

# Why do we study?

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Critical thinking is an essential skill in our life. Acquiring it requires much time and patience as well as a lot of guidance from people around us. We can start learning it from any age, but if everyone learns it as they grow up, their life will be much easier. With that skill, they can figure out many things, even those that don't have definite answers. Critical thinking can be taught by simply asking "why?" That powerful question often comes out from young children who start wondering about the world they live in. They keep asking "Why?" and even when they get an answer to their question, next thing they do is open their mouth and ask "Why?" again. It never ends. People are naturally very inquisitive and children are amazed and excited about the world they see, but at some point many of them stop asking that question. When and why do they stop using this powerful word? When do they stop getting surprised by things like rain making sounds on the roof, leaves dancing in the wind, birds flying in a line, the sun coming back to the sky every morning, and the moon chasing after them wherever they go?

As children grow up, they become busy with their studies at school, and that's when they start putting the word "why" away and start to focus on doing what they are told to do. Busy with what has been given to them, they forget about the questions inside of themselves as well as the joy of figuring things out. At school, it cannot be denied that they mostly study to get a good score on the entrance exam to "efficiently" get a "better" life. If there are any learning opportunities that are not helpful to getting a good score, students tend to consider them as not worth doing because it is not efficient to spend time and energy on something irrelevant to the test. So they keep memorizing facts,

facts about history and facts about science and so on, but what does the knowledge of facts do for them?

Ever since we started our life in this world, we have always been developing ourselves to have a "better" life. Owning many more things or building up a career in a big company used to be the symbol of a better life. If you had a good job and lived in a big house or if you had an expensive car, people may have thought you were successful. Maybe you could even add a big dog in your successful life too. To have such a life, we were always forced to compete with others. Being behind someone was not acceptable, so we kept trying to get everything done efficiently. It seems efficiency started covering a huge part of the value of our life from some point in history, but it is also dealt with incorrectly. What is the aftermath of being incorrectly efficient then? Well, now we have become unnecessarily busy. We have a full schedule every day because we can travel far away with a car, because we can contact anyone instantly, because we have such a "better" life. Efficiency, however, can sometimes kill the most important parts of our life. For example, by using chemicals on a vegetable field to get rid of little insects, it looks like it's more efficient for growing vegetables. But eventually the land will be ruined and the food will hurt people. Insects may eat the vegetables, but they also help the land become rich. Using chemicals may help farmers to harvest better-looking vegetables. In a short term, that may look more beneficial and more efficient, however, in the long term, it is not, because nothing good would come out from the damaged soil.

Similarly, students are busy from morning to night with school, after school activities, and socializing with their friends. It's all for learning more things more efficiently and efficiently having good relationships with their friends, but do all these things sound healthy? Is it really more efficient when a student spends so many hours studying that they are too tired to remember it? Or if they get so used to having answers given to them that they lose the ability to ask questions by themselves? In the end, their efficiency is not truly efficient. By blindly pursuing efficiency more and more, they made their world into an over-complicated

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EDUCATION IS NOT  
THE LEARNING OF FACTS,  
BUT TRAINING THE MIND  
TO THINK."  
- ALBERT EINSTEIN

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