



Information Technology and Overseas Education



Professor G.H. Sabine - Plato on Education If virtue is knowledge it can be taught

In Plato's ideal state education played a most striking role. Some have considered education as the chief topic in Plato's Republic. Rousseau said that the book was hardly a political work at all but the greatest book on education ever written.

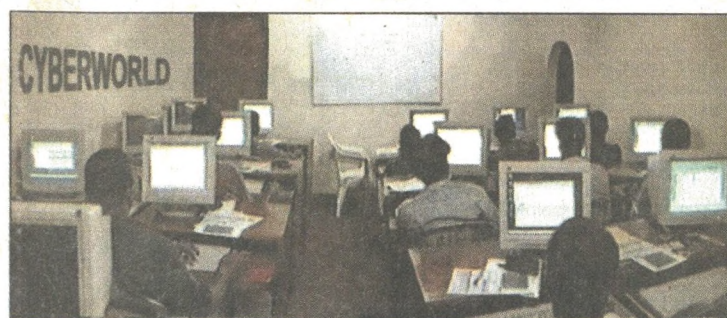
If virtue is knowledge it can be taught and the educational system to teach it is the one indispensable part of a good state. From Plato's point of view with a good system of education almost any improvement is possible; if education is neglected it matters little what else the state does.

It's upon education that Plato

placed his main reliance. For education is the positive means by which the ruler can shape human nature in the right direction to produce a harmonious state.

A modern reader cannot fail to be astonished at the amount of space devoted to education, at the meticulous care with which the effect of different studies is discussed, or at the way in which Plato frankly assumes that the state is first and foremost an educational institution. He himself called it "the one great thing"; if the citizens are well educated they will readily see through the difficulties that beset them and meet emergencies as they arise. (CE)

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