

***Tsunesaburō Makiguchi (1871-1944)***

***Teacher – Geographer – 1st President Soka Gakkai International (SGI) – Founder of Soka Education***

Soka (Japanese) consists of 2 characters: So = creation and Ka = value

**Soka Education:** Value creation by means of Education

**Soka Teaching:** Value creation by means of Education in Teaching.

**Starting point Soka Education / Soka Teaching:** All people have an innate desire for Learning and Development.

Every person is part of a: Family – Circle of Friends – Community – Town/City – Country – World.

All of these areas offer the opportunity for Learning and Development – assuming Responsibilities.

**Soka Education / Teaching** Value creation by means of Education in Teaching.

In Soka Education teachers are urged to engage in collating, analyzing and distilling their own experiences in order to ‘inductively establish principles’ that could be fed back into their daily praxis. Soka Education stresses the power of the individual teacher to challenge educational difficulties through his or her personal efforts.

**Criteria for Education**

**1: Education promotes a sense of beauty**

‘Schoonheid’ (and its opposite) is a measure of sensory response within an individual.

**2: Education provides a gain for the individual**

‘Gain’ is a measure of the way in which the total vital experience of the individual extends and expands (‘loss’ is that which shrinks and limits this).

**3: Education brings good for society as a whole**

‘Good’ is to the life of the social collective what ‘gain’ is to the life of the individual (‘evil’ is the societal equivalent of individual ‘loss’).

**Conclusions – Soka Education / Teaching**

*Tsunesaburō Makiguchi*

**1: The Purpose of Education should always be Individual Happiness**

The happiness of the individual can never exist on its own, because each child has a family and each child is also part of a community, of a town/city, of a country and of the world.

This means that the happiness of the individual is always viewed in conjunction with its environment.

**2: Development starts from the ground up. From the basics recognise, honour and stimulate the wish to learn and develop.**

**3: Every person is able, as an infinitely gifted being, to create something that has value for himself and for the environment.**

*These conclusions indicate: Pupil – Mentor – Society are an unmistakable unity.*

*\* The cooperation between teacher and pupil is always aimed at enabling the pupil as an individual to create precisely that unique part which has value for both the pupil as well as his environment.*

*\* This means that Teacher and Pupil always learn together.*