

TEACHING PEACE THROUGH GLOBAL LEARNING with ICTs

Hello everyone, here we are, people from different cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs, sharing information and ideas about teaching peace through global learning. There is no doubt that in today's diverse world, teaching kids respect is more important than ever. Because technology brought us closer than ever before, it is crucial for children to learn how to embrace differences. By teaching diversity and global respect to children, by helping them learn that there is so much more beyond the small world they live in, we can succeed in making them understand the true meaning of world peace. And of course a great way to introduce children to diversity would be to use Information Communication Technologies (ICT). There are so many education technology tools providing global perspectives to students to see themselves as part of a larger global community. With ICT's, Educators can come up with all kinds of ideas to make students understand race, religion, ethnicity, gender,...all these differences that exist between individuals, and help students to understand their place in the world. What are some of these ICT's which can form bridges between communities?

- There is Google Earth, Google's Geo Tools; which will help students learn about world geography and their place in this world.
- There is the Digital Citizenship Institute, where students can connect the world through shared citizenship in a digital world.
- There is the Global Read Aloud, which connects students and teachers with other classes from around the world, doing activities that are based on a common book for example...

So, in addition to the old-fashioned traditional ways of teaching children about world cultures, we have so many other fun ways through ICT's, which encourages them to explore, discover, and respect cultures beyond their own community.

This all sounds exciting, but as it is emphasized by the UN, "As computer and AI-driven systems become more sophisticated, the boundaries between human intention and machine-driven action often blur, raising critical questions about how to preserve, redefine, and, ideally, elevate human agency in an age of technological acceleration"

So, while it is very exciting to imagine how beneficial ICT's are for educational purposes, necessary precautions should be taken while combining Artificial Intelligence and education resources. Today on this panel, we have experts on this subject who can show us ways to manage all these new technologies for education purposes. So, I would like to continue my talk by telling you about a great leader in education, a firm believer in the power of science, and a strong advocate of world peace, ATATURK.

- **Slide: Peace at home, Peace in the world**

The Founding Father and the first president of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, modernized the country with all kinds of reforms. The republic was established in 1923, and one of the issues he gave most importance to was education. He immediately declared primary

education compulsory. He implemented an extensive program of literacy for Turkish people with the help of the armed forces. It was called "The Army of Enlightenment". Atatürk believed in secular education, and with pencil or chalk in hand, He personally instructed children and adults in schools, parks, all around the country...

- **Slide: Atatürk at the Blackboard**

Most schools were being run by mosques at that time. With the establishment of the Republic, all that changed and schools went under the care of the state. The Turkish written language was in Arabic script, and the literacy rate was 10 per cent in 1923... and 100 yrs later now, it is around 97 percent... Atatürk decided to change the Arabic script to Latin alphabet, so the students could see the world in a broader way and, the Turkish society as a whole, could reach the place he envisioned among the countries of the world.

- **Slide: Atatürk with students**

We have a national day in Turkey, called the National Sovereignty and Children's Day. It is a unique event, because on April 23, 1920, during the Turkish War of Independence, the *Grand National Assembly* laid down the foundations of a new, independent, secular, and modern republic from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. And Atatürk dedicated this day to the children of the country to emphasize that they are the future of the new nation.

I should mention that about 70 years later, UNICEF dedicated a day to children too... since 1989, World Children's Day is UNICEF's global day, which is celebrated every year on 20 November, because on this day in 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted.

Going back to the educational reforms of Atatürk, Girls and Women in particular benefited from the education reforms. During the Ottoman Empire's rule, under the Islamist caliphate, girls had hardly received any instruction in reading and writing. But Atatürk declared that "everything we see on Earth is the product of women," and through his REFORMS TURKISH WOMEN were EMPOWERED AND SET EXAMPLE FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD in the 1920's, 1930's...

- **Slide: "Everything we see on Earth is the product of women,"**
- **Slide: "A social community, a nation, consists of two sexes, male and female. Is it possible that half of a society can rise to the skies while the other half remains bound to the earth and chains?"**

Atatürk wanted national education to be spread to the farthest corners of the country, ignorance to be eliminated, and education to include adults, and he implemented it.

- **Slide: "We cannot reach our goal by raising children alone. Children are our future... Their mothers and fathers should also be educated so that they can raise their children well."**

Ataturk emphasized the importance of the education system and curriculum being scientific and followed this issue with great importance.

- **Slide: "For everything in the world, for material things, for spiritual things, for success, the most real guide is science and knowledge. To seek a guide other than science and knowledge is negligence, ignorance and misguidance."**
- **Slide "In the political and social life of our nation, and in the intellectual education of our nation, our guide will be science and technology."**

He emphasized the The Principle of Secularism in Education And It started to be implemented in 1924. The principle of secularism was included in the 1928 Constitution.

- **slide:"Secular education is the main support of education being national and based on science."**

Atatürk knew very well that there would be no good education without good educators. He gave importance to teachers and educators and said, "Your success will be the success of the Republic."

- **Slide: "Your success will be the success of the Republic."**

Atatürk expressed everywhere with his own words, how much he valued science and scientists and demonstrated this with his actions.

- **Slide: "I can give orders regarding the proper management of the army and the state. But I cannot give orders in the field of science. I want scientists to enlighten me. Show me the right path of science so that I can follow it."**

And he also said:

- **Slide: "My spiritual heritage is knowledge and reason. After me, those who accept the guidance of reason and knowledge will be my spiritual heirs."**

I would like to add that a big part of Ataturk World Platform's work, which I am representing here today, is to keep all these values aliveAtaturk World Platform has 13 member associations in 3 continents, 7 countries. We feel so strongly about Guarding the Secular Education in Turkey and we proudly continue to spread the word about Ataturk's education policy, his political philosophy for international prosperity and peace; and his ideals for the progress and peace for the entire humanity.

Thank you....