Navdeep Kaur

Composition II

Research paper

Draft-2

                                                     Free Higher Education

 Education is the basic right of human beings, whether it is secondary or postsecondary. As food, water, and fresh air are necessary for the body, in same manner education is important for mental health and intellectual growth. And it should be provided to each and every individual who is willing to study. The twenty-first century is a century of technology and knowledge, where technical skills are needed to fulfill the requirement of jobs. After finishing high schools, to join the highly paid workforce, many students have to get admission in colleges or universities to learn those skills. The United States is a capitalistic nation, where power of elites own many colleges and universities for to earn profit. Therefore, students of middle class and minorities end up accumulating a huge debt. The American government should provide tuition-free public college and university education for all American students because it’s a right of every student, hard to afford and it is working well in other countries.

*Where to Invade Next*, by Michael Moore where he traveled nine different countries of the world, to collect some good ideas from them, and to bring them back to the United States of America for its progress. This documentary is a nonfiction narrative and where Moore plays a role of an invader. He invaded “Rapunzel of Slovenia”, who was well known as magical fairyland. He met with various university students, who study there without having any debt. The university is free for them and he met with the president of Slovenia named Borut Pahor as well. He invades those countries to take back their good ideas back to the United States. In the documentary student of Slovenia became surprised, when Moore discussed American fee for tuition concept to them. He stated that students look very relaxing, living their lives without having any tuition debt and more devoted to their education. Other European countries such as France, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Turkey, and Germany also offer free education. Even though in US people paying more taxes than these countries but still get only a few benefits in the result. Finland provide great example to the world.

Finland education system is very fascinating, and their global education system ranked number one in the world. Their education system is considered best to the world. One more interesting thing about Finland is that they have a free education system. They offer free public university education to all the European students. Therefore, students from all rich and poor families go to same public colleges or universities. The very one big benefit I did notice that there is a lot more funding from rich families goes to public universities because of few private universities exist there. The main purpose of their education is not only to educate students but they also stressed on manners, respect of others and socialization. In that country international students, have to pay administrative fee only, which is almost negligible as compared to University fee in America. Education teaches students how to be good human beings.

“Education is a human right and anyone who is willing and should be able to attend an institution of higher education irrespective of their ability to pay for it” (Konczal 118). It should not be limited to rich class people. They all escaped from education debt burden. Students from middle classes families struggle with debt most of their life and it is more prominent in African American and Latino students as compared to white ethnic groups. “Studies already find that student debt leads graduates to delay marriage, invest in a home, or start a business” (Konczal 119). In order to pay those debts, after graduation students start working early and accept jobs at low wages. Due to capitalism and inequality, most of the benefits are for rich class people. This gap should be minimized so that every student of any race or class should able to attend public institutions for higher education and contributes to nation’s economy. The more highly educated students will be, the more they will earn and more the taxes they will pay and more the income goes into government’s pockets. So many problems arise with student debt and some states do have some law that help students a lot.

"Tuition-free higher education" legislation that passed in Oregon in June 2013” (Dudley 5). In this program, students go to community college and public universities without any tuition fees. In this program, students have to pay some fixed percentage out of their income to pay for future upcoming student’s education. And student accepted this plan, “Pay It Forward” was the most sensible state-level solution they found” (Dudley 5). This bill needs to pass in others states so that every student has his/her right to get a free higher education without any inequality. Besides this bill and applying tax based on the higher income will helps as well.

“A 1 percent tax on concentrated wealth would erase student debt over a decade and bring the cost of public higher education to zero. (End the Debt Sentence Nation 20)” It indicates that how the taxing rich would make higher education free for public colleges and universities and it would relieve students under debts. The annual funding of $76 billion required to make public colleges or universities tuition free for students who are in need only by taxing to our 1% rich population. It would raise more than that and it would pay off all student’s debts. Student's perspective to view higher education changes a lot due to higher cost of universities.

