

Introduction

Is teaching important or can we easily do without? This is the main question that I will try to answer in this short essay. As a teacher the answer to this seems obvious; of course it is. To explain why I think this, three perspectives in which the importance of teaching is visible will be highlighted: the economic perspective, the social perspective and the practical perspective. Combined, these three perspectives will show teaching is indeed important and the world cannot without them.

Economic importance

First, the economic importance of teaching will be highlighted. A well educated population is important to the economy of a nation as this is a way to differentiate yourself (as a country) from other countries. Well educated populations are able to perform more complex task and therefore are more valuable than people that are less educated. To get this well educated population it needs to the process of acquiring knowledge and skills (one could argue attitude should also be in this list but this is the least teachable of these three so this is why I excluded it). Although these individuals could gain this individually without any external help, it is much more efficient to let others guide them in this learning process. This is exactly what teachers do which makes them (and what they do) important to modern society.

Social importance

Second, the social importance of teaching will be highlighted. Besides gaining skills and knowledge, people learn to interact with each other. This social aspect of education is important for today' society which requires individuals to work together to reach ever more ambitious goals. Teachers act as a role model for children and by doing so, teach them to how to behave in social situations. In this role, schools (and teachers) help individuals to prepare for adulthood and to become responsible citizens.

Practical importance

Third, the practical importance of teaching will be highlighted. As teaching in itself can be very resource intensive, practical consideration needs to be given to the delivery. Teaching in a classroom setting provides for an efficient way of resource distribution. In this role teachers form a very important link as they can spread knowledge to multiple people at the same time reducing the per student investment compared to one-on-one teaching.

Conclusion

Teachers are extremely important. Whether it is as an enabler of economic growth, a role model for social interactions or an efficient way to spread limited resources, teachers have these roles firmly build into their profession.