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Chapter. 20 Question In this Chapter, Dr. Sagan shares with us some responses from about the state of American education described in the preceding chapter. Were the responses a surprise to you? Why or why not?   
Answer:   
The responses from the students did not surprise me. This is because it is so common to everyone to see researched about the lackluster academic performance of United States compared to other countries. The education system of American Education can be described as mediocre. When the individual states are compared internationally, there is a wide gap between the states that are performing the lowest from those that are performing the highest.   
Question 2.   
Then, Dr. Sagan shares with us a sampling of some parent opinions and commentary. What (if anything) surprised you about the parental perspectives on this issue? Why?   
Answer:   
That did not come as a surprise as well. Generally, not the entire parent’s fraternity is satisfied with the quality of American education at their children’s school. From the various reports, recruiting and retaining competent teachers is a major issue as is the quality of instruction. Majority of the parents report that their children had a teacher that is performing poorly in at least a single subject.   
Question 3.   
Dr. Sagan alludes to the " coolness" of learning in the preceding chapter, and now we hear from students and parents directly on the issue of how peer pressure and social expectations can make learning " uncool". What do you think? Did you see a pressure not to be " a nerd" when you were going through grade school? How about now? What do you think causes this? How do we fix it?   
Answer:   
It is true peer pressure can making learning to be uncool. Peer pressure comes along with cutting class, physical violence, and performing badly in school. Thus making learning the learning process to be so uncool. Peer pressure was not a nerd when I was going through grade school. Now it has taken over virtually all the student in institutions. This is normally caused by improper guidance from guardians, mentors, and role model of these students. Proper guidance and campaign against is the right remedy.   
Question4.   
One of the points that Dr. Sagan makes in this Chapter is the fact that retention in our public schooling is very low. Think back to what your learned in grade school. How much do you remember? How much do you think you have forgotten? In spite of this, Dr. Sagan shares some examples of extremely effective learning models and exercises. What is the common theme? How do we inspire the desire to learn and promote learning retention?   
Answer:   
I agree with Dr. Sagan, the current system only prepare students to pass examination and push them to the job market. The annoying part is low retention rate. From my own experience, I can sincerely state that I remember absolutely nothing in my grade school, apart from the conventional general knowledge that we encounter each and every day. Learning retention can be achieved through intensified learning, expanded learning options, intervention and assessment that tend to inform teaching.   
Question5.   
Although we can all agree that the education system in America could/should be better than it is, obviously there are a lot of different opinions on what (specifically) is wrong, and how (specifically) we go about correcting it. Leaders in business and hospitality face this issue all of the time. How can leaders most effectively address these challenges? Hint: Think about the Sciencenter story. What was special there? How did it end up becoming such a big success? What were the key factors in play?   
Answer:   
The leaders can effectively curb the challenges by providing innovative models for learning by combining exhibits with Amgen centers and Science Center School for learning science as well as development program for professional teachers. It ended up being a success because follow up activities and implementation strategies were well planned in the program. The key factors in play included the entrepreneurial skills, innovation and technology development. It offers business incubation, office and lab facilities, programming, and support services for the entrepreneurs. In addition, it offers established and growing companies.   
Reference   
Sagan, Carl. The demon-haunted world: science as a candle in the dark. New York: Random House, 1995. Print.