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'Scientists say that teenagers are not like adults; they learn and socialise differently and need sleep at different times. Education needs a radical re-think to meet the needs of students.'

Write a letter to the Minister for Education explaining your point of view on this statement.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]

Dear Minister of Education,

Teenagers and adults; both perceived alike. Teenagers referred to as 'young adults' interchangeably causing many to fail to discern the varying lifestyles that both age groups live. Is this the reality we reside in where 'young adults' are required by societal norms to uphold hundreds of responsibilities and burdens? From mothers to fathers, to school and teachers—all placing hefty weights upon adolescent's shoulders causing detrimental effects to their mental health; halting their opportunity of prospering.

Teenagers do not equate to adults. Teenagers are at a pinnacle in their life where they are coerced into absorbing barrels and barrels of knowledge... completely tearing their mental health. From the lack of sleep they acquire due to the sempiternal studying, to the scolding from their parents for being 'off-task'. From the tight assignment deadlines to the exam season, all tragically resulting in 1 in 15 'young adults' committing suicide reported by the World Health Organisation. Teenagers are required to sleep 7-8 hours and adults are required to sleep 4-5 hours for full functionality, claimed Dr Muhammad Ilyas (possessing a PhD in neuroscience). Teenagers must be encouraged to increase rest time to maximise benefits of growth and productivity.

Do you desire the successive generations, the gems of society—emulating workflow within our country—to be as such: unproductive, inefficient, unsuccessful?

For them to be successful, there must be understanding from you and all adults on how teenagers learn and socialise. A stigma lies within the schooling environment that students are capable of advancing through textbooks. Albeit some are able to use such methods to guarantee success, many students do not fall under this umbrella and in-place guarantee failure. Such fallible methods offer quite low performance for students and should be substituted with virtual learning where teachers are able to demonstrate work on a smartboard, utilising diagrams as an effective method of teaching.

The evolution of technology is inevitable. Technology is often perceived as a 'piercer of lives', stealing the potential success of many—particularly adolescents. However, technology must be employed to the fullest capabilities providing immense benefits to not only students and teachers but also the educational sector as a whole.

Education requires a radical consideration of lifting the burdens that students face during their time seeking knowledge allowing them to prosper further and providing them time to complete activities and personal projects which they able to invest their time into providing a pillar for their future. Effort is required by you in order for the next generations to strive further and faster!

Kind regards,

Yusuf