"Concern for education is concern for future generations and for the future of humanity," said Francis. "Education is not merely about transmitting concepts; it is an enterprise that demands cooperation on the part of all involved – the family, the school and social, cultural and religious institutions."

Vatican City (AsiaNews) – Pope Francis spoke on Friday to participants of a conference held in the Vatican entitled Education: The Global Compact, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences ahead of the Global Compact for Education set to take place in the Vatican on 14 May 2020.

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In his address, the pontiff said that society today needs a new "educational compact" since the existing one is in a "state of breakdown", one that values the
family and other social institutions and respects the "crucial" role of teachers.

Today, the so-called educational compact is broken and access to education in the world is unequal. "Poverty, discrimination, climate change, the globalization of indifference and the exploitation of human beings all prevent the flourishing of millions of children."

Hence, “Today we are called in some way to renew and consolidate the dedication of all – individuals and institutions – in favour of education, in order to forge a new educational compact, because only thus will education be able to change.”

For Francis, “Concern for education is concern for future generations and for the future of humanity.”

“Education is not merely about transmitting concepts; it is an enterprise that demands cooperation on the part of all involved – the family, the school and social, cultural and religious institutions. In order to educate, one has to be able to combine the language of the head with the language of the heart and the language of the hands."

The new educational compact must be centred on families. “One of the fundamental ways to improve the quality of education at the scholastic level is to achieve greater participation of families and local communities in educational projects.”

Teachers play a crucial role. As educators, their role “must be acknowledged and supported by every possible means.” It is necessary that they be given access to “suitable national, international and private resources”. "They are ‘artisans’ who shape the coming generations. By their knowledge, patience, and dedication, they communicate a way of living and acting that embodies a richness that is not material but spiritual and creates the men and woman of tomorrow.”
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