

Youth Innovation: People of Determination

“Great countries are those that create great people.” - Benjamin Disraeli. To have a successful country, there have to be goals and objectives to achieve with the contributions of citizens. The UAE takes pride in having multiple goals and deadlines that should be reached with the help of its youth. One of the main goals is the UAE 2071 vision. The UAE 2071 vision is a multi-pillar goal that helps enhance UAE into the best country in the world in five decades. The youth in this country are creative, united, passionate, and ambitious and are looking for innovation in every aspect.

One pillar, and the most important one, is having a happy and cohesive society. A society involves people of different nationalities, diversity, ability, and minor communities. A community that is near and dear to the UAE is the People of Determination. This community, despite its disabilities, has immense opportunities to create a better future. With that, we as a society should help them have a normal life for them to make their innovations and creations. These satisfying creations can be sustainable, daily used, and ordinary all at the same time.

The first aspect that can come to mind is grocery shopping. People without a disability will go shopping and come back to the cashier and the stand is at the standard height. However, how can people of determination, i.e. Those of whom with a wheelchair pay for their groceries? We as a cohesive society can make customized cashier stands in the main hypermarket chains that fit the standards of those with a wheelchair, or even for people of short stature. Furthermore, the outdoors can be a scary place for people with disabilities. Such places include cafes, restaurants, and even parks. A significant feature in parks is wood benches. As simple as these benches are, they can be a barrier between people with a wheelchair and their friends without one. So, an idea that comes to mind is to make separate benches that are part in half to make a space for those with a wheelchair yet can communicate equally.

In addition, the clothes made for general society can be unfit for miniature people. So, to make them feel part of society, small businesses can make the minor community feel seen by making sustainable clothing that can fit their body types specifically. Items of clothing could involve recyclable materials and be clean-energy-friendly to simultaneously contribute to UAE's energy strategy 2050, which is another major goal that the U.A.E wants to reach with the help of its youth. The 2050 energy strategy aims to have a mixture of three energy sources in different percentages to meet the country's economic and environmental goals: 44 percent clean energy, 38 percent gas, and 12 percent clean coal which also saves 700 billion by 2050. By using recyclable materials and supporting small sustainable businesses which produce miniature fitting outfits, a small step can be made to reduce your carbon footprints.

Another step that can benefit both goals immensely, is to make easy pathways and transportation tools for People of Determination. These pathways could be wider and less steep. Transportation tools include bicycle wheelchairs and rigid leg lifters to make natural exercise more accessible to reduce carbon footprints and thus reach the desired percentage of clean energy.

Nonetheless, these adolescent creative innovations which especially help People of Determination in their day-to-day life, clothing, transportation, and outdoors life can lead to positive assistance towards making UAE a more cohesive and sustainable country and thus achieving the 2071 vision and 2050 strategy.

Reference:

<https://uaecabinet.ae/en/uae-centennial-plan-2071>

<https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/environment-and-energy/uae-energy-strategy-2050>

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