

An Enlightening Experience

Imagine a child that has anything he can wish for. Latest technologies, this year's trending clothes, opportunities to eat whatever he wants and whenever he wants, and a good school he goes to but hates to go to.

On the contrary, imagine a child, born in a very poor family that barely has anything to eat or to wear. This child has to work for long hours to receive just a little bit of money that are necessary for him to live, and his dream is to go to school and receive education so he would have the opportunity to live a normal and complete life.

Not so difficult to picture, right? Simply because these are very true situations that we hear about every day. It is funny that even after all these years of development and new creations it is still so difficult to make a difference in such common and unjust circumstances.

A chinese proverb says "Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime." A metaphorical proverb that has such a simple message but at the same time is so complicated to put into action.

The base that every person needs in his life is education. Education does not only mean the fact that a student goes to school 5 days a week and spends several hours learning equations, formulas and information needed for him to pass tests or exams. Education is an enlightening experience that every person should have the right for.

Education in Malta

Education in the already developed countries is extremely organised and supports and encourages all people, no matter of what social class, age and abilities, to receive education and achieve their goals and ambitions.

The education system in schools covers up topics a person needs to know in order to build a career or just simply be a knowledgeable human being. In fact, the survey I conducted has shown that 18 out of 20 students are fully or mostly satisfied with the topics taught to them. Many though also requested that a subject that teaches basic skills needs to exist since they will be pretty useful in every day life when students become adults.



A governmental school in Malta

The variety of subjects in schools starts from mathematics and sciences up to arts and design & technology. Each subject is taught in appropriate classes and using multiple resources such as interactive whiteboards. 20 out of 20 students voted that most resources used for teaching are in fact very useful and make the learning and teaching process easier and more fun.



Classes, Labs and Workshops used for teaching (From Left to Right)

Normal Class, Science Lab, Home Economics Lab, Textiles Lab, Design & Technology Lab and Workshop

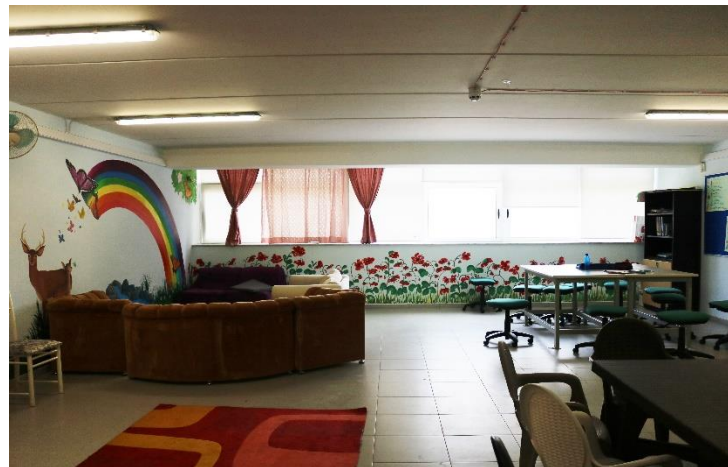
In addition to these, schools provide a library, a quiet room which is used for religious masses, and also some provide a Learning Zone which is considered as a splash of informality to the formal environment. This area is used by students during break time for different activities such as making crafts and it is also used by teachers or learning support assistants to teach students with special needs.



Library



Quiet Room



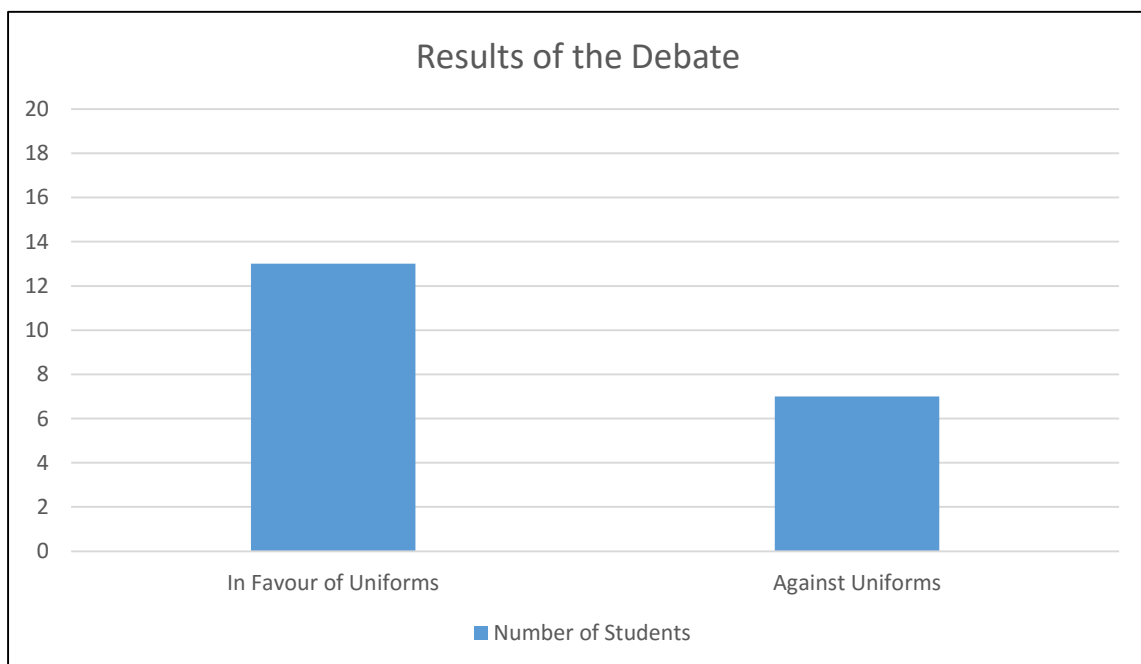
Learning Zone

Although there are many positive things, unfortunately, there are also several negative sides. It is commonly found that canteens in schools can be a source for obesity problems because of the selling of junk food. The survey has shown that 14 out of 20 students agree on this and suggested some healthier options like salads, wraps and fruit. It was also suggested that for the obesity problem to decrease, there should be more physical education lessons during the week.



Canteen

When it comes to school uniforms, the debate is divided into 2 separate opinions. The first one stating that uniforms should not exist and the students should come in casual clothes, and the second one stating that uniforms are extremely useful since if students wear casual clothes every day, there is a huge chance of several students being the victims of bullying.



All in all, with all the advantages and also several disadvantages, every single person can agree that schools provide one of the most important things in a person's life and give students with different backgrounds the chance of becoming whoever they wish to be. And as Allan Bloom once said, "Education is the movement from darkness to light".

Article written by : Veronika Sytnyk

Year 9.4, St. Ignatius College, Secondary School, Handaq, Qormi, Malta.

Bibliography

- All the images were taken under the authority and with the permission of the head of school, assistant head of year 9 and the European Studies teacher.
- All of the statistics were done with the help of students from different secondary schools in Malta by the means of a questionnaire.
- No information in the article was copied from other resources.