



African Women's Charity Organization

P.O. Box 23074 Oakland, CA 94623-0074 U.S.A.

Phone: (415) 789-7360

Website: africanwomenscharity.org

Email: forafricanwomen@att.net

Building African Women's & Youth Movements and Forming International Sisterhood

Education and Self-Reliance

One of the most serious mistakes that can be made is to allow the control of the education of our youth to be in the hands of people who are against our interests. One of the goals that we must have in the independence movement is the control of the education of our youth.

Women must play a key role here because it is the women who are the first and primary educators of our youth. In education lies our personality. This is the reason we must control the education in our nation/community. When the enemy educates people, these people feel tied to the enemy. Therefore, most of them will not serve the people. It is education that gives us personality. A people's personality lies in education. The training of people dedicated to serving the masses lies in education. The formation of a new society lies in education. Education is not a privilege. Attendance in elementary, junior high and high school is not a privilege. Attendance at a university is not a privilege. It is a necessity. For us, it must be one of the victories of the revolution. Poor people must be able to go to school. Schools at all levels must be essentially for the masses of people. We cannot all be wealthy. We should not all be wealthy.

It is wrong to assume that people who educate others no longer need to be educated and no longer need to study, or that raising consciousness means raising the consciousness of others, but not the intellectuals or the educators. Intellectuals and educators also need reeducation. Everybody should study and remold him or herself. That includes those of us present here today. Since conditions change all the time we must adapt our thinking to the new conditions by studying new problems. If not, we will not be able to educate others. Naturally we have to learn while teaching. To be a good teacher, one must be a good pupil.

1. We must wage a massive struggle to be in total control of the educational institutions in our community. There must be a link between community and the schools, parents and students.
2. We must be in positions to hire and fire principles, teachers, and administrators; control the standard and performance of teachers. Our educators must be paid a decent salary in relationship to the important job they do in society. Educators must know the curriculum and inspect the training given to the pupils. The attitude and behavior of teachers must be monitored. Teachers are not merely educators but are agents of social change and molders of people's personality and worth. We must know how the schools are doing and press for progress. We must encourage cleanliness of the schools as well as preservation of building and school equipment. We must contribute to ensuring respect for the teaching profession
3. We must be in full control of the curriculum. Our youth must study science and math because these are needed to build an awesome infrastructure for our nation, Africa. We must invest in those who want to serve the people, who are willing to learn and have the capacity to do so. We shall invest in students who in their school conduct show that they have appreciated the value of the struggle; who can make the

most of the sacrifice by their parents and the people. The more demanding the parents are at home, the better the child will do in school. All of our students must study the works of the intellectual giants of Africa like Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure, Amilcar Cabral, Samora Machel, W.E.B. Dubois etc. We must bring as visiting speakers, veterans of the liberation struggle.

4. Our schools must emphasize cooperation over competition, collectivism over individualism, respect for humanity over greed, love for our nation-Africa. We must organize our children's leisure time, encouraging sport trips, cultural activities, debate and constructive exchange of ideas. We must act to avoid dropouts. "Education is the task of all of us", No person should have an income which he/she does not personally need; nor wield a power solely for their own whim. If society is to turn out millionaires, it will also turn out beggars and prostitutes. To increase abiding satisfaction for the masses of our people, and for all people, someone must sacrifice something of their own happiness. This is a duty only to those who recognize it as a duty. The larger the number of people ready to sacrifice, the smaller the total sacrifice necessary. No person of education and culture and training, who proposes to face and solve the problem can hope for entire happiness. But with the death of your entire happiness may come increased happiness and satisfaction and fulfillment for other people – strangers, unborn babies and uncreated worlds.