Writing from 2025

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I took my eyes away from the telescope in distant space with the thought of how much more to discover. We became the first Sri Lankan team on our way to Mars, escaping earth's gravity and becoming space citizens. Ravana Abhiman's spacewalk, which was launched for the first time from Sri Lanka to explore the Mars with humans, gives me a sense of pride.

"Dad, did you go to this place when you were a kid?" asked my daughter, Viswatharani, who was still 14 years old. Some close photographs of Ganimid appeared on my screen. My special interest was made towards the Ganymede, due to the curiosity arose by reading the science fictions during my childhood than Ganymede occupied the place of largest of Jupiter's sub planets, was more likely to be the largest moon in the solar system. I held my eyes for a while and gave a short answer, "No."

"Dad, look, I found some information about Sri Lanka during your childhood period," she said, pointing to a lot of information she found on the internet due to curiosity aroused by the last few minutes.

"Come on! What's this? " She showed me a picture of people standing in line infront of a store.



My memories went back to my childhood.

"Dad, were we a poor country in those days?" she asked me without taking her eyes off the computer screen.

"Look at the way students went to school in those days, a big book bag. "To quench her curiosity, she searches further on the internet, and I make more focus on ganymede's photographs. I imagine that one day it would be possible to go to the same sub planetary planet with a magnetic field located in the solar system. I was really interested on the predictions regarding the emergence of life in one day since the planet is rich with oxygen and water.

"Really, how we won the space being in a country like that?" she asked, holding me. I took a deep breath and hugged her, realizing that the right time had come to talk.

"Yes, my daughter now I also feel that it was like a nightmare."

"In those days, it was supposed to be an achievements in countries like America, Russia and China. It's still amazing to think about it. "

I felt like she was sitting next to me to hear this amazing story. It was a special thing that I believed that the changes in education at that time were the sound foundation for the changes in our country. That's why I wanted to tell her about the education we experienced and how it changed.

"I'll tell you about our early education at the time. Yes, in those days we had a big bag full of books. When I went to school, it was too heavy to break my back. I couldn't carry the tab like I did now. The lessons on the tab now were in molded books in those days. There was a separate book for each subject. One book had all the necessary knowledge related to one subject. Therefore, we have to study the notes given by the teachers along with what's in those books. Because the exams are made up of what's in the text books, unlike the exams now you are experiencing. When all the lessons are completed, you'll get a two or three-hour question paper. Your score will depend on your memory capacity.

If you have a high memory capacity you can score a lot. In those days, there were kids who scored the highest marks. Your uncle also failed the exam because he didn't study hard. But he is an expert in breaking things down and rebuilding them. There was no any methos or scale to measure that skill." I think there was a question mark on my face.

"Does that mean dad that you studied and passed the exam?" she asked, mocking. I was a little embarrassed because I had a feeling that I had learn by heart and passed the exam.



"No, I'm just like my brother. But..." I was quiet for a while.

"Why did you say that?" she asked, breaking her silence.

"Yes. Fortunately, our education system changed at that time. By the time it arrived, your uncle was about to finish the exam. So it was not very useful for him. I was a kid like you at the time. I will tell you the difference in the education system as I understand it, as a part of the groups who directly affected by educational reforms.

I felt that the education reforms had made a significant influence on converting our country in to a developed nation. I gave the introduction to a long answer.

"Instead of those big books, we got a few new books. They're called modules."

"Dad, are they like our modules?" she asked quickly.

"Oh, no. Your module is in the tab. And now your modules are very advanced, but the modules we got at that time were very different from that mold book. The weight of the bag was reduced because the number of pages was low and the modules taken one time did not have to be taken to the other. In fact, we felt good about it. "

"Only the weight of the bag was reduced by the module?" She asked.

"No, a lot of things have happened. But it felt like a big deal at the time."

"The significant difference was that these modules had one-on-one activities, projects, challenges instead of what they used to memorize."

"The practice of teacher centered learning method has decreased as usual. They inspired us to look for information, to work together, to find new solutions. At first it was a problem. Since we have practiced to write down the usual teacher's note, study it and write answers to the exam. Our parents also protested against it for the same old mold book. The teachers weren't interested either. Some teachers said they weren't trained to use modules properly. Teachers were also worried that it will badly affect for the education of the students.

"We were afraid about the content of the exam paper.

So I searched for everything and studied. Since we do not have a proper study note.

"So what were there in the exam paper?" she asked at once.

"It was a very strange thing. Only a few questions had to be answered in memory as usual for the exam. All the rest of the questions have to be answered by thinking and analyzing the facts. So I answered the questions very easily. Those who were used to copy the answers from others never copied at this time. They seemed to be writing well. One day at the end of the exam, I asked one of my friends what he had written so much. He said that it was very easy since we have to write about the project that we have done.

We have to face a really different situation after marks were released.

One of my friends who scored lower marks previously, was able to score the highest marks.

Many of the students who scored higher marks in previous exams were failed to score much in this time. The best part is that a friend who didn't face for the exam also got a good score. Then we found out that the work we did in class and the projects we have completed were given marks and they were added to the final mark. The continuous marks of the activities we have done were considered for our final grade. All were very satisfied about their exam results. I shared my childhood experiences with her.

Eventhough there were many arguments regarding the marks of the students such as teachers have favourations for some students. With the experience not only the students but also the teachers understood that the marks obtained through the development of these skills is better than scoring by memorizing."

