

Education today is more than just books and classes



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Is institutional education just a piece of paper certifying you to be proficient with something? Or in other words, a certificate stating that you have been successfully trained and tested to perform certain tasks just like an ISO certified product.

In the chronology or as I prefer 'the assembly line' of educational system, each stage has a different goal. Pre-primary teaches a language to enable you to communicate and further get trained by primary to fit in the society.

Secondary education trains you for university with an understanding and knowledge of chosen field. And finally the university trains you encash all earlier investments.

But is that it? Design and trade have existed since the beginning of civilisation. Many have learned and developed the skills without formal education. Although education has not been



revolutionised as claimed at many instances in history, it has evolved drastically.

At first Edison claimed that Motion Picture would revolutionise education and then subsequently other experts claimed that the advent of radio, tele-

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vision, and so on, would eliminate the need of teacher in the classroom but the status quo persists. With the advent of new technologies, the sources of knowledge have multiplied but with instant access to Prof. Google many of us do not feel obliged to learn or remember things.

Technology smoothen learning and simultaneously develops friction, but either out come depends on individual perspective.

In today's rapidly changing world, even corporate giants plummet if they fail to innovate or update; for e.g.: Nokia. Professions are becoming extinct and to survive in this evolving

market you have to update your knowledge and skill set. Today internet and social media have opened doors to infinite source of knowledge which can help you supplement, update and upgrade your learnings.

Educational websites provide free courses and knowledge base. Khan academy provides tutorials on school courses like physics, algebra, etc... and competitive exam preparations, coursera caters courses on technology and management from the world's best universities, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Open Course Work shares notes and projects from courses conducted at the university.

Online courses are frequently updated to keep up while textbooks are not reprinted that often. Today technology offers affordable means to take yourself a step further than what you learn in the classroom and all you need is an internet connection.