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EDUCATION TO SAVE HUMAN RESOURCES

One of the most important consequences of the introduction of a continuing education system is that failure ceases to matter or, at any rate, matters much less. We have seen that as things are organized and run at present, many of those who start schooling either fail to complete their studies or are eliminated by the harsh workings of selection. Without going into the unfortunate and sometimes inhuman consequences of this wastage, it is economic nonsense. Enormous quantities of material and intellectual capital, skill, time and financial resources are invested in undertakings where it is known in advance that a high proportion doomed from the outset to total or partial failure. In point of fact, the knowledge acquired at school, whatever it may be, is a positive factor on the basis of which and with the help of which all men, no matter what level they may have reached, have to build their lives and fulfill a cultural destiny. This is obviously possible only within a global system where adults, having regard to their age and educational background, can continue educational activities appropriate to their intellectual level, their curiosity and the collective needs of society. *Continuing education is therefore the only means of making educational processes as a whole fully effective from the economic point of view no less than from the intellectual and spiritual points of view.*

— *From Unesco Papers, Nov. 26, 1965.*