

Free Higher Education Essay

Every day millions of Americans struggle with debt only because they want to pursue higher education and job opportunities. However, now higher education is too expensive for many people, creating lasting debt. Countries like Germany and Finland believe that free higher education is a human right and gives their youth a head start in the ever-evolving world. If America can consider higher education as a human right, we could have more educated people in our economy. We can match the standards of young citizens in other developed countries.

For many Americans, a limiting factor to pursuing college education is the debt that accompanies it. According to Common Dreams, the student loan debt has reached \$1.7 trillion. This is a trap that many people fall into, forcing them to spend years just to escape, let alone afford a normal life with a house, a car, and a family. When "Education at a Glance" did a study on other countries on this topic, they found drastic differences. In the average developed country, public funds pay for 70% of higher education. However, in America, the public funds pay only a little more than 35%, and our education still costs more. Many people travel to America to pursue quality higher education, but the huge cost forces them to question whether it's worth it.

The OECD found that "The U.S. ranks 14th in the world in the percentage of 25 - 34-year-olds with higher education (42%)". Even though America is still one of the most highly educated countries in the world, America is falling behind in this age group. Since both the value and the cost of college education have been rising since the early 21st century, many Americans consider college to be seemingly unattainable. Consequently, America lags in young adults getting a higher education.

When a person earns a degree, they benefit society because they will earn more money, which means they can pay more taxes. They would also be less likely to rely on the government for unemployment benefits, Medicaid, and housing subsidies. The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities estimates that "Each college graduate represents a net gain to society of \$381,000 over a lifetime." Best Colleges.com also states, "College graduates are more likely to vote, to volunteer, to make philanthropic contributions, and even to donate blood." This means educated people can make new technological and medical innovations, boost industries, and even create new jobs. Ultimately, we can boost our economy with a more educated workforce. This way our country can continue to grow in the competitive industries and help with raising American incomes.

In conclusion, it's clear why some countries see free higher education as a right. Student debt, America's falling behind, and boosting the economy all point toward making free higher education a right. If we want to boost our country's morale and give kids a brighter future to achieve their goals and contribute to mankind, we must act now.

Works Cited

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