

THE EVOLUTION OF EDUCATION

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Education has undergone an amazing transformation throughout the history of humankind. First of all, humans initiated the practice of storing and conveying information orally, passing on essential information on animals, plants, and the natural world from generation to generation, ensuring that lessons were not lost but conveyed. Formal education is reported to have originated in ancient Greece in 4 BCE as a significant deviation from the norm of passing on knowledge in an organized manner. Indeed, the word itself "school" goes back to the Greek word "schole," which literally means "leisure." Such etymological background gives us some interesting facts about the way education was viewed at the time; education was viewed as a source of enrichment and enjoyment, not as a bothersome chore. Nowadays, prominent voices like that of Elon Musk have addressed their criticisms towards formal education systems, claiming that college degrees mean nothing but a means of "proving(ing) that you can do your chores, but they're not for learning" (Aratani, 2020), essentially challenging the traditional assumption in the purpose of education. The tools of education have experienced monumental changes over the years. For example, wax tablets were one of the first tools to be used by the Romans for learning purposes. In sharp contrast, today's classrooms have computers and electric styluses running wild, with the digital tablets coming close to totally replacing the pen and paper as we know it. The advancement of digital technology, from computers and the internet to digital tablets and styluses, is the second great wave of disruptive innovation in the history of the world after the discovery of the printing press. Such technological advancements have revolutionized the learning environment and the teaching and learning methods and brought about the use of more attractive and accessible means of learning, thus setting the stage for what could be

termed "leisurely learning" as depicted by the ancient Greeks' imagined utopia. Let us embark on a tour through the books as we learn about the history of the transformation of education and catch a glimpse of the thrilling future ahead for pedagogy.

Learning, in the most conventional and broadly accepted sense, has been synonymous with sitting in classrooms, listening carefully to the lectures of teachers, and carefully memorizing facts and information from textbooks. This form of learning, broadly regarded as conventional, has been the cornerstone of knowledge transmission for generations and generations. Yet, as the world around us continues to change at a rate unparalleled and unchallenged anywhere else, so too are our approaches and means of education changing and adapting. The transformation of education involves much more than the incorporation of new tools or new technologies; it involves a thoughtful re-examination of the very purpose and nature of learning in a rapidly changing global environment.

The history of education can really be savored as a process that takes place over time and not merely as an objective to be achieved. In the past century, education has transformed greatly, shifting away from its conventional origins and developing into a more contemporary framework that includes electronic learning methods. Now as we begin the twenty-first century, it becomes ever more crucial that we are flexible and sensitive to the varied needs of students, as well as to the changing expectations of a globalized world fueled by technological progress. By doing this, we will be able to ensure that education continues to be a strong and effective tool for not only individual growth but also social growth and overall world progress.

References:

Aratani, L. (2020, March 10). Elon Musk says college is 'basically for fun and not for learning'. The Guardian.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/10/elon-musk-college-for-fun-not-learning>

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