



THE ORGANIC HUMANITY MOVEMENT

Public Statement Education

The South African education system is failing our children. By the time they leave school, learners are not equipped to deal with the reality of adult life. The youth unemployment rate increased to 44,3% as of the last quarter of 2023. With a focus on OHM's 6 principles, we believe that a new and transformative approach to education will equip learners with the tools they need to thrive. The current education system and national curriculum is stagnant and built on foundations surrounding the adult's needs instead of the child's needs and natural tendencies. Both the education system and the CAPS curriculum, including homework, assessments and the heavy content load are harming our children, and future generations and are also a burden on both parents and teachers alike. OHM believes that education should be seen as a process of learning through concrete exploration, rather than a process of feeding information abstractly.

OHM envisions schools that are smaller, homelier, beautiful, and inspiring and that are developed around the needs of growing humans in each successive period of life. We believe in working towards getting rid of over-crowded school buildings that take on the look and feel of prisons and over time replacing them with learning environments that are child-led and nurturing with methods and materials that are universal and time-tested.

A school environment should offer a child concrete, hands-on, practical learning experiences, under the guide of knowledgeable and nurturing adults who have great respect for the potential of each child. The environment should prepare a child for life as a confident, independent, responsible, and contributing member of society.

Schools should be places that uphold family and community values, where the individual is respected and has the opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility, creativity, critical thinking skills as well as a love of learning.

Instead of a national curriculum which is limiting in its nature, OHM proposes that education should fall under local government with an emphasis placed on homeschooling, cottage schooling, micro-schooling and private schooling. Our country's national curriculum should be replaced with a national bare minimum, which will align with the minimum requirements of higher education institutions and professional bodies. The focus should be on how children learn, not what children learn, and making sure they acquire the skills and foundation they require for lifelong learning. This ensures authenticity in the learning environment and encourages free thinking and innovation. Changing the system to this proposed model, will ensure that all places of child care and education, will set children up for success, while at the same time, create space for limitless learning.



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Where homeschooling, cottage schooling, micro-schooling or private schooling are not a possible solution, then local government will offer public schooling. Even in the new system, we expect public schooling to be the popular choice for a long time, while citizens get used to a new government and political mindset. That being said, public schooling will shed its industrial heritage and become inspiring centres for growth and exploration. There will be no single, standardized, one-size-fits-all national curriculum and each public school will decide what and how they teach.

These local government public schools will have flexibility over which accredited curriculums to use, or can create their own. These schools will also look very different to today's conventional schools, emphasizing beauty and natural materials to inspire the minds of learners. Government will offer guidelines to all schools, both public and private, that will aim to increase a child's creativity, IQ, EQ and tangible skills. Teachers' training will be geared more towards facilitating the learning process instead of the current method of instruction.

The First 6 Years of Life

The understanding of the child's mind during the first 6 years of life, is of utmost importance when it comes to looking at education. The whole life of a human being stems from what is experienced in those first years. At no other time is the human mind as great as in this period. Therefore, if we are to offer our children the most suitable learning environment, it is very important that society understands this, especially parents and educators. Movement, freedom, nature, repetition, music, art, sensorial learning, sound games, concrete materials should all form part of this time in a child's life, whether these experiences take place in a homely school setup, or in community centers where parents can accompany their children and learn with them, or in public schooling.

Primary School

Primary school will be focused on enabling creativity and encouraging self-discipline. Subject priorities will include music, performance arts, sport, visual arts and basic reading, writing and arithmetic. Any other subject will be secondary to this. The last year of Primary School will be focused on extensive survival skills. This will ensure free thinking, self-confidence, creativity and independence is fostered. A strong focus on creative and active endeavors will also compensate for any effects of trauma that a child may be silently experiencing at home and will ready the learner for the next phase of education.



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High School

In the first two years of high school learners will be exposed to as many topics and interests as possible so that they can establish what they are drawn to and what they are not drawn to.

The later years of high school will focus on helping learners bring together their interests and strengths and then to focus on those related learning areas. In this particular age category, learners can choose to go to specialised schools, such as technical schools, agricultural schools, design schools or academic schools.

These schools will be robust in their offerings, to ensure that scholars are prepared academically, socially and emotionally, and are equipped with various skills, which are both valued by the community and required by the labour market and higher education institutions.

Entrepreneurship will be a focus no matter what learners choose to focus on as their subjects of choice, so that whatever they choose to become experts in, they know how to market themselves and run a business.

The last quarter of the last year of high school will incorporate a milder form of military basic training. The purpose of which is to instill a mindset of success, through discipline, teamwork and overcoming physical challenges that once seemed impossible.

We want to give learners the best chance of succeeding in life and believe that the guidelines laid out here will best tackle the many challenges we have, to help each learner to mature over the years in their development to adulthood.

This radical kind of education we are proposing will result in the following:

- New ideas will be birthed into society which will bring about new inventions and advancements in science and technology.
- The next generation will be geared more towards problem solving, critical thinking and effective conflict management.
- Children will develop into resilient adults who can look after themselves and overcome many challenges.
- We will have a population where most people are well-rounded, level-headed, mature adults who make better decisions than previous generations, thus improving society.
- Because this new way of educating will foster and establish self-esteem at an early age, it will be harder for the government, or any organisation or person to try exert control of the population.