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# **Students' Future Preparation for Jobs That Cease to Exist and the Befitting Solution**

## **Abstract**

This term paper discusses why students are preparing for jobs that are no longer existing and the ways that the students can overcome this situation. This problem has been affecting many students all around the world. It keeps bothering students' minds as most of the students will not be able to figure out their future. Students who will be graduating in the near future might be facing an obstacle as future placement for jobs are currently decreasing. Schools are undertaking different approaches to adapt students with skills that are corresponding to the future job requirements as they have figured out that a lot of important occupations seem to be vanishing into thin air. To get a better picture of this situation, research and explanation will be incorporated to disclose why students are facing this challenge. In addition, solutions on this particular problem will also be approached especially towards the education system. The solutions will aid in an effort to clear up this problem and students will be capable of choosing their desirable profession.

## **Introduction**

It is not easy to choose a profession as the world we live now is not the same as it used to be. After the Great Recession, it is difficult to determine what the future would look like and what profession will have stable job opportunities. Martínez-García and Koech stated that as a result from the previous economic recession (Great Recession) that went on for 18 months during December 2007 to June 2009, the amount of job loss and unemployment were the worst on record since the Great Depression took place during the 1930s (Martínez-García & Koech, 2010). To make matters worse for graduating students, not as many job opportunities will be available for them despite having thousands of competitors for the same job position. The choice of pursuing their studies with the thought of getting a stable job income at the beginning of their studying days might not be in their

favor when they have completed their studies. To the students' dismay, the job opportunities they thought they had a tight grip on are currently diminishing every year since the Great Recession. Not to mention that the world is currently dealing with a new problem which is the Covid-19. This pandemic will result in a disastrous impact on the worldwide economy. The situation prompts students to brace themselves for jobs that currently no longer exist. Moreover, according to Gonser, by the year 2030, 400 million to 800 million people will be dismissed and they will have to strive for new jobs as the economy will get a lot tougher. (Gonser, 2018). A lot of different sectors, both public and private are currently preferring students who have higher education such as college degrees and above to be hired as employees. Thus, it results in why students are preparing for jobs that no longer exist.

### **What Causes Students to Prepare for Jobs that No Longer Exist**

As stated in the World Economic Forum (WEF) in The Future of Jobs Report, the effects of technological, demographic and socio-economic disturbance on business models resulting in substantial challenges for recruiting new employees as it will lead to the conversion of the employment landscape and skills requirements. Furthermore, as stated in the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Readiness for the Future of Production Report, a report assessing how strongly international economies are standing as great results from changes that have been done. Out of 100 countries which have been included for the assessment, 25 leading countries that were in a good position to benefit from the changes made in production are Japan, Republic of Korea, Germany, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, United States, Sweden, Austria, Ireland, Singapore, United Kingdom, Finland, Italy, France, Poland, Malaysia, Slovenia, Belgium, Israel, Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Canada and Estonia. The existence of these statistics worries students more.

In January 2020, Malaysia's former Minister of Education, Malik, proclaimed that education establishments in Malaysia are presently not allocating the right skills to Malaysian students which are causing Malaysian graduates to be less marketable ("Devising IR 4.0-oriented education," 2020).

In addition, Industry 4.0 Malaysia Association president, Rajasekaran, said that “More than 60% of fresh graduates today remain unemployed even after a year. This is partly the result of the mismatch between the programmes offered and market demand” (Rajasekaran, 2020). On the other hand, even though a lot of people are blaming the education establishments, K-12 educators are trying their best to solve this unwanted problem. K-12 is a term used in the education system mostly in Canada and the United States. K-12 stands for Kindergarten to Grade 12. Preston stated that K-12 educators really want to modernize their teaching methods to synchronize with their students’ future working environment but they are in lack of budget and they also have limited access to technology. (Preston, 2018).

Besides the education system, the escalation in technology also concerns students, persuading them to get ready with all possible consequences. Most organizations rely more on machines, robots and artificial intelligence rather than actual people. Truthfully, investing money in machines profits organization owners more than people. Machines make jobs less complicated. One machine can perform the job of multiple people. Machines are frequently upgraded day by day to be more productive and profitable. Penslar (as cited in UKEssays, 2017) noted that a machine can move at a speed which is a thousand times faster than human beings. This results in a machine being able to reduce a thousand hours of human labour to a day. This results in organizations preferring to use machines instead of people as it will decrease the cost of operation by cutting down the number of employees required for the job. Huppert stated that even though many workers or employees are worrying that machines will probably replace their work, organizations still prefer using automated machines which are designed to run pre-programmed rules and accomplish boring and repeated tasks as it is an efficient way to draw more profit (Huppert, 2018). Furthermore, Svetlana (2017) quoted "Many significant innovations in the past have been associated with a transition period of temporary job loss, followed by recovery, then business transformation and AI will likely follow this route." (Stamford, 2017).

## **Solutions for Students Preparing for Jobs that No Longer Exist**

There are many solutions that have been proposed to help students in their preparation for their future. Frazee stated that students have to consider job opportunities that do not match their degree as well as the ones that do match. Do not focus on only getting a job that matches a student's degree description because a researcher has found out that only 27 percent of college students were able to find jobs matching with their degree while 38 percent of students were employed in jobs that do not even necessitate a college degree. (Frazee, 2018). On the other hand, the director of professional education at the University of Utah, quoted “The goal was to take a foundational degree and recognize that if you pair it with something more concentrated and technical, it can open up more opportunities” (Miller, 2018).

Another point is for the education system to try changing what students have been learning in school. “There has to be a parallel shift of what is being taught in schools and universities as they do not meet market demands.” (Rajasekaran, 2020). Rajasekaran adds that this portion is very crucial as it prevents local students in their search for better paying jobs abroad. However, local universities and colleges are currently positively adapting to the demand of the industry and are exploring and conceiving courses that teach advanced technology such as information technology, cloud architecture, engineering and data science, amongst others.

Last but not least, Aziz, a former teacher, suggests that students nowadays should prepare a portfolio of all their skills and capabilities to make it easier for the students to figure out their future profession. Students should try taking part in technical and vocational educational training (TVET) as this programme definitely prepares a student for the working environment. She also adds that parents are an important ingredient in the formula to a successful future. A number of people correlate vocational programmes with low academic performances, which slowly led to parents choosing TVET as an alternative education option for their children. (Aziz, 2017). Parents should be able to

equip their children with the authentic and detailed information and exposure on future jobs and occupations along with the skills and requirements needed for their dream occupation.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, when a student is being prepared for the future of job extinction, it shows how much the student is concerned about not having a proper job in the future. It shows that the student cares for his or her well being. He or she should be preparing socially, emotionally and intellectually to keep adapting to changes made day by day as the technological era is escalating really fast. Therefore, one act of self care is to equip extra skills and knowledge they know least about and prepare their own portfolio as a precautionary step that may save them to secure jobs in the future. The education system should reform and co-exist with the real world scenario in a way that is both constructive and ideal. External factors such as economic disturbances and the rise of company reliance on machines will absolutely affect job opportunities. Thus, considering a job that doesn't match with the degree is a good move to enrich students with useful knowledge before settling for the next job. The problem is not only coming from a source, but it involves all responsible parties to take action. Ultimately, this challenge is indeed tough but it is up to the student whether they rely on the situation or create opportunities for themselves to overcome such a situation because fortune only favours the bold.

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