

BOOK REVIEW

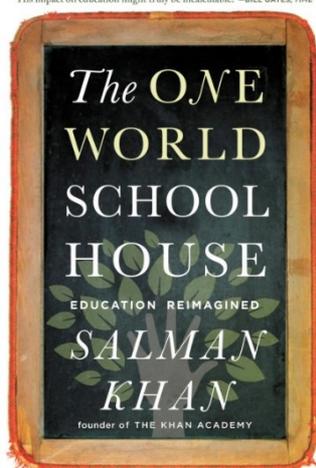
THE ONE WORLD SCHOOLHOUSE: EDUCATION REIMAGINED

Written by Salman Khan - The Founder of Khan Academy

Aysun GUNES
School of Foreign Languages
Anadolu University
Eskisehir, Turkey

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"His impact on education might truly be incalculable."—BILL GATES, TIME



INTRODUCTION

Khan Academy is a global phenomenon with its revolutionary way of distributing courses. With its impressive database, Khan Academy has around 10,000 tutorial videos with short and to-the-point content mostly in Math and recently in many other subjects from science to art and humanities. The idea of offering free and world class education for anyone, anywhere started when the founder of Khan Academy- Sal Khan wanted to give video tutorials to one of his cousins upon request. As the tutorials were on demand by the other cousins in time, he decided to put the video content on YouTube and the demand started to raise. Over time his website became popular around the world with its quality and attention grabber videos on diverse subjects. In 2012 Khan wrote the book "The One World Schoolhouse" which is a kind of collection of Khan's thoughts and experiences on education that he gained after the Khan Academy. In "The One World Schoolhouse," Salman Khan presents a simple thesis: We learn best when we learn actively and at our own pace, mastering each new skill before proceeding to the next. The book comes with the subtitle "Education Reimagined" as it aims to provide a new approach of learning in four parts respectively.

REVIEW OF THE BOOK

Part 1: Learning to Teach- This part has six chapters and the chapters are mainly about how Khan started teaching and how he came up with the idea of video tutoring. The focus point of the first part is to learn how to teach. According to Khan, teaching is an art and teachers are artists who can inspire others and during the lessons not only teachers teach and have their students learn but also they themselves learn while teaching. In the first

part, Khan tells the story of Nadia to his readers and via Nadia he reveals his approach to learning and teaching. Nadia is his cousin and upon her request he started to give video tutorials on Mathematics to Nadia. This attracted the attention of many others and he started to put his videos on YouTube. In the first part, he mentioned how he prepared the videos and how hard he tried to make them tailor made as he thinks that both learning and teaching are individual processes and uniqueness of the students shouldn't be disregarded. He believes that a teacher shouldn't be the one who spoon feeds the students but helps them learn how to learn. Being a facilitator of learning and empowering collaboration in the class are key points in Khan's approach to teaching. Developing from there, he explains some basic concepts in teaching theory, including learning-by-association, self-pacing, consolidation, self-education, and, most importantly, the concept of "mastery learning".

Part 2: The Broken Model- This part is mainly about the drawbacks of old fashioned teaching that he calls "the Prussian Model". According to Khan this model has already been outdated but people got used to it so giving up to this model is just like leaving the safe zone for educational policy makers. He questions the duration of the lessons in this age because the attention span of the students is around 10 to 18 minutes according to many researches. Khan also compares the conventional education to "Swiss cheese with big holes in it. Also many courses are not related with each other and these gaps between the courses make learning not meaningful for students. The chapter focuses on lack of creativity, meaningless homework-just for the sake of homework, passive students and inefficient use of funds and emphasizes the importance of technology which he thinks will be the solution to these problems if used effectively.

Part 3: Into the Real World- This chapter gives the basics of Khan's "One World Schoolhouse" via his famous words: "Education does not need to be hostage to any dogmatic theory" (pg.131). In this part, he puts emphasis of how important to differentiate learning for learners by using the means of the technology age and also he underlines the learner differences as he mentions andragogy- how adult learners learn which is quite different from the young learners. He says that enhancing learning with technology is not just putting whiteboards into the classroom, it should be done with careful and elaborate planning. Also he states that the quality time between the teacher and the students can be created and also increased if the technology use in learning is well planned and to the point. Through the end of the part, Khan gives a brief history of how his short videos turned into World-Renowned online courses and how his courses were multi-million dollars funded by Gates Foundation and Google.

Part 4: The One World Schoolhouse- The motto of this part is "Change is difficult but not impossible". This part focuses on the future of education and how important it is for teachers to teach students how to learn. The flow of information is quite fast in the age of technology and process of learning is not stable. At this point flipping classes, or blending learning could be solutions to use time effectively for a better learning-mastery learning. According to Khan school reports should be portfolios of the creative works and the achievements of the students not just a paper showing the grades. Moreover, diplomas should be a collection of micro-credentials like the evidences of apprenticeship, or works of art, or what they learned. The tone of Khan in this part is quite futuristic but again he and his team do not see the technology as the only solution if it is not planned well. He suggests an enlightened use of technology. This means that for an equitable and affordable

educational future, technology should be used to enhance how we teach and learn and this can only be done by running a meaningful and imaginative integration of technology into learning environments.

In conclusion, like many innovators, Khan rethinks existing assumptions and imagines a learning environment without them. In the *One World Schoolhouse*, Khan presents his futuristic vision about education via his own teaching experiences with started with his cousin Nadia. His way of serving his video tutorials via Youtube and then on his website inspired many others in e-learning and helped them improve and enhance their courses. He believes that more than just an educational solution, this book is like a call for free, universal, global education that can be achieved via the correct use of technology and the Internet and he suggests that educational professionals in charge should take initiative to provide better learning environments to the learners of today and the future.

BIODATA and CONTACT ADDRESSES of AUTHOR



Aysun GUNES is a lecturer of English at Anadolu University, a teacher trainer and also a Master Trainer on Educational Technology for Pearson. Before working at Anadolu University, she had worked as an English teacher for the Ministry of National Education. She has been teaching English for over 15 years. She is a PhD student on Open and Distance Education at Anadolu University. For the last 5 years, she has been doing research on educational technology and technology integration and also giving in-house trainings on technology for the School of Foreign Languages. She also worked as the course coordinator, and the learning unit head at the same school. Her interest areas are 21st century skills, teacher training, technology integration, learning management systems, MOOCs, and instructional design.

Aysun GUNES
Anadolu University, School of Foreign Languages
Tepebasi, Eskisehir, TURKEY
Phone: 00-90-222-3350580 / 6121
Email: aysung@anadolu.edu.tr

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