

Inter-connectedness of Education and Humanities

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Abstract. This paper deliberates upon the rise-fall-and-again-rise of the study of Humanities in higher education across the world. All the societies and civilizations in the course of history have proven that our societies shift the focus and philosophies of the education system. When we take a swift consideration for the words like Innovation and Technological Development, we have seen some rapid changes in the global education economy. The overwhelming emphasis on STEM disciplines had pushed the Humanities and Human Sciences into the margin or even completely out of the picture from the university classrooms. But in the last 10 years, the world has been going through a transition. The impact of Humanities in the lives of the young generation today has opened up many areas to study Humanities and also new areas are being explored currently. The attempt to find a one-size-fits-all solution for education today has revived studies Humanities in the campuses. This is the period of Humanities 2.0.

Keywords: Higher Education; Humanities; Social science; New Humanities

1 Introduction

How to best educate the students of tomorrow? This is the most pertinent question debated over and over in the field of education in the world. When we look at education as an educator, students and other important stakeholders always debate this across the world. In the 21st century, we come across many versions and opinions on how education may evolve and how to best use education over generations and keep pace with the time. All the societies and civilizations in the course of history have proven that our societies shift and so do the focus and philosophies of our education system.

When we take a swift consideration for the words like Innovation and technological development, we can see that the rapid changes in the global economy and the attempt to find a one size fit all solution for education today. We have observed that many of the higher education institutions have shifted the focus from the Humanities and Social Sciences to the pure Sciences, medical or technical and technological studies. This overwhelming emphasis on STEM disciplines has pushed the arts Humanities and human Sciences into the margin or even completely out of the picture in university classrooms.

As per the Encyclopedia Britannica,' Humanities are those branches of knowledge that deal with human being's culture by analytic and critical methods of inquiry from and appreciation of human values and of the unique ability of human spirit to express itself.'

Humanities as Academic Discipline:

The Humanities are academic disciplines to understand and interpret the human experience of individuals to their cultures, the discovery, observations, and Communication of

the past and present. It records and enables individuals to a deeper understanding of contemporary society. The study of Humanities includes literature, Classics, Ancient and Modern Languages, Philosophy, Media Studies, Fine and Performing Arts, and other related subjects. The subject of education also is considered a part of the Humanities. Education is configured as an interesting academic discipline with normative questions about the Talos of education with a focus on meaningful human action rather than human behavior.

Education this way becomes the role of value judgment in teaching but sometimes the confusion occurs when we understand moral values as the educational values so the question is about this specific nature of educational normativity.[1]

History of Humanities in Academia:

The modern idea of Humanities originated in classical Greek with Paideia which means a source of general education. It was followed by Sophists in the mid-fifth century BC as young men who are active citizens, and in the Polis which means a city-state. Cicero in his prominent work Humanities is talking about a complete program of training for public speaking or De Orator in 55 BC. In the Middle Ages, the Church and the clergies have started giving formal training in Liberal Arts and they call themselves Rhetorician. For example, Saint Augustine himself adapted Paideia and Humanities.

So, the best combination for a good Christian education in those days was a complete mix of Mathematics, Linguistic and Philological studies with added parts of History, Philosophy, and Science. During the Renaissance in the 15th century, the term Studia humanities was made popular to denote secular literary and scholarly activities based on Greek and Latin studies. By the 19th century, the purview of the Humanities has started expanding and it has also started considering Material sciences and methods of measuring Physical Sciences. It was this period when the reference to human meaning and purpose on this earth has been started for the re-examination of the world and its phenomenon objectively.

In the Modern period: Humanities as Idiographic

During the 20th-century, the scale and the scope of Humanities as an academic idea started getting revived. It was proposed as the purpose of a complete education system and the propagation of an independent self-contented system of human values. During this time many important branches of studies in education have been separated from Humanities and got the nomenclature of the Social Sciences.

In the late 19th century, the German philosopher Wilhelm Dilthey added the Spiritual Sciences and the Human Sciences in the study of Humanities. Immediately after this Heinrich Rickert in the early 20th century has supported the argument that is not subject matter the subject method of Investigation is best defining Humanities [2]. He argued that the Physical Sciences are focusing on from the particular instance to general laws; the Humanities are idiographic, which means they are subjected to the unique value of the individual within its cultural and human contacts and cannot be fitted into the general laws.

