

## **We are just a “Copy/Paste” in this world.**

*The relevance in education in order to stop homogenization.*

It has been 4 years since the pandemic of COVID-19 struck out lives like a hurricane. Education became virtual and all of the classes were on Zoom. Starting highschool like that was NOT the way the Disney series sold me the idea, but there was no other option. In August 2020 classes started, the first day of high school I got used to seeing pixels on my screen. I have to trust people that I had not met in my whole life and that there was not a single possibility I would meet them again ever, it was such a scary situation. Soon that moment came, you know, that moment where the teacher asked you “Please join in small groups, we are going to make an activity”. I was frozen, and a bunch of questions came to my mind. What if I can't get along with them?” , “What if they are cheating on this activity and I can't notice it?”, “Maybe I would never connect with someone here”. I really thought it was my anxiety talking, just a little fear of an introverted person, however, that was not the case and it happened, the second I opened the document there it was, the first of many *Ctrl V* executed on that homework. The breakout room on zoom was in complete silence, the microphones were muted and every single camera was off, no one wanted to be the leader of that room, no one wanted to take the initiative. Maybe it was a one time situation, I said, spoiler? it wasn't. Every single group during my first year of highschool was a copy of the previous one, they all just did the same things as the other ones.. I didn't like the first two semesters, so I decided to take a different program hoping there would be a little change. I started the International Baccalaureate and the situation was the complete opposite of my first year. The classroom was incredible, every single student wasn't afraid of having their own opinions, debate them and there was this healthy competitiveness. That was the

moment where I knew how education in Mexico and in every other country has to be, we need a place where we can develop our critical thinking, search for constant improvement and the desire to stand out from the others.

### ***The wrong approach to education***

The most basic education focuses on a simple method of teaching, it is going to school, hearing the class from the teacher, doing homeworks and taking exams, and all of that all over again. The average student will maybe acquire some topics from general knowledge but this strategy doesn't consider how to develop other abilities such as being able to analyze and evaluate the information, opinions and data that is all over the world and it won't grow individuality on each student. I got inspired by Peter F. Drucker's phrase *The best way to predict the future is to create it*. This philosophy made me wonder *How can we create a world if we are all the same?* In order to create a great future, we need leaders, people that are not afraid to express, discuss and inspire others. According to Peñalver (2019), leadership is the capacity to positively influence all the people around you, gaining positive results. As a way to have improvement on the future society, leaders need to inspire all of those who are around them, leaders with great ideas. In a world where we are all the same we can't have leaders, if we conform with being the same and just flow with all the trends, we are not going to have the capacity to predict a significant future. Sure, there will be people with power that will become our bosses, but there is a huge difference between a leader and a boss, the first one has the ability to inspire others. Inspiring people doesn't only mean gaining results, it is needed to put their heart on every action, to touch each of the persons they want to inspire.

### ***Threats to the creation of leaders***

## *Algorithms*

The society where we live, the whole world, isn't designed to create leaders, instead, it was designed to create individuals that follow the trends set by certain people with power, such as influencers, companies and the government. Social media has caused the increment of *bubbles of knowledge*, which implies the lack of knowledge. These platforms accommodate the information considering each user's personal preferences and the place where they are located. According to Magnani (2017) advertising selectively and they can move large masses of people with only one *click*, especially nowadays with the strong presence of influencers. There is a big amount of information moving around the internet and with this they can predict personal tastes, lifestyles and even future behaviors. These *bubbles of knowledge* are created based on the algorithms in each country, the ones that manipulate the reader to impose their posture on them; precisely is this last action which distresses me personally. The access to social media has come earlier to these new generations, kids that don't have the ability to discern between the big amount of information that is out there, information that could be in many cases false, exaggerated or really biased. There are all kinds of opinions posted on the internet, which they adopt as theirs without knowing the importance that it implies. Education should focus on developing the ability to generate their own opinions, to base these on facts and trustworthy information. A world with different opinions is a world with growth, it lets us see the world with different perspectives, to tolerate and be open to all points of view, which allows us to create knowledge communities which allows each country to grow.

## *Artificial intelligence*

Besides the algorithms, with the arrival of AI having an original idea has become less common and rarely, in scholar ambit, I can see homeworks and projects with the human side, all of these are so perfect that it is noticeable that they are using IA. Using ChatGpt, Gemini or Copilot became not only something from science fiction movies but it is used in daily life. AI works with algorithms and a lot of linear algebra, analyzing the question or petition and passing the key points of it through a lot of filters to obtain an answer . This virtual tool allows everyone to help them with the acquisition of knowledge; although this sounds like a great opportunity to improve the educational system, there is a big challenge considering the ethics of its use. Most of the students are using ChatGPT in order to ease their work and not having to do their homework, which leads to plagiarism, having a lack of development in their area of expertise and works poorly made. The problem, in order to create leaders and people that inspire, is that there is a lack of humanity in their work which is necessary to inspire people. The AI will always have the same answers to the same questions, imposing an opinion on each user, but the real question is *How's the AI giving an answer and what is its basis?*. Artificial Intelligence gains their info and opinions from a database, which is not updated, and creates their answers based on this. This database contains a lot of information, which is biased, outdated and mostly not filtered. We can appreciate conducts demonstrating sexism, political preferences and racism in the background of its answers.

