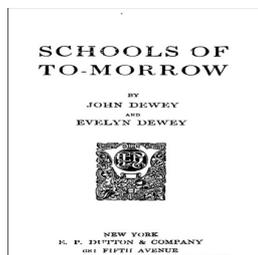


## Professional Book Review

Dewey, J.& Dewey,E.(1915). *Schools of Tomorrow*. Newyork.E.P.Dutton&Company.

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Education reformist and philosopher John Dewey has stated that the ultimate aim of writing “School’s of Tomorrow” is not an attempt to develop a complete theory of education nor yet review any systems or discuss the views of prominent educators. This is not a text book of education nor yet an exposition of a new method of school teaching, aims to show the weary teacher or the discontented parent how education should be carried on. The aim of this book is to show what actually happens when schools start out to put into practice each in its own way, the effects of applications arise from new educational ideas and the direction and meaning that education seems to be taking at present time. The most important point that should be taken into consideration in the book “School’s of Tomorrow” which was written by John Dewey a century ago in 1915 is that, Are the schools at present educational system in 2016 able to provide educational application and practices mentioned in the book? In the book it is asserted that education is the result of natural growth and it gives much importance and consistent with basic educational principles such as personal liberties and individuality. In addition; the role of education in social development and supplying local needs are the two important current topics discussed in educational system makes the book ultimately notable. Another important issue emphasized in the book is guiding to constitute democracy tradition in education. The book is useful source for the educators, parents and pupils. The book “Schools of Tomorrow” consists of eleven chapters. These chapters were organized as follows:

1. Education as a Natural Development
2. An Experiment in Education as Natural Development
3. Four Factors in Natural Growth
4. The Reorganization of the Curriculum
5. Play
6. Freedom And Individuality
7. The Relation of the School to the Community
8. The School as a Social Settlement
9. Industry and Educational Readjustment
10. Education Through Industry
11. Democracy and Education

In the first chapter the authors have argued that education should be seen as a natural growth. We know nothing of childhood, and with our mistaken notions of it the further we go in education the more we go astray. Educational system heavily focused on what one needs to know as an adult neglecting what children tends to know as a child. As Rousseau has stated education must rely on natural competences of child. Education is not something done by force from outside but it is an inborn natural growth capacity of human being. Small portion of learning occurs at school. Children mostly learn by doing and experiencing through daily life. According to the author Rousseau was almost the first to see that learning is a matter of necessity, it is a part of the process of self preservation and of natural growth. If so, it is crucial to understand that learning is a need and it is based on children’s daily life experiences rather than school practices. But schools are always proceeding in a direction opposed to this principle. They take accumulated learning of adults, materials that is quite unrelated to the exigencies of growth, and try to force it upon children, instead of finding out what these children need as they go along. Nature would have children be children before they are men. If we try to invert this order we shall produce a forced fruit, immature and flavorless, fruit that rots before it can ripen. Childhood has its own ways of thinking, seeing and feeling. Physical growth is not identical with mental growth but the two coincide in time, and normally the latter is impossible without the former. Our first teachers in natural philosophy are our feet, hands and eyes. To substitute books for them does not teach us to reason; it teaches us to use the reason of others rather than our own; it teaches us to believe much and to know little.

In the second chapter the authors have mentioned about his thoughts on natural growth in education and have shared the results of a project which was conducted at Fairhope schools. They have articulated that Rousseau’s thoughts “ education is a process of natural growth” affected many educators. One of these educators Mrs. Johnson conducted an experiment related with her own educational model at Fairhope schools in Alabama. Her main underlying principle was Rousseau’s

central idea; namely: The child is best prepared for life as an adult by experiencing in childhood what has meaning to him as a child; and further the child has right to enjoy his childhood. Mrs. Johnson criticized the conventional schools today because they were arranged to make things easy for the teachers and disregard the full development of the pupils. Mrs Johnson was trying an experiment under conditions which hold in public schools and she called her methods of education "organic" because they follow the natural growth of the child. The school aimed to provide for the child the occupations and activities necessary at each stage of development for his unfolding at that stage. She called her classes as "Life classes" instead of grades. The work within the group was then arranged to give the pupils the experiences which are needed at that age for the development of their bodies, minds, and spirits. Doing forced tasks, assignment of lessons to study, and ordinary examinations have no share in the Fairhope curriculum. They used their instincts to learn naturally. At fairhope schools students conducted their study, teachers were ready for help when they needed, they did not make the students memorize items. Tests were often conducted with books open and real love of books were stimulated. As a result of this system students gained enthusiasm to learn naturally and preserved confidence and joy in life. He likes school and learn unconsciously as a product of his experiences. The following activities worked out at Fairhope as a substitute for the usual curriculum: physical exercise, nature study, music, hand work, field geography, story telling, sense culture, fundamental conceptions of number, dramatizations, and games. The Fairhope pupils compared favorably with pupils in the ordinary public schools. they have always been able to work with other children of their age without extra effort; they are apt to be stronger physically and are much more capable with their hands, while they have a real love of books.

