

Future jobs – Different school subjects

The world is changing these years at a pace which has never been higher – but also at a pace, which will never be as slow as it is today. There are two major trends closely collaborating to change our future at the workplace:

- The 4th Industrial revolution
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Where the latter is a key element and driver of the former.

In his book the 4th Industrial Revolution, Klaus Schwab points to the direction of jobs being taken over by machines/computers/AI in every way imaginable – only some faster than others. Further, Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman states on AI: *“It’s very difficult to imagine that with sufficient data there will remain things that only humans can do”*. Today, we need to prepare for tomorrow, and to add another quote, this from Arnold Glasow *“The only problem with the future is that it is usually here before we are ready for it”*.

Any task that can be described, can be made systematic. Any task that can be made systematic can be automated. Any task, that can be automated, can be done by machines. What will be left for human beings as jobs ... well, I believe there are two concepts, which may at least buy us some time, and ensure some jobs left for humans:

- Creativity
- Empathy

Then it really dawned on me. ALL of the children in Primary Schools today will live and work in this world of AI and machine handled jobs. We need to prepare them, not for the world, we live in today – but for the world, they will be living in 10-20 years from now.

Hence – push, drive, beg, ask, demand ... whatever ... that creativity and empathy become explicit primary school subjects NOW – sooner rather than later, and get started now rather than wait for the perfect solution.

Creativity

In a study (www.thedrum.com) of 1,600 school children, 98 per cent were considered ‘geniuses’ at divergent thinking at age five. At 10 years old this number dropped to 32 per cent, by age 15 it was 10 per cent and down to just 2 per cent by full adulthood.

If, or rather as, non-creative jobs will be “machined” 20 years from now – teachers and educational systems need to figure out how to retain and apply the creative mindset as a base for new types of jobs.

Empathy

Empathy is inherent for some people, but surely not for all. But it can be taught, and in extreme cases executed based on compliance. Today we see people of all ages (including children) stating all kinds of stuff online, assumingly feeling safe, hiding behind a screen. There is an immediate and strong need for building and spreading empathy and ensure this becomes a general human characteristic.

To the naïve dreamers, this may even reduce greed, crime, and war as advocated by John Lennon in his song “Imagine” some 47 years ago.

The jobs of the future are not the same as the ones around today – we need to ensure training and learning matches the future in which it will be applied.