

HOW EDUCATION CHANGED OVERTIME

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Over the course of human history, education has greatly evolved and transformed, adapting to the changing needs and demands of society. From ancient times to the modern era, education has undergone significant changes in terms of its purpose, methods, accessibility, and scope. Education has changed over time and there are various drivers behind these transformations.

In ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China, education primarily focused on transmitting knowledge and skills needed for survival and the functioning of society. Education was often reserved for the elite and the ruling class, ensuring the continuity of power and social hierarchy. The methods of education were predominantly based on oral instruction and apprenticeships, where students learned through observing and imitating their teachers.

In classical Greece and Rome, education became more widespread and formalized. The Greeks placed a strong emphasis on developing critical thinking skills and the pursuit of knowledge. The renowned philosopher Plato established the Academy, an institution dedicated to higher education. Similarly, in Roman society, education was seen as a means to groom future leaders and citizens. However, education was still predominantly limited to the privileged classes, and the majority of the population remained illiterate.

The Middle Ages saw a significant shift in education as the focus shifted towards religious instruction and the influence of the Church grew stronger. Monastic schools were established, and education became centered around religious teachings and

preparing individuals for a life of service to God. Latin was the language of education, and students learned through textual analysis and memorization. This period also witnessed the rise of universities, with the University of Bologna (Italy) being the first to grant degrees.

The Renaissance marked a crucial turning point in education. It was a period of revival and rediscovery of classical knowledge and humanistic ideals. Education became more secular, and the curriculum expanded to include the liberal arts, languages, philosophy, and the sciences. Prominent figures like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo emerged, emphasizing the importance of broader knowledge and intellectual curiosity. The printing press, invented by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century, revolutionized education by making books more accessible and facilitating the spread of ideas.

The Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries brought about profound changes in education. As societies underwent rapid urbanization and industrialization, there was a growing need for an educated workforce. Public education systems were established, aiming to provide basic literacy and numeracy skills to the masses. The Prussian model of education, which later influenced systems worldwide, introduced standardized curricula, examinations, and compulsory attendance. The focus shifted towards discipline, punctuality, and the acquisition of practical skills.

In the 20th century, education continued to evolve in response to changing societal needs and advancements in technology. The development of mass media, such as radio and television, allowed for remote learning and expanded educational opportunities. The rise of the internet in the late 20th century has brought about the age of digital education, with online platforms offering a wealth of resources and interactive learning experiences. Distance learning, virtual classrooms, and open educational resources have become prevalent, reshaping the concept of traditional classrooms and enabling lifelong learning.

Moreover, the purpose of education has shifted from solely imparting knowledge to fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. There is a growing recognition that education must prepare individuals for a dynamic, interconnected world. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education has gained prominence, catering to the demand for skilled professionals in these fields. Additionally, the importance of social and emotional learning, cultural awareness, and global citizenship has been emphasized to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century.

In conclusion, education has undergone significant transformations throughout history. It has evolved from a privilege of the elite to a fundamental right and a key to social and economic mobility. From the focus on survival skills in ancient times to the emphasis on critical thinking and global awareness in modern times, education has adapted to meet the changing needs of society. It has become more accessible, diverse, and technology-driven, enabling individuals to have lifelong learning opportunities. By understanding the changes in education over time, we can better appreciate the strides made and work towards continuously improving and transforming education for future generations.

References:

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