In the third chapter the author have expressed the idea that education should follow natural development of the child and it was essential to give importance on these four factors; game, observation, story and handwork. Prof. J. L. Meriam, had much in common with Mrs. Johnson's school at Fairhope. In its fundamental idea, that education shall follow the natural development of the child, it was identical, but its actual organization and operation were sufficiently different to make a description of it suggestive. In common with most educational reformers, Professor Meriam believed the schools of the past was too much concerned with teaching, children adult facts and ignored the needs of the individual child. He also believed that the work and play of the school should be children's work and play; that the children should enjoy school. Children learned to read, to write, to speak and to draw because they need them. What would these children naturally be doing if there were no school? On the answer to this question Professor Meriam they would, he said, be playing outdoors, exercising their bodies by running, jumping, or throwing; they would be talking together in groups, discussing what they had seen or heard; they would be making things to use in their play. These activities are related to life and we send our children to learn these at school. Prof. Meriam divided a school day into four parts; game, story, observation and handwork.

In the fourth chapter the authors have revealed that curriculum should be arranged according to the needs of students. The child should spend his time on things that are suited to his age and had an opportunity to develop naturally, mentally, spiritually and physically. How is the teacher to offer this opportunity to the students? By reviewing some of the modern attempts at educational reform and putting emphasis on the curriculum. Frobel and Pestalozzi not only brought new ideas to educational system but they also affected school practices more than any modern educators. Pestalozzi has asserted that natural growth means social growth and communicating with other people was more important than nature. He has suggested methods for primary school system focusing on necessity while Frobel has suggested methods for pre- school system focusing on temperament.

In the fifth chapter the authors have implied that games always play an important role in the education of children and their natural growth. Educators tries to adapt games from natural setting to class setting. Frobel has given much importance to the game, drama, song and story because these activities contributes to social development. He has urged that a child should be grown up with creative and fruitful activities. According to him it is necessary to include game activities in to the all school curriculum by initiating game instinct inner world of the child. Frobel has asserted that experience of child gained by merging social interest and instinctual activities.

In the sixth chapter the authors have addressed individual liberty and individuality issues of child and gave examples from Montessori schools. To the great majority of teachers and parents the word school is synonymous with "discipline," with quiet, with rows of children sitting still at desks and listening to the teacher, speaking only when they are spoken to. Schools were expected to teach students to obey. Educational reformers believed that the function of education was to help the growing child into a happy, moral, and efficient human being, a consistent plan of education must allow enough liberty to promote that growth. A truly scientific education can never develop so long as children are treated in the lump, merely as a class. It is not wise to approach children as a unit of mass production

but it is wise to feature their individuality and liberty. Montessori schools mostly gave importance to the children's individuality and liberty. Montessori has believed that repressing children physically while they are in school and teaching them habits of mental passivity and docility is mistaking the function of the school and doing the children real harm. Scientific education needs liberty in the class because liberty is activity. Discipline is the ability to do things independently, not submission under restraint. Daily life experiences were designed to teach the child to be independent, to supply his own needs, and to perform the actions of daily life with skill and grace.

In the seventh chapter the authors have explained the relationship between school and the community. They have further explained the importance of schooling on development of society. Assuming that people has the habit of working collaboratively this habit creates compatible, happy and wealthy community. Peoples send children to school supposedly to learn in a systematic way the occupations which constitute living, but to a very large extent the school overlook, in the methods and subject-matter of their teaching, the social basis of living. The three things that traditional schools must change are that subject matter curriculum, methods of teachers handling curriculum and methods of students handling curriculum. All educational reformers following Rousseau attributed to education as the best means of regenerating society.

In the eighth chapter the authors have mentioned that schools are seen as social settlement and locality notion. The most important way to achieve its goals for the schools in the country is putting emphasis on local needs and professions. At that time, while working to provide standardization on subject matter and methods, schools neglected local needs. In order to meet the needs of the local life school curriculum and practices must be arranged according to student's life experiences. Affiliation with local areas not only enriching school practices but also increasing student's motivation and provided support from the community. Society has realized the effectiveness of schools in local sense. Schools provide developmental opportunities to its local surroundings.

In the ninth chapter the authors have explained the attributed meaning of the school concept and have mentioned about reconstruction of schooling according to the needs of industry. School concept derived from Greek word "leisure" which means free time and it gives information about the nature of change. It is true at all times that education means relief from the pressure of having to make a living. The young must be supported more or less by others while they are being instructed. There must be an atmosphere of leisure if there is to be a truly liberal or free education. The purpose of the readjustment of education to existing social conditions is not to substitute the acquiring of Money or of bread and butter for the acquiring of information as an educational aim. It is to supply men and women who as they go forth from school should be intelligent in the pursuit of the activities in which they engage.

In the tenth chapter the authors have mentioned the relationship between education and industry. Industry needs education in order to provide its qualified man power. Education has seen as a community service because it plays very important role meeting the human resources of industry.

In the eleventh chapter the authors have asserted that the democracy which "proclaims equality of opportunity as its ideal requires an education in which learning and social application, ideas and practice, work and recognition of the meaning of what is done, are united from the beginning and for all. Schools such as discussed in this book and they are rapidly coming into being in large numbers all over the country are showing how the ideal of equal opportunity for all is to be transmuted into reality.

This book has surprisingly introduced to the reader the difference between what actually happens and what actually needed at school ten decades before now, because at present, educators have been still discussing the issues mentioned in the book. It has mainly aimed to provide natural growth of children by applying true education. Providing true education for children at school has been a great contribution to both cultural and intellectual heritage of mankind. True schools have needed to follow ideas of educational reformers to maintain that heritage. By this way, they have clearly realized that how theories of prominent educators affects the school practices and therefore natural growth of children. This book has completely given a clear vision to the reader about the importance of natural growth, freedom and individuality of children, reorganization of school curriculum to meet the necessities of industry and society. Above all the book has emphasized and thought us the role of schools to contribute democracy culture in the community.