Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The most important goal of education is to teach people how to educate themselves

In the modern era, with development of technologies and science at unprecedented pace and specialization in career market, being up-to-date and having necessary skills through education seems inevitable. One major factor in education is whether people should be able to teach themselves or not. Although some possess the conviction that people should be taught by formal education system, others oppose this viewpoint. As far as I am concerned, I firmly contend that people should be able to learn anything they need by themselves. In what follows, I will elaborate on my perspective.

The first vital point to bear in mind is that people are very busy in these days and they hardly find enough time to attend at courses. If they want to attend at classes they either have to leave their jobs early or find a teacher who teaches lately, which in both case is not reasonable. On the other hand, If one know how to learn by himself, he can start his learning procedure whenever he has time. For instance, a few years ago I needed to learn a programming language. In the same time I was working for a company and I had to work from dawn to dusk. As a result, I only had evening for attending programming courses which were very hard to find. So I decided to learn the language by myself using books and online materials. Thus I managed to learn what was necessary to me. Hadn’t I learned the program by myself, I might not have been able to learn it anyway.

Another noteworthy point supporting my perspective is that formal courses often waste one’s time because they contain information that are not needed. Many formal courses have additional information about the subject such as its history or subsidiary materials that can simply be omitted, without the essential information about the subject being affected negatively. When someone educate himself, he can easily choose materials that is vital and by doing this he would save his precious time. For example, back in university, I always have to deal with subjects which were irrelevant to my main field of study. Each term I have to spent enormous time on these courses, while they were of no importance in my future career. Therefore, I spend most of my time on areas which I find them of no usage today.

To make a long story short, from all the aforementioned reasons, we can safely conclude that people should be able to educate themselves. In this way they can arrange their educating time and they will focus on areas that are of great importance for their career.

440 words/ 35 minutes

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The reading asserts that there are several methods to protect frog populations and gives three methods for this purpose. The lecturer, however, finds the idea dubious and casts doubt on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

The author argues that one of the major factor of frog population decline is the excessive usage of pesticides which will end up in frog habitats and affect their nerve systems. As a result, frogs will have difficulty in their breathing and will die. Conversely, the lecturer brings up the idea that inhibiting farmers whose farming lands are near the frog wetlands is not economically practical and fair. Farmers are heavily dependent on pesticides to prevent harmful insects from damaging their crops. If we force them to limit the use of pesticides, it will result in a lower yield which is a disadvantage in the today’s competitive market.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that another threat for frogs is fungus. Fungus makes frogs’ skin thick and for the frog use their skins to absorb water, they will die simply because of dehydration. The passage suggests that we can cure frogs using antifungal medicine or heat treatment in large scale. On the contrary, the professor underlines the fact that this proposal is not feasible because it needs to be applied individually on every single frog. We need to catch and free each frog which is very difficult and as fungus can pass from adult frogs to their offspring, this treatment needs to be repeated again and again which is not practical.

Finally, the reading asserts that one of the major factor of frog declination is destroying their habitats and we should save their habits by avoiding excessive water usage and draining of wetlands. In contrast, the speaker dismisses this issue due to the fact that wetlands are being destroyed because of the global warming. She contends that all over the world, habitats are being destroyed because of the global warming and its consequence as higher temperature. If wetlands are being dried, it is because of higher temperatures not water usage.

348 words/ 27 minutes