

Why is integrating liberal arts courses in universities crucial for a better democratic country?

FND101 Freshman Seminar Section B

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Although professional education is essential for human civilization, some universities are offering other and more general courses, such as liberal arts courses. Those include history, literature, creative arts, sociology, and critical thinking. Besides their professional career, students also practice fundamental life skills to use in their future lives and benefit their country. There are several reasons universities should offer and require students to take liberal arts courses to shape a better and well-developed democratic country.

Firstly, citizens appreciate culture by learning history, literature, and art. History and culture is the past of the human society. These subjects study how earlier people lived and offer insight into today's human behavior. This makes students more aware of the society they live in and the possibilities of making it better. Moreover, it also makes students think about the past, the present, and the future, connecting them and finding their meaning in life. They contribute to the success of a student's life, which results in a country's development, hence why such courses should be offered in higher-level educational institutions.

Secondly, being engaged in creative arts is vital for today's jobs, and having a job and paying taxes is what improves a country. We live in the 21st century, and machines and robots are slowly replacing technical jobs. From factory workers to cashiers and taxi drivers, the jobs will eventually be replaced by machines, and at that time, creative jobs will be in demand. Consider the case of engineers. They need to generate innovative and unique solutions to solve real-life problems. Hence, Sciences, jurisprudence, and art will be more valued because machines cannot replace them. Not being proficient in creative jobs will cause unemployment and negatively affect the economy and the country. Therefore, studying creative arts will give citizens job opportunities and positively impact the country.

Lastly, practicing communication and critical thinking skills and learning the country's structure leads to better decisions that affect the country. Humans are considered

social creatures, and social creatures tend to live in societies. To live in a society, we need to express our ideas clearly and concisely, and we need communication skills. Critical thinking skills are essential for humans to make the right decisions where necessary. A citizen can profoundly understand the country's structure by learning about the government. Research about the relationship between liberal arts and democracy states that liberal arts education makes students think more critically about their societal role Mcavoy et al. (2019). Democracy means rule by the people. Hence, the power belongs to the people. This means that citizens in democratic countries are in charge of making decisions, and having good communication skills, thinking critically, and possessing knowledge of the country's structure can lead to making better decisions and having a positive impact on the country, which is why liberal arts education courses shall be offered if we want a better country.

Some believe that with general education courses consuming students time, the students spend less time on their primary professions, resulting in a lack of professionalism, negatively affecting the country. Professionals are indeed crucial in a country, and a liberal arts education can, in fact, positively affect professionalism. What differentiates professionals from amateurs is their skill of analyzing new data and connecting them with their past understandings of their field. A book about how people learn suggests that experts notice features and meaningful patterns of information that are not noticed by novices Bransford (2000). By studying critical thinking courses, students learn to think analytically, improving how they find patterns and learn new concepts. Therefore, implementing liberal arts education will improve professionalism and help develop the country.

To conclude, liberal arts education teaches students about history, literature, creative arts, and sociology, which are essential for a citizen to make better decisions in a democratic country, understand the importance of culture, and ensure a job to make the country a better place to live in. Many universities now offer liberal arts education courses, allowing students to study creative arts and sociology and requiring students to take critical thinking and communication courses. This is why more universities should start offering liberal arts education courses alongside core courses to have a better democratic country.

References

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