With the time teachers trained well and obtained many experiences on teaching modules. Teachers were very happy to teach the modules. The beaten friends who were scolded by the teacher for not listening to the lesson were became the most active students. Therefore, all the students became very obedient and active students. That cause for the important changes in the education system. That lay the foundation to develop our country with the capacity to explore the "*Mars*".

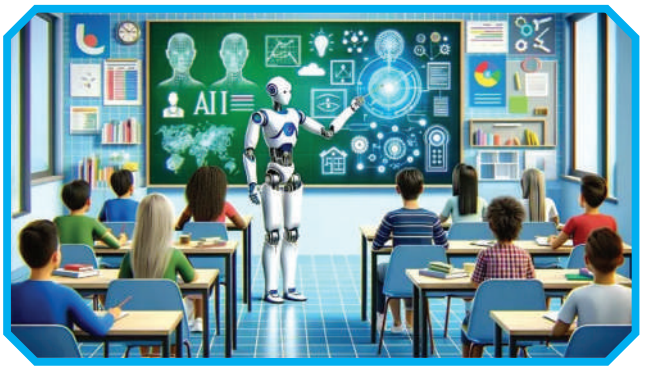
"Do you know that in those days I heard the word 21st century skill about a hundred times a day? Each and every programme was aimed to discuss about it. Innovation and creativity, logical thinking, communication skills were identified as essential skills for the future. Not only that, the fourth Industrial Revolution, the Technological Revolution, and STEM education were also heard all the time. In those days, around 2024 it was supposed that the current jobs will disappear soon and new jobs will be emerged. Innovation and creativity are the essential features to secure the future job market.

Dad, is that what really happened?" she asked.

"Yeah, during that period driving used to be a major job. Now it's hard to find someone who works as a driver. At that time, an accountant was a high-paying job. Where is it now... That's the job of an accountant replaced with AI (Artificial Intelligent) technology as a financial management. In those days there was a job called cashier, now there is no such job. Many of the jobs have disappeared or otherwise, they've been acquired with AI technology."

"A lot of our school teachers are robots, aren't they?" she asked.





And also your favorite announcer is also a robot. Our discussion seems to be more attractive and enthusiastic. In fact, the reforms in education at that time led to changes towards development of the country. Until then, the method of memorizing and writing answers to the questions asked in a two or three-hour examination was different from the educational reforms. Especially in the teaching method, inquiry learning, problem-based learning, project-based learning were introduced. The motivation for self-learning and the learning process based on pure experience made all these changes attractive to children. The role of the teacher as a facilitator, a coach, and a guider were the most striking change. With the confidence of students and parents in the assessments made at the school level, more such educational reforms began to be established.

The invasion by private class businesses was also influenced gradually. Due to the low impact of the national level examination on the final results of the student, the need to go to private classes was reduced by paying a large amount of money to the students.

We have to attend many of the tuitions after the schools those old days. Parents had to allocate a significant proportion of the salary for the tuition classes and they merely fulfilled their food requirement also.

"Attending tuitions after the schools "was an unfamiliar word to her.

"You don't know about the situation of those classes. About 20 years ago, the last private class was closed. What happened in class was to pay for what I learned in school and study again. But some of the modules in education reform couldn't be done in tuition. On the other hand, the school teacher gave the highest marks to the children, so it was necessary for the children to go to school.



Portion of the marks of the were allocated from the continous marks given by the school. Now that the coaching camp is the replacement for tuitions. She could not have enough experience to think about going to private classes because by now the tuition system had been rejected by the society along with the education system.

Dad, there's a STEM question paper in the exam. She recalled at once proving that the examination system had changed completely. She was able to face the exam at any time based on her choice from anywhere she wanted. Another feature of this was the opportunity to reject questions if she wanted to and ask for another question instead. In fact, there was no separate paper in mathematics and science at this time, so it was also a challenge for her to explain the changes in the examination system. This system originated with the educational reforms that took place at that time. At that time, the attempt was to create the examination paper in a semi-automatic system with the help of artificial intelligence can be named as the beginning of new revolution. At that time, the question papers were made using the question bank, which led to the building of trust in the examination.

Note

Education reforms should be introduced with the right vision to achieve sustainable development. All the basic approaches required for this are included in the new education reforms. The traditional curriculum and the lessons based on it will no longer be able to prepare the child for the challenges of a different world. The future labour market can be conquered only by directing the present child to the innovative revolution that takes place during the technological revolution. The future labor market can be conquered only through proper orientation of children. Stem/STEM education approaches required for this have been incorporated into the new reforms. It is necessary to change the curriculum, learning, teaching methods and examination system with the aim of this technological revolution. Changes have to be made in

the curriculum so that the child can build self-learning. For this purpose, the introduction of innovative learning experiences such as inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, problem-based learning, etc., are essential which are used whenever possible,are strong features of the new educational reforms.
As well as reducing the weight of the book bag through modules, new learning teaching methods are inspired through its content. The teacher is motivated to think in a different dimension towards teaching, and the teacher's work will vary from teaching to facilitator of learning. Continuous teacher development projects have to be implemented for this purpose. Through this, it should be expected that the teacher should be given the capacity to provide the necessary facilities to build the learning skills of the students.

It can be observed that the core of the proposed curriculum proposal is changes in the methods by which the subject is taken to the child rather than changing the content of the subject. In the proposed reforms, the priority has been given to the school-based evaluation of the examination system is a very important step. Evaluation is compounded through the learning-teaching process and by the compressed assessment that takes place at the end of it. Even if the national level examinations continue, the proposal to conduct it in a semi-automated system with a question bank will control the quality of examinations and build credibility in the society.



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