“For millions of students, American university system is not a pathway to success but a debt trap” (Heuvel). It explains most of the enrolled students dropped their classes because of the tuition costs and they start doing the job to run his expenses. An average graduate student with a debt of almost $ 30,000. "Pay It Forward, Pay It Back" financing model, similar to ones used in Australia and the United Kingdom” should be started in the U.S. as well. The US system of education runs by the power of elite for their profits but not for public welfare. The gap of class separation keeps expanding, with the economic system, where rich people getting priority in every field of life. It doesn’t provide equal opportunities to all students, who want to study irrespective of their financial condition.

“The cost of attending a four-year college has increased by 1,122 percent since 1978. Last year, 38 million American students owed more than $1.3 trillion in student loans” (Ellison). This debt is more than any other kind of loans such as auto and credit cards debts. If government provide free subsidiaries to other business programs, then why not make the public colleges and universities free for all students. America is the leading power in the world, and post-secondary tuition-free education must be provided as their basic right to each and every student, who is willing to study. An investment in today’s student’s future is an investment in nation’s future. I think free education is a great idea but still there are many counter arguments arise.

Free education for all students will cost a lot more funding to state and federal governments. The tax will go up, funding for other social benefits might lower down. Somehow people will lose the importance of college or universities education. The question that might arise, is that How professors will get paid. The quality of education will get depleted. There is no inspiring left for professors to teach their students if their salary lowers down. A competition in the market for highly qualified or highly skilled will not stay anymore. The importance of skilled workforce gets affected. In addition, public colleges and universities get all the funding from the government and private universities will not get anything, as a result student move to public institutions. Therefore, public institutions get flooded with students and quality of education and hands-on practical skills will get affected. Professors will not able to give their time and full attention to every student.

At last I would like to say, free education should be provided to every middle or lower-class student, so it helps them to improve their economic condition and to get a good job. An investment in education is an investment in society for its wellbeing. More educated society leads to fewer crimes or violence, racism or hatred, reduction in drug abuse and happiness. Free education should be provided so that every individual utilizes his capabilities up to full extent and achieve success in their life. Therefore, division in society will diminish and people become more aware of current issues going on with the politics and nation. Then, they will elect all the politicians very prudently. Due to crimes or violence such as gun violence many innocent people lose their life every day. And many people get injured, therefore their bills for medical treatment adds up and due to loss of their income and huge medical bills, as a result, their names turn into collection agencies. Therefore, hatred and negativity in society spread at a higher rate than positivity and humanity. Predominantly there are more benefits of providing free higher education than harms.

Work cited:

Moore Michael. Where to Invade Next”23 Dec. 2015

Dudley, Barbara. "Debt-Free Higher Education Moves Forward in Oregon."

*Guild Notes*,vol.38, no. 2/3, Summer/Fall 2013, p. 5.

                EBSCO*host*, Search.ebscohost.com. Libdb.dccc.edu

                /login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=91891457 &site=ehost-live”.

“Should college education be free”

            <http://www.debate.org/opinions/should-college-education-be-free>. Accessed 21,

            November,2017.

“Should college be free? Pros, Cons, and Alternatives”

          <https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/should-college-be-free.asp>. Accessed 21,

          November,2017.

Konczal, Mike. "Generation Debt." *Dissent (00123846)*, vol. 62, no. 4, Fall 2015, pp.118-121.

  EBSCO*host*,search.ebscohost.com.libdb.dccc.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=

 109491 375 &site=ehOst-live.

"End the Debt Sentence." *Nation*, vol. 302, no. 10, 07 Mar. 2016, p. 20. EBSCO*host*,

            search.ebscohost.com.libdb.dccc.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=113203044       &site=ehost-live.

Heuvel, Katrina Vanden. "A debt-free college education."

*Washington Post*, 8 Aug. 2013.*Opposing*

*Viewpoints in Context*, [libdb.dccc.edu/login?url=http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A](http://libdb.dccc.edu/login?url=http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A)

           339143659/OVIC?u=pa\_de\_ccc&xid=665f8939. Accessed 20 Nov. 2017.

Ellison Keith,” The Argument for tuition free college”

           <http://prospect.org/article/argument-tuition-free-college>, 04, April,2016. Accessed 21,

           November 2017.