EDUCATION IN
A RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY
Introduction:

- A word of “Thank you”
- Why should this topic be an object of our concern, (Education in a rapidly changing society).
- There is no doubt that we are who we are today because of the type of education we got yesterday.
- “Tell me what you teach your children and I will tell you what you are today and what you will be tomorrow”, Minister of Education in Rwanda.
- The importance of education (formal, informal and non-informal) in every nation cannot be overemphasized.
Are we in a rapidly changing society?

- Yes!
- The magnitude and speed of change are simply mind-blowing.
- The computer revolution which started only twenty five years ago has defied both time and space.
- What the industrial revolution accomplished in three hundred years, the computer revolution will accomplish in less than thirty years.
- Most of the economies are shifting from industrial to information.
- The world is changing at a dazzling speed such that people, families and communities are deeply affected. Before something is understood, it is already gone.
Where is education in all this?

A. Education being the imparting of skills, knowledge and habits from individual to individual, there is no doubt the computer revolution has speeded up this process. Information and communication technologies have been successively integrated in the education system.

B. The purpose of education (especially formal education) is to form good and competent citizens who will be able to help themselves but also be useful to a particular country or society. In short, education is provided with specific society’s needs in mind. In other words, people are taught those things which are deemed necessary to live in a particular society. It is important to note that societies are formed around shared purposes, hence, a society cannot function if there are no agreed upon “goods and bads”. In fact, laws are made from this premise.
Education in a rapidly changing society has multiple challenges

1. The changing nature of societies.
   - How do you form individuals to live in a society that will have changed by the time you finish forming them?
   - The explosion of information and knowledge has brought complexity of life at all levels.
   - Structures of families and communities are changing very fast. Then norms and laws follow, sometimes blindly.

2. Forming individuals to be a certain way in a society that has dismissed objectivity.
   - Material advancement left behind spiritual matters thus creating a world of critical spiritual bankruptcy.
• Secularism has deeply influenced education and has affected every fiber of the society.
• Faith does affect our lives and there are always elements of faith in whatever we do.
• What does Christian education have to say about a secular society?

3. **Generation dot. Com vs. generation BBC (born before computer).**
• Education is now teaching and training for jobs that haven’t even been thought of.
• There is a mismatch and miscommunication between the two generations.
• We should ask ourselves is “who is leading who”? The more knowledgeable one!
4. The meeting ground of formal, informal and non-formal education.
   • The line of division is not as clear as it sounds but suffices to say that young people often get conflicting or contradicting messages from these three types of education.
   • Because of what the society has deemed appropriate, formal education is now the dominant type of education.
   • Informal and non-formal education is now gaining ground through the availability of knowledge through information technology and young people fall prey to media, pop culture and peer groups.

5. Illogical nature of logical systems.
   • The first twenty five years of your life are divorced from the rest of your life and are considered preparatory formative years.
   • The promise of education to prepare people for life becomes an illusion because life is tied up with the future and the future is already killed.
6. **Getting education for many reasons.**
   - Unfortunately, good education is not that which goes with the passion of your heart but rather that which leads you to a well paying job.
   - Students should not be staying to learn just for exams or spending time on useless things but pursuing education with joy and happiness.

7. **Failure of the once trusted human system and institutions:**
   - The promise of education to prepare people for life has failed simply because people feel more unprepared as ever before, the moment they leave the college.
   - And for education to be effective, the educator has to be trusted by the learner.
8. Lack of profound transformation of individuals by education.
   • Failure of improvement on human nature.
   • Something important in education is missing, and it should be addressed to make education what it was meant to be namely; “to be useful to individuals and societies."

9. Drugs.
   • Those who would have been an asset become a liability to the society.
   • Lastly we need to teach young people never to be defeated by evil but to defeat evil with good. Romans 12:21
Which way do we go?

A. Returning to the basics.

B. Having a change of heart:

C. Young people have longings and it is from there that we can connect and probably guide each other.

D. We need to dare to tell young people that there is a God.

➢ “We are his hand work, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God previously prepared for us so that we should live in them”. (Ephesians 2:10).
Conclusion

The world is changing so fast and there is nothing we can do about it;

• Character formation at a young age is the key for our young people.
• The role of the parents as educators and role models as well as the community cannot be overemphasized.
• Education should not be seen as a means to an end, but a part of life and an enjoyable one.
• Nothing should replace human relationships because in our nature as human beings we are relational beings.
• Our educational system needs a solid biblical ethic.
• We all need, but especially our young people, a solid rock to stand on; the word of God.

• Defeating evil with good. Romans 12:21.