In an ironic account of how he "became an author," Soren Kierkegaard describes himself sitting in the Frederiksberg Garden one Sunday afternoon asking himself what he was going to do with his life. Wherever he looked, he thought, practical men were preoccupied with making life easier for people. Those considered the "benefactors of the age" knew how to make things better "by making life easier and easier, some by railways, others by omnibuses and steamboats, others by telegraph, others by easily apprehended compendiums and short recitals of everything worth knowing, and finally the true benefactors of the age...(making) spiritual existence systematically easier and easier..." He decided, he says, "with the same

humanitarian enthusiasm as the others," to make things harder, "to create difficulties everywhere.

[3] When Kierkegaard in 1846 was talking about certain contemporary thinkers he was also talking about 'civilizational Malaise'. It refers to the inability of any civilization towards material improvement when it comes to higher-income like the miracle of medicines or the triumph of the applied Physics or in general the contentment of the human spirit. That was the time when people have started responding to the industrial revolution and other areas of technological advancements. He found that automation and mechanism action of life will kill the human dignity and reality of lived life.

2 Current scenario

In the colleges and universities across the world, there are several instances of the Humanities department being placed in lower importance and sometimes the complete elimination of courses for the departments. This happens as a result of the systematic promotion of another field particularly STEM – Science- Technology –Engineering -Medicine and Business Management. The systematic Erosion has resulted in a considerable reduction in the presence of Humanities departments on the campuses. There are very few trained graduates in the job market in almost the entire world. The impact felt on both sides- that is inside the campus and outside in the job market.

When we are not getting enough comprehensively trained graduates having a background in Humanities, we can see the behavioral and attitudinal change in the employee profiles. It seems paradoxical that in the so-called Knowledge Society one that should be nurtured by its diversity and its capacities (UNESCO 2005), not all knowledge fields would be valued equitably. So why does it happen and why namely at the expense of Humanities? These reasons have long been known but nowadays lack sufficient recognition [4]:

Reasons for reducing the Humanities studies in the academic departments

As discussed by Costa, [4] some of the prominent reasons why universities are not encouraging studies in the Humanities are cutting down the finances for Research and teaching

- a. Not providing enough structure within the university
- b. Undervaluation of human resources providing for job offers and wages
- c. Overworked employees and lack of opportunities for the young graduates
- d. Also, a decrease in the library funding and resources

All these reasons have collectively paved the way for further devaluation of the studies in the Humanities. In the academic context, this poses one of the biggest challenges. Need for the trained graduates in the Humanities is felt by almost every sector of job in every part of the world. In the year 2013, the Academy of Arts and Sciences released the report 'The Heart of the Matter,[5] which supported the idea to promote the Humanities and Social Sciences as mandatory subjects of study alongside the STEM disciplines (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics). This was the first time that academicians and educationalists across the society have realized the importance of Humanities.

The decline of the Humanities in Higher Education affecting Young Generations:

In the words of David Brooks- the New York Times columnist and member of the committee that produce the report, “The Humanities are not only being bulldozed by an unforgiving job market. They are committing suicide because many humanists have lost faith in their own Enterprise.” [6]. After the release of this report, a very strong narrative has started being transmitted and supported in the society that has dominated the discussion of Humanities for more than two decades now [7].

Importance and Relevance of different fields of Humanities in today’s world:

The last ten years have seen a complete change towards the attitude of students for the field of Humanities there was a time when Humanities were in Crisis mode. Students were no longer interested in taking literature languages religion philosophy art of culture images subject of study. That was a period when the job market flooded with the offer those who were trained in the latest technologies like Computer Electronics networking. But gradually the outcome of this shift in the choice is been very visible now the society and culture are highly polarized in this' post truth' era. The Boom in the big data hair started capitalizing the entire generation.

For example, in the countries like India, there is a shift in the stand taken by the government which is visible in many other areas. For example, Higher education in India is always a socio-political way and a powerful engine of social mobility. It adds to the benefits to society as more people earning Higher Education credentials. It is proven that college graduates earn more. They are less likely to be unemployed. They are more likely to vote, more likely to volunteer, and more likely to maintain good health.

