

Indonesian transcript:

Pewawancara: Bagaimana kalau peran pendidikan dalam hal ini, apakah sampai saat ini berperan positif untuk membangun masyarakat atau tidak?

Agus: Saya pikir pendidikan Indonesia hanya melenggengkan, eee.. mengukuhkan formasi sosial yang ada, yang kaya tetap kaya, keyakinan lama ya anak harimau ya jadi harimau juga. Tapi tidak pernah menjadi bagian untuk perubahan sosial, pemerataan sosial, keadilan sosial, seperti itu.

Ya sekolah sangat mahal dan siapa yang bisa membayar sekolah yang mahal, yang memiliki kualitas kalau enggak mereka yang punya duit. Sementara yang tidak punya duit anak nelayan, buruh dan sebagainya ya tidak bisa sekolahlah mereka.

Pewawancara: Seharusnya pendidikan itu gratis atau tidak untuk tingkat dasar dan menengah?

Agus: Sampai tingkat atas saya pikir harusnya gratis. Wong, saya.. saya yakin, kita bisa, kita bisa untuk menggratiskan dan ini memalukan eee.. untuk Indonesia masih juga eee... terendah tingkatan pendidikannya, ee kualitasnya, terus perhatian pemerintah masih sangat rendah untuk pendidikan, padahal pendidikan itu kan investasi jangka panjang. Kita tidak berharap banyak dari tempat lain selain dari pendidikan lha wong Jepang aja sehabis dibom Amerika yang pertama ditanya oleh Kaisarnya: "Berapa orang guru yang masih hidup?" dikita, guru ditelantarkan, gitu.

Pewawancara: Gaji guru sudah mencukupi belum kira-kira sekarang?

Agus: Ya.. saya nggak.. juga ga habis pikir. Saya...tapi kabarnya akan naik gaji guru. Tapi biasanya itu naiknya hanya naik eee... artifisial, karena kebutuhan juga sudah naik lebih dahulu. Seharusnya guru itu berfikir bagaimana mereka hanya mengajar, semua kebutuhan mereka itu dicukupi. Jangan anggota DPR aja yang ini ga ada kerja apa-apa dicukupin. Harusnya guru itu, mereka, mereka fondasi betul bagi.. bagi.. kebudayaan, bagi peradaban.

Pewawancara: Apakah Indonesia akan mampu menaikkan gaji guru dan menggratiskan pendidikan dengan anggaran yang ada?

Agus: Ya kurangi aja gaji anggota dewan, kurangi gaji anggota dewan, larang pejabat itu untuk kluyuran terus, saya pikir cukup lho. Kalau ga ada korupsi lagi.

Pewawancara: Jadi, menurut Mas Agus pendapatnya sekarang apa yang harus dan paling utama dibenahi di dalam sistem pemerintahan kita?

Agus: Pertama, pada..pada tingkatan ekonomi, saya berfikir kita harus kembali pada konsep ekonomi desa, ekonomi desa yang lebih mandiri dan tidak kemudian sepenuhnya menerima eee konsep ekonomi global yang sangat tidak adil. Satu.

Kedua, eee... pendidikan, pendidikan itu harus menjadi prioritas utama, gitu karena demokrasi politik tanpa didukung oleh pendidikan politik yang baik itu sama saja bohong. Dan ketiga, kita mulai.. mulai.. mulai saya pikir mulai berpikir pada tingkatan kultur kita, bagaimana eee.. banyak hal dalam konteks kultur eee.. yang harus barangkali liat.. liat tapi perasaan ini barangkali lewat pendidikan ini bisa..bisa kita ubah semuanya. Ketika pendidikan, ekonomi dan pendidikan kita.. kita garap pada waktu yang sama dengan cara yang sangat baik, saya pikir itu, eee... dua cara

English translation:

Interviewer: What about the role of education in this case? Does it have a positive role in community-building?

Agus: I think Indonesian education only preserves . . . eee . . . consolidates well-established social formations. Rich people are still rich. There is an old belief that a tiger's child will become a tiger, too. But it never becomes part of social change, social equality, social justice, etc. . . .

Well . . . It costs a lot of money to go to school, and who is able to pay for expensive schools that have high quality? Only wealthy people are able to go to those kinds of schools. For those who have no money, fishermen's children, workers, etc. . . . well, they can't send their children to those schools.

Interviewer: Do you think education should be free of charge for the level of basic education and middle education?

Agus: I think it should be free of charge all the way to higher level education. I, I do believe that we . . . we are able to provide them with free education and its really embarrassing . . . eee . . . for Indonesia that still . . . eee . . . has the lowest education level . . . eee . . . the qualities. Then government concern for education is still very low whereas education is a long term investment. We can't hope much from other things besides from our education. After Japan was bombed by America, the first question asked by its emperor was "How many teachers are still alive?" In our country, teachers are neglected.

Interviewer: Are teachers' salaries currently at a decent amount?

Agus: Well . . . I do not . . . I'm still not able to understand . . . I . . . but they said that they will increase teachers' salaries, but usually, this increase is done only artificially, because the prices of basic needs have increased before the actual salary increase. Teachers should only think about how they teach. All their needs should be fulfilled.

Don't only fulfill the needs of parliament members who do nothing. It should be teachers. They are the basic foundation for . . . for our culture, our civilization.

Interviewer: Do you think with the current budget that Indonesia has, can we afford to increase teachers' salaries and provide our people with free education?

Agus: Well, why don't we just reduce the salary of parliament members, prohibit them from traveling around. I think that will be enough. Moreover if there is no more corruption . . .

Interviewer: So, according to *Mas*¹ Agus, what is the most important thing to be improved in our governmental system?

Agus: First of all, on . . . on an economic level, I think we have to return to the village economy concept, a more independent rural economy, that does not fully accept the concept of global economy, which is really unfair. That is one.

Second, eee . . . education. Education must become a major priority because political democracy without the support of proper political education is ineffective. And thirdly, we have to begin . . . begin . . . I think . . . start to think on our cultural level, how to . . . there are a lot of things in the cultural context . . . eee . . . that maybe have to be see . . . see . . . but I think it could be solved by education. Well, we can change everything through education. When education . . . if we improve our economy and education in the same time in a good way, I think . . . eee . . . these are the two ways to improve.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

¹ *Mas* is the Javanese term for Brother