at independent learning from both out-of-school youth and adults. This way, Philippine citizens can continue to pursue learning regardless of whether they have completed formal education or not.

United States of America

The United States houses some of the most well-respected universities worldwide. The university admissions process in the U.S.A. is a way for moral action to be recognized. Specifically, admissions officers are not only interested in test results or the general point average, instead, they also recognize community service among other ways a student has contributed to the town, state, or even country (research, fundraisers, digital applications etc.). When reviewing an applicant, admission committees look into their character as a whole, this means that they work outside of the standard test-oriented system by valuing innovative personalities. This method of candidate-evaluation promotes the importance of morally and ethically developed personalities, urging applicants to engage and actively participate in their communities.

Afghanistan[16]

At the moment, Afghanistan is the only nation in the world where women and girls over the age of 12 are prohibited from pursuing secondary and higher education. Despite the progress made in the last 20 years, the Taliban (an ultraconservative political and religious faction[17]) regained authority on 15 August 2021 and quickly began stripping women of their rights. In 2024, more than 1.4 million girls were purposefully prohibited from attending secondary school, accounting for a total of 2.5 million out-of-school girls (80% of school aged girls in Afghanistan). Moreover, according to UNESCO, the number of university students has plummeted by over 50%.

Character Counts

Founded in 1992, "Character Counts"[18] is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that introduced a form of curriculum in which the member-schools collaborate with teachers as well as other member-schools in order to help students cultivate their social skills as well as understand the "six pillars of character"; trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The

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[16]"Afghanistan: 20 Years of Steady Education Progress 'Almost Wiped Out.'" *UN News*, 14 Aug. 2024, news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153191.

[17] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Taliban | Definition, History, and Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 25 Sept. 2024, www.britannica.com/topic/Taliban.

[18]Character Counts. "Helping Millions of Young People Develop Life Skills and Character." *Charactercounts.org*, 2019, charactercounts.org/.

nature of the initiatives as well as the spectrum of action of the NGO includes both PK-12 Education (elementary through high school ranging from Kindergarten to 12th grade) as well as workshops designed for educators. Character Counts has affected 8 Million individuals, assisting schools and teachers both in the United States and around the globe.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1900s	The Montessori approach is created.
November 16th 1945	Establishment of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
November 20th 1989	Convention on the Rights of the Child.
1992	Foundation of Character Counts.
September 2015	The Sustainable Development Goals are adopted by the United Nations.
June 6th 2017	Resolution A/HRC/35/24 is adopted.
April 2020	Many schools all over the world shut down due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
2021	The Florida Senate publishes and modifies an educational reform framework which assists the development of "Character Counts".

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Resolution[19] A/HRC/35/24

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[19]"Official Document System - UN." *Documents.un.org*, documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/HRC/35/24&i=A/HRC/35/24_9070724. Accessed 28 July 2024.

Through the adoption of this resolution on June 6th 2017, the Human Rights Council formally recognized and defined alternative education as a legitimate, cost-effective means of education, acknowledging its flexibility and benefits for both in-school and out-of-school students. In addition, it requested sustainable, multi-stakeholder funding in order to ensure the proper development of such educational models. Overall, this document is considered a groundbreaking initiative seeing as it laid the foundation for progress on the matter.

The 4th Sustainable Development Goal: Quality Education

"The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity."[20] The fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) aims to ensure access to education for all, regardless of gender, location, or financial status. Overall, it works towards providing inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education. This can happen by fostering opportunities for lifelong learning, while also utilizing alternative education, as it promotes creative and adaptable teaching methods that can be tailored to meet the individual requirements of each student. Alternative curricula often combine academic success with moral, social, and emotional growth, as they aim toward individuals' holistic development. In general, the SDGs manage to channel the global interest towards their ambitions; and in this case, quality and ethically sound education.

UNESCO's alternative learning methods in Afghanistan[21]

Since 2021, 20 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces have seen the establishment of UNESCO projects, in which more than 1,000 facilitators—780 of whom are women—have received training in order to teach approximately 55,000 children, primarily girls, about literacy. In addition to that, UNESCO finances distance learning opportunities through the Afghan media in order to broadcast educational programs. UNESCO maintains its demand that the international community make a commitment to fully restore girls' and women's access to education in Afghanistan, arguing that in-person instruction in a classroom is the most effective form of education. This initiative exemplifies the usefulness of alternative education, particularly in areas and periods where education is inaccessible.