### *An inflexible mold*

All the previous ideas are connected in this last point: future leaders grow up on a system that treats them equally, same strategies, same exams and same methods of evaluation which neither of them contemplate the individuality of each person.

One of the key factors that give each one of us humanity is creativity, ingenuity and critical thinking. What kind of leaders can exist without humanity? Education should focus on enhancing these qualities, because now is searching for everybody to enter a mold, which can be really small for most people. But it is not only education that pushes us into this mold but also de society itself. When we are young, each one of us live key moments that define how we are gonna be in the future. Things such as personal tastes, abilities and the way of thinking are influenced during this stage because, as humans, we don't grow up alone, we grow up surrounded by people that are in the same process as us. This can affect the way we develop in society because there are factors such as social pressure that make us try to fit a mold established by the same people that will be part of your future and not only the people that already expect something from you. This mold is much more difficult to break, especially with the presence of social media. Instagram, Tiktok, Pinterest have set high expectations in different areas and generate on consumers the need of belonging, something natural in us human beings. This phenomenon is really interesting. According to Lombraña (1996), each element of a set rightfully belongs in the set, however, there is a fine line between belonging and not belonging, consequently the change between one side and the other is really abrupt. While we are growing, the *principle of incompatibility* appears, this occurs as our system becomes more complex. There are a lot of variables that each one is trying to control in order to belong to the set of society, searching for approval of the ones that establish these filters. The life stage in which the system becomes more complicated makes the change overwhelming and even generates fear in each young person, because they are searching to check all the lists the society gives them, a society that is perfectly established and that already filled up that list of things that their

society “required” of them. That is the reason why there are all these trends where we see teenagers with the same shoes, same dances on tiktok or everyone in that new cafe they saw on instagram. Society doesn’t reward the people that are unique or that stand out, instead make them feel threatened to be someone they are not. Is a cycle without end of *Copy/Paste* originated by their fears and this doesn’t let future generations develop creatively.

### ***What we really need***

Contemplating all of the things above, we can understand that society is getting less and less unique, letting others influence who they are. People are losing humanity, becoming just perfect copies of each other created by algorithms and fear. It is really interesting because it is not only the technology which is causing this homogenization but also psychological factors that make us humans. How to end a problem that comes from our own mind? Education should change the way it works now, focusing on making activities that improve abilities such as critical thinking and creativity. The same things that are threatening the uniqueness of human beings are the keys to improving the education system. AI is the future, it is a great tool that could lead to developing these two abilities. According to Vera (2023), Artificial Intelligence is the path to personalized learning, something important if we want future generations to grow up in their own mold and not with someone expecting they are the same as their classmate. The educational system doesn’t consider all the different learning styles that exist, they cannot understand the way of thinking of hundreds of students in a school. Technology can, algorithms can detect needs, styles and preferences in a couple of minutes, giving personalized recommendations to each student. Each kid won’t depend on a teacher exclusively

to understand a topic, if he has a question he can get an answer at any minute and any day.

I don't like the idea of a world where we are the same, a world where people can't inspire each other but impose their beliefs in others. If the future continues this way, future generations won't have motivations and dreams, and without them we can't create a great future. The world is in decline, there are wars, climate change, lack of resources and lots of other problems. It is indispensable to do something and without wanting to make a change, creativity and people who can actually inspire, the future of humanity is in danger. This is the problem education should be fighting, we need to adapt to the future, not the present. Kids, teenagers and young adults need to feel they can be themselves, adapt to their needs but most importantly, we need to promote them to be someone between the others. We have to go beyond grading a concepts exam, it is necessary to teach each student how to use their knowledge to create opinions and arguments with it. Students must be created with the ability to separate information and opinions, in order to not lose themselves among all the opinions that exist. It needs a flexible mold, a system that adapts, creating activities to work out personal development in areas such as art, social projects, and most importantly the ability to make arguments to convince people. I visualize prepared students to face different opinions, with the capacity to distinguish between false news and get carried away by the information they saw on a Tiktok. They need to know how to use their resources, inquirers, people that are constantly moving and that search to go further. These kind of students generate a healthy competitiveness, which is used to motivate them to be someone in this world. Motivation and uniqueness are the key to create technology, solve global problems

and explore the world as we know it. We can't wait to adapt to the world, we need to think through the future to create this world for future generations.

## References

Drucker, Peter F. 2010. *Quotations Book*. Open Commerce Ltd.

Lombraña, J. V. 1996. *Pensamiento difuso, pero no confuso: de Aristóteles a Zadeh (y vuelta)*. *Psicothema*, 8(2), 435-446.

Magnani, E. 2017. *Big data y política: El poder de los algoritmos. Nueva sociedad*, (269).

Peñalver, A. 2019. *Líder transformador*. *Capital Humano*, 343, 106–111.

Vera, F. 2023. *Integración de la Inteligencia Artificial en la Educación superior: Desafíos y oportunidades*. *Transformar*, 4(1), 17-34.