India as a Globalized and developing nation has been little systematically progressing on the educational front since its independence. The government is making progress in reaching out to all the classes of its society. The improvement in the country’s economic front has resulted in the upscaling of communication technology. The advent of the internet has vastly leveraged the promotion of education across all verticals. But at the same time, the idea of Equity and Equality needs to be redefined in the present context of the newly established notion of ‘Inclusivity’.[8]

Some of the traditional Humanities and their relevance today:

Philosophy

The study of the Humanities especially in the field of philosophy has given us some of the most beautiful but practical Universal guidelines to put our points across the world. For example, the study of philosophy in early education head the groundwork for the communication of ideas Aristotle has given us three appeal methods evasion technique it was more about successful public speaking or rather successful public appearance. His concept of ethos, pathos, and logos is nothing but to make a complete human being who is well balanced in logic emotion, and reason.

Ethos is the ethical Appeal of character credibility and reputation. Pathos is the emotional Persuasion that is more about the need for all the wants of the individual. Logos is Persuasion by the use of reasoning Facts and rational logical pieces of evidence. We can very well connect these three elements in today's world and they are very relevant even today.

History

Knowledge of the past creates good citizens and leaders. The study of history helps in creating educated knowledgeable and well-respected citizens. The leaders in history argued

that the purpose of education is to create good citizens to fulfill their civic and cultural responsibility. Trees to study change helps us understand which Complex questions and dilemmas by our ancestors the past has shaped because of the Global national or local inter between societies cultures and people.

The study of history provides a dimension to see patterns that might otherwise be invisible in the present it provides a very crucial perspective to understand and maybe the future problems. Cotton part of studying history in the Humanities is that history-built empathy through studying the lives and struggles of others in the documented history. It is because everything has a history.

Literature

literature provides a peep into the culture in which it is created. It opens up a world of inspiration and creativity and at the same time develops skills needed for the International global environment. Literature improves communication skills by teaching you about yourself it is full of human reactions responses to the creative side of the human brain. At the same time, literature also teaches about the past providing enough wisdom and multiple worldviews. Many issues in the world are connected through similar emotions and these emotions are very well captured in the literature as a spontaneous overflow created by the writer. literature also plays a very important role in the development of a Nation's identity is the poll bearer of any civilization the rich tradition of the Greek, Latin, Indian, or other European literature becomes the Identity of that nation's civilization.

Art and Liberal Arts:

Under some misconceptions the Humanities are mixed up with the arts and Social Sciences under the umbrella of Liberal Arts-In the 21st century there are various debate and opinion about how education May involve and how to keep focus in the text the core value of vanity and how to save card human being from the overwhelming influence of Technology. The stem education across the world which is overpowering the education system across universities and colleges has made us rethink the value of Humanities in today's world and the biggest argument in the favor of this change is that the Humanities strengthen our worldview it broadens our intellectual Foundation it teaches us to communicate properly it helps cost to develop and creative thinking skills it help in supporting the problem-solving skills helps in making citizens engaged thinkers it helps in broadening the views of cultural and ethical responsibilities and values and finally it also helps us to comprehend the impact of Science Technology medicine and mathematics in our day to day life. Was consistent worldview on the changing nature of station from this time-related fields to the Humanities have given rise to many liberal studies programs across the world.

New age top markets are also supporting not a mechanical technological nerd but a sensitive and sensible humanitarian employee who is having not only a strong IQ but also having balance proportion of other life skills.

Revival of Humanities in the Employment Sector:

In the last 10 years, the world has been a complete change. Over two-thirds of the Humanities majors get jobs in the private sector almost immediately. As per one report, almost 60% of the US top companies' CEOs have degrees in the Humanities. The impact of the Humanities in the lives of the young generation today has opened up many areas to study Humanities and also new areas are being explored currently.

- Some of the common benefits of studying Humanities are stated below:
- The Humanities can develop informed and critically acclaimed citizens.
 - It is the base for any democracy to grow,
 - It encourages creative thinking and Lateral thinking.
 - It puts reason along with the motion to ask questions about our world.
 - Humanities provide a solid base of reading writing and critical skills.
 - Humanities teach us to look at the multiple dimensions of every issue or question.
 - Teaches to deal with Subjective, Complex, and less than perfect information.
 - Humanities teach empathy
 - Humanities make us look at the moral-spiritual and intellectual side of a person.
 - Humanities insist on social justice and equality
 - Humanities teachers to understand and evaluate the differences in the languages histories cultures and identities of the others.

