

FERNANDO ALVAREZ DEL RIO JEAN DE KERVASDOUE

Narendra Taneja, Energy CEO and Convener, World Oil & Gas Assembly (WOGA)

I come from a particular part of the world and I just cannot help but look at all these aspects. Education is central to the whole debate we are having this morning, because unless people are educated and empowered, they cannot really ask for their rights in terms of healthcare and other issues. What has been your experience in Mexico, for instance? How important is education? My personal feeling is, you must work in education, on a fast-track basis and make sure that every single person is educated, at least educated to a certain extent. You talked about the middle-class people. Middle-class people are well-educated, empowered and equipped. Therefore, they are very often able to take away the best part of the medical budget given by the local government.

How important is it? I personally feel that education is central to all that we are discussing here? How important is it? How should we look at it? What has been your experience in Mexico? As we said, population is so extremely sensitive in most societies.

Fernando Alvarez Del Rio

Education is central; it is an imperative. For any kind of policies that are undertaken, in the end, you have to have education. This is on a broad perspective and sometimes also on small specific topics, when you have to convey very clear messages that are going to be taken by the population as a whole. What we have is a very simple, five-step message, that you convey in very different perspectives. It has really become part of the population. In terms of population and population policies, what you have to have is informed decisions. Even in Mexico, it could be quite sensitive, but in the end, we need to provide information. Providing information through the school system is also essential to this type of situation.

Jean de Kervasdoué

On the issue of education, when you're interested in health in general and medicine in particular, but not only medicine, the people who contribute the most to health are – for many people in this room – diplomats. The war in Ivory Coast reduced life expectancy by 10 years in just one year. War or no war – that's what contributes most to health.

The second thing – that's what you're saying, sir – is education. I would simply add women's education to what you said. In France, we showed that the best way to look at life expectancy and changes in life expectancy in French *départements* [administrative districts] is women's level of education. There are major differences among *départements*. The variation is three to four years. That's a lot. The fourth important thing is that there is a large category of people here who have not spoken – engineers.

Jean-Pierre Elkabbach, President, Lagardère News

Are you campaigning for office?

Jean de Kervasdoué

No, not at all, Jean-Pierre, I'm looking at numbers. The war (10 years). Education as a whole matters because children know that their health affects them. China increased its life expectancy by 36-38 years with a non-existent health care system. What allowed it to increase its life expectancy was the quality of water, the quality of food products, nutrition. That's what matters.

Jean-Pierre Elkabbach, President, Lagardère News

And with an only child: obesity. That's a big problem, too. We can talk about the pampered child. We're familiar with that.

Jean de Kervasdoué

No. China's life expectancy is increasing enormously and that's a good thing. Also, medicine. In Western countries, what matters today for nearly half of them is medicine. But there are lots of other factors besides medicine which matter – I'd like to finish and I'm going to end – it's that in many ailments, especially in poor countries, there's no going back. What I mean is that one of the major obesity problems is that you can't backtrack. One of the big problems with diabetes is that in Third World countries these problems are more worrying than in rich countries. That's because in general, for type 2 diabetes, all you have to do is lose weight. But unfortunately, we're discovering that many diabetics in Morocco and India are diabetics who have to be treated their whole lives for reasons we don't yet understand; there's no going back. So the importance of prevention is paramount.