Self-Expression or Scientific Advancements?

One slip. One fall. How would this be fatal, just one little mistake? Yet it still is – and there isn’t any cure. Even for punctured lungs, brain damage or just simply one broken arm. How haven’t we been finding these answers? How can we already be making artificial blood, but not knowing how to pull out a tooth easily? We should be advanced enough, and if not, where can we get those solutions from? This is just precisely why scientific advancements are the fundamental building blocks a society needs, as it is much more beneficial than arts, crucial to understand, and directly improves health.

First and foremost, art isn’t fundamental – when a child gets thrown across the road by a speeding car, what can art do? Performing, dancing, singing or painting can’t revive this kid; but science can. Phones are what calls the ambulances. Fluids are what keeps this child alive. Surgery are what makes the little one survive. Yes, self-expression can make the time in the bleak hospital ward a little more bearable, but without the basic sciences behind the clinic… the youngster wouldn’t have a chance to express themselves again. Scientific advancement is overall more beneficial than self-expression.

Doctors, surgeons, scientists, biologists, chemists and more – if none of them understood scientific advancements at all, then we wouldn’t be where we are now. Take Newton, one of the most famous scientists, and his theory of gravity. If he didn’t understand science, then we would probably still be believing that a supernatural force was holding us to the earth. A paper by Understanding Science states that ‘scientific advancement allows us to develop new technologies, solve practical problems and make informed decisions.’ Many inventions, such as the famous light bulb, telephones, antibiotics, the computer, the internet, GPS, 3D printing, rocket technology, automobiles and more are all well-known inventions that couldn’t have been invented without scientific advancements.

A blank hospital ward contains a small child wheezing carefully. Sitting at his bedstand, he sees the small clear IV sachet containing that valuable, life-preserving fluid. He grins a little, winces hard. The iron lung case is hard, but a steady, quiet hug. He can feel his heart beating. He’s still alive. All over the world, every year, science has saved over 3 million lives, from antibiotics to surgery to defibrillators. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that around millions of lives are saved annually – and about 154 million people have been saved just using vaccines over the past 50 years. Much of this number comes from health organisations and charities, like Bill and Melinda Gates’ Gates Foundation that has helped to save over 122 million lives so far. Scientific advancements have saved so many people over millennia, even from the ancient people’s herb remedies to the modern-day antibiotics. Every number from these sums is one less grave, one less heartbroken family, one less tragedy.

Critics may contend that self-expression encourages freedom of choice and expressing yourself. Arts can be passion, leisure or business, can be a great talent that many people have, and a fantastic learning experience that scientific advancements may not be able to achieve yet. However, there are limitations to the greatness of arts. We must admit that there is no true freedom. In our modern, busy world, rules are a regular and there is always a whirlwind of them surrounding us. Even in the simpler ancient days, there are still the rules of nature. There’s gravity, there’s seasons, there’s why we all look like what we look like. Yes, paired with science, the world can truly become a better place, but individually it cannot.

To conclude, scientific advancement is far more valuable to society than artistic self-expression, because it is way more advantageous than arts, fundamental to understand, and dramatically improves health. Every improvement counts. Every decision is crucial. Every idea is inventive. We need to recognise the scientific reality behind everything that we see, and further beyond.

\* A blank hospital ward contains a small child wheezing carefully and daring to smile despite the pain. X-rays on the wall still taunt him of his fatal mistake – the one that cut deep not only into his skin but his hope, too. He’d thought perhaps his friend would come thank him, for saving her life and risking everything. Perhaps not. But sitting at his bedstand, he sees the small satchel containing that valuable, life-preserving fluid. He grins a little, winces hard. The iron lung case is hard, but a steady, quiet hug. He can feel his heart beating. He’s still alive.

That’s exactly why we need to stand together and be passionate. The future needs more inspired youngsters to take over the generation of workers, and we also need to stand together, unite and be peaceful.

(I’m just keeping these paragraphs for next time, please ignore)