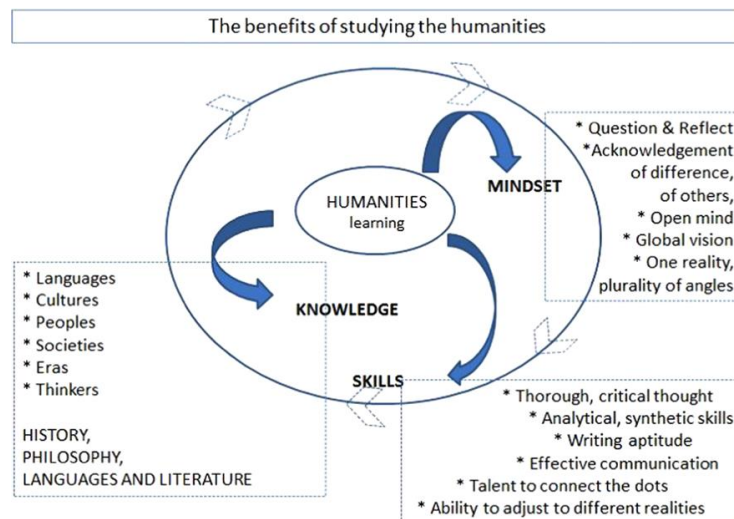


Fig 1. Benefits of studying the Humanities- Source: adapted from Costa, 2017 with permission of the Portuguese Association of Professionals in Sociology of Organizations and Work– APSIOT. The figure is not covered by the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License)

3 Multi-disciplinary and Trans-disciplinary approaches in the modern Humanities

There is a shortfall in the supply of trained graduates in the Humanities in the job market. This crunch has given rise to some of the newer areas in the field of Humanities. This has happened because of the rise in the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach of university. This is a very welcome step where the connection between other disciplines—particularly from the STEM or the Management fields merged with the Humanities. Today we have not only the addition of the new intellectual perspective also a very substantial institutional infrastructure that has been materialized to support these new fields of

Humanities. As a part of the revival of Humanities, we are in the age of Humanities 2.0. We have some very interesting waves of the hybrid fields such as Digital Humanities, Environmental Humanities, Energy Humanities, Global Humanities, Urban Humanities, Food Humanities, Medical Humanities, Legal Humanities, and Public Humanities. These new hybrid areas have created multiple opportunities for the new Millennium jobs:

Humanities 2.0- Newer areas in the study of Humanities:

- a. Digital Humanities is a qualitative discipline like literary studies and history but it puts stress on the methods from computing artificial intelligence demography and information science. Many new areas are being explored to show the digital Humanities and very generous funding is available for example from the Mellon foundation for the national endowment for the Humanities in the USA graduate training in this field.
- b. Environmental Humanities is a socially constructed phenomenon with the concerned and focused approach to come up with some solutions about prices of the climate change with the help of multiple fields together. For example, by combining the disciplines like Geology Economics, and Zoology we can have some innovative solutions for environmental issues. The Environmental Humanities have started dedicated program center initiatives and several training programs.
- c. Energy Humanities connect with the specific resources and transmission of energy and also focus on the way that commercializes energy and shapes our culture.
- d. The Global Humanities talk about the eminent patterns in the change of demographics of people across the world sample issues of migration And Labor economics it also talks about the project affected people the war-affected people.
- e. Urban Humanities is an exclusive field talking about the Metropolis and urbanization. It requires a special trans-disciplinary study to talk about urban Humanities. Sometimes it coincides with the environment of Humanities also in some of the specific areas like the circulation of energy waste management and use of other natural resources by the cities.
- f. Food Humanities is a field of study which is culture-specific and discussing ideas about food production food distribution the correlation of food and culture. It also talks about the way food is connecting people in different diets for us and also works as a specific topic in migration studies.
- g. Medical Humanities is again an interdisciplinary field of study by keeping medicine in the center; it tries to explore the other areas of Humanities like Philosophy, History, Religion, Psychology, or Geography. It is a very promising field because of its imaginative and nonconformist nature. Some of the popular areas which are explored under this stream of Humanities are the History of Medicine, Cultures of Medicine Studies, Gender Studies and its impact on Body Ethics in medical practices, and explorations in the area of Public Health.

4 Conclusion

Education plays a very vital role in the shaping of the future of any country. The right balance of the subjects and areas to teach a child decides the direction of the future generation. There are multiple interests at stake in making policies for educating children and young graduates. The world needs education of STEM today to meet the technological, medical, and

other economic needs of the country. But the study of Humanities in the curriculum must be a conscious choice to create future-ready citizens with holistic development.

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