

2018-12-28 - "Evidence of Human Progress"

Community Comment Recorded on 12/27/18 - Darus Trutna - 527 words

Hi, this is Darus Trutna and for this Community Comment I wanted to take a couple minutes and share some evidence of human progress as a small counter measure to the overwhelming negativity that I hear people spreading about the state of our world. Evidence from individual scholars, academic institutions, and international organizations, like the UN, show dramatic improvements in human well-being throughout much of the world. In recent decades, these improvements have been especially striking in developing countries. Unfortunately, there is often a wide gap between the reality of human experience, which is characterized by incremental improvements, and public perception, which tends to be quite negative about the current state of the world and skeptical about humanity's future prospects.

Now, believe me, if someone were to get the majority of their information from the daily news, the following information wouldn't be congruent with their worldview, but we can implore them to study the facts, not anecdotes. Listen to evidence, not hearsay. Learn and share statistics, not the headlines. The world in many respects, is getting better, so here are three quick examples ready to be fact checked:

#1 - The most rapid fall in history of global poverty has taken place over the last 30 years. In 1990 for example, over 35% of the world's population (which was 1.9 billion people at the time) lived on less than \$1.90 per day. By 2013, this 35% figure had fallen all the way down to 10.9%. Note that this percentage has substantially decreased all while the population has continued to expand.

#2 - Approximately 90% of people worldwide now have access to clean drinking water, up from 80% in 1990. Even in impoverished sub-Saharan Africa, 75% of the population now drink clean water, up from 56% in 1990.

#3 - Since 1990, the Global literacy rate jumped from 68% to 86% in 2016. This bodes well for social and economic progress.

Now, this just a small sampling of statistics that indicate we are on the right track in many areas of human well-being, but as I've said before, and most importantly, for the first time in human history, we have the necessary capability, technology and resources to address almost every fundamental problem on this planet, including concerns about nourishment, health, education, and the environment. What is needed is to continue focusing on the facts and on progress, rather than getting stuck in a psychotic news cycle that feeds on the latest pointless drama.

This has been Darus Trutna with community comment and since I have a few seconds left, here is a rapid fire list of more examples of human progress:

- Global coal consumption is projected to rapidly decline in the next few decades, thus easing CO2 emissions.
- U.S. energy consumption has decreased
- Youth literacy has reached an all-time high
- Execution rates in the U.S. have hit an all-time low
- The amount of work-related injuries has never been lower
- The number of people who smoke on a daily basis has never been lower
- And the Rate of Deaths From Cancer Continues to Decline.

So, let us keep up this momentum. The Future Is Ours to Create. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDiUVS_-4_Q