UNICEF's strategic framework on alternative education

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[20]United Nations Development Programme. "Sustainable Development Goals." Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations, 2015, www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals.
[21]"Afghanistan: 20 Years of Steady Education Progress 'Almost Wiped Out.'" *UN News*, 14 Aug. 2024, news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153191.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund works towards preserving the rights of children and adolescents across the globe. UNICEF has created a strategic framework on alternative education for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. This framework aims to support the strengthening and expansion of alternative education in the respective nations. This initiative hopes to provide out-of-school youth with educational opportunities in order for them to re-enter the educational world. Moreover, this could also help them develop skills and knowledge they need in order to return to formal education, as well as assist the development of their communities and countries.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Florida Senate character-development program

In 2021 the Florida Senate published and modified an educational reform framework that helped to further develop the 'Character Counts' in the 2021 Florida Statutes (Including 2021B Session)[22]. The Statute helps students at all district schools to develop their moral compass starting from kindergarten. To achieve that, the framework suggests the teaching of qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and cooperation. To this day, the Florida Senate continues to expand and modify the 'Character Counts' in a way which is helping all students to become more mature and get ready to positively impact their country's future. Unfortunately however, Character Counts is not an internationally recognized organization and therefore its work is solely directed to its target-countries/ locations. Nevertheless, its work and ambitions can constitute a point of reference for other similar initiatives that are created.

Montessori Method

The Montessori approach is an alternative education model created by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 1900s. It places a strong emphasis on experiential learning and it empowers students to be in charge of their own learning process. By having a great variety of resources, students in Montessori classrooms are encouraged to explore and experiment at their own speed. The Montessori approach has been adopted by multiple educational institutes all over the world encouraging students' independence, creativity, and critical thinking. Focusing on individualized

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[22] "Chapter 1003 Section 42 - 2021 Florida Statutes - the Florida Senate." *Www.flsenate.gov*, www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2021/1003.42.

learning is one of the main elements of the Montessori method's success. However, such individualized education could lead to the abandonment of skills like comradeship and team spirit.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Promotion of in-school worldschooling

Seeing the benefits worldschooling has on children's morals, it could be a highly effective form of curriculum if integrated into standard public schools. More specifically, the aspect of getting to know foreign cultures and becoming familiarized with their values and beliefs could really contribute to the creation of students' moral compass. A way this could work is by having secondary schools from different countries communicate with each other and collaborate by creating student exchange programs, linking their students together, etc. This way, the students could get to know the other country's culture and traditions, while also socialize with their peers. Encouraging travels to different countries and schools around the world would be a particularly interesting initiative. However, such frequent traveling could be economically and environmentally challenging due to carbon dioxide emissions and the high costs of transporting. Overall the integration of foreign cultures and traditions, and international values into educational curricula could promote the creation of morally sensitive individuals with a well-balanced moral compass. Still, finding a way to make an initiative as such applicable to schools from all over the world is of utmost importance.

Values Education

Seeing the benefits values education has on an individual, it becomes clear that it could be a worthwhile form of curriculum. Undeniably, the most direct way that a student's moral compass can be formed without making immense changes in the current educational system is through values education. This could be easily implemented into students' weekly programs, by implementing values education in daily classes, which could be instructed either by their teachers, after participating in seminars on morality, or by professionals specializing in the field of ethics. Such lessons could include information about political, governmental and judicial systems, social and political issues and/or personal independence and formation of character.

Training educators

In order for teachers to be able to educate students on moral dilemmas and ethos, they first and foremost need to be highly informed and understanding of such delicate material themselves. A

process like this, however, requires strict guidelines and legislation, as it is likely that teachers would want to promote their own opinions and values. Therefore, to make sure that children are indeed forming their own opinions and not adopting those of their educators, governments should set a strict set of standards and rules on teacher-bias, while also informing them of the consequences of violating those guidelines. This could happen via governmental legislation on educator behavior as well as the creation of an organization similar to Character Counts, with the ultimate aim of conducting seminars in each district school, to instruct teachers on values education in accordance with the aforementioned government protocol. Ultimately, monitoring and reporting the conduct of morality classes could help track and understand the direction of progress on the matter.

Community Outreach Programs

Another potentially effective measure could be reaching out to less developed, rural areas through Community Outreach Programs. Similar to the Alternative Learning System (ALS), they could effectively tackle the high amounts of out-of-school youth. Taking place frequently throughout the week, in which UN-trained volunteers could sensitize children to simple moral dilemmas until they have the opportunity to enroll in formal education. They could also address themes like democracy and societal ethics, help them realize their rights and set goals for their future development. Generally, it is important that in situations as such, the education that is provided, primarily focuses on real-life skills instead of encyclopedic knowledge. Through such conversation and contemplation, children connect with their peers and feel supported within their community while also sharing their thoughts with one another. Taking all of the above into consideration, efforts to help form the moral compass of students could easily be initiated and targeted to disadvantaged communities.

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