

Element 1

Join the Alliance

A vibrant learning community should never be created in isolation. Networking with associated, like-minded communities provides a sense of collective confidence and cohesion. A global Alliance of educational change-makers exists to support lifelong learning.



Join the Alliance

Never before in the history of humankind have individuals had a more effective communication platform from which to spread ideas than the internet. Rapid advances in technology, often referred to as the [The Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), make it easier than ever to communicate and share information remotely. Education is one such institution that has felt this great wave of change.

The purpose of this element is to highlight that the world is ready for, and badly needs a global paradigm shift in education. The best way for this shift to successfully embed is to form a global Alliance of change makers and innovators, using their combined intelligence on the Alliance forum to connect, communicate and exchange ideas online.

Uniting change makers and innovators is fundamental to building an Alliance that emerges in various parts of the world. As change makers and innovators align with what a new learning paradigm encompasses, they can embed innovative learning in their local community context and broaden influence by sharing ideas that can deliver change.

Everyone on the planet deserves equal access to an education system that is both beneficial and relevant. Forming an Alliance is crucial if a global paradigm shift in education is to be shared and not owned. This echoes the global sustainable development goal for education; to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all ([UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)).

The world is ready for a global paradigm shift in education. The Alliance of change makers and innovators, using their combined intelligence to influence, is the best way to achieve this in a world that is increasingly connected. Learnlife can provide the necessary platform where ideas can spread and action can commence.

Then	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions and countries separated by geographic locality & regions • Industrial era schooling prior to typically one career experiences • Minimal emphasis on best practice & ongoing professional development • Limited opportunity to unite innovators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networked communities able to unite & scale • Self-driven, independent learning in rapidly changing workplace environments • Opportunities to share best practice exemplars & unite to co-create targeted & personal professional development • Wide opportunities to connect & unite change makers and innovators

Starting Questions

1. Do you see purpose in connecting with like-minded educators or communities so as to unite passion for learning and commitment to change?
2. Are you (or, is your school) operating as a separate individual/community or are there practical connections with other institutions or people?
3. Have we entered a new phase in human history with the advent of the world wide web? How might this impact learning?
4. Rapid advances in technology or the so-called 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' has exposed a need to reimagine how learning occurs. How might this happen?
5. How do we best create momentum as networked communities of change?

Key Initial Actions

1. Sign up to the Alliance using the link provided: <https://learnlife.com/alliance>
2. Contribute by participating in forum topics and discussion as much as you wish - anywhere, anytime.
3. Inform others of the Alliance. Word of mouth is immensely powerful so please spread the word.
4. Challenge the systems under which you operate, supported by the momentum generated by an Alliance, in order to 'invent the future', not 'prevent the future'.
5. Share knowledge, wisdom, experience and best practice.
6. Learn by using Alliance forum to grow and to help others grow.

On-going Actions

1. Encourage all the community to understand the imperative for change in education and the benefits of joining a worldwide movement of grass-roots change makers and innovators.
2. Connect the community to other communities of change and engage in regular dialogue, support and vision-sharing.
3. Connect with local groups supporting change. Help these groups become part of a wider picture collectively increasing the momentum for change.
4. Provide avenues for any person in your community to connect with similarly-minded changemakers; provide local forums for all members of a community who want to press for change in education (teachers, parents, students).

Further Reading

Reasons for Change

[The Fourth Industrial Revolution](#)

[So You Want To Start A Movement? Read This First.](#)

[What Successful Movements Have in Common](#)

[Why Some Movements Succeed And Others Fail](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Information Spread in the Age of the Internet](#)

Books

<https://academyforchange.org/2018/06/20/educational-ecosystems-societal-transformation/>

[OPEN: How we'll work, live and learn in the future Kindle Edition by David Price](#)

[Thrive: Schools Reinvented for the Real Challenges We Face Kindle Edition by Valerie Hannon](#)

[Smart Cities that Work for Everyone: 7 Keys to Education & Employment by Tom Vander Ark](#)

Watch

[Did You Know \(Officially updated for 2020\)](#)

[Tom Vander Ark on the benefits of "smart cities"](#)

The paradigm concept

In 1962, American physicist Thomas Kuhn published his book: *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Although it essentially focused on contradictions in philosophy and science, Kuhn introduced the concept of a paradigm shift.

Kuhn proposed that a paradigm shift was generated by fundamental changes in basic concepts and practices. He suggested that such shifts occur when a dominant paradigm becomes incompatible with new phenomena, leading to the necessary creation or emergence of a new paradigm. Since then, the paradigm concept has been adopted by wider audiences to talk about change in various contexts, be it organisational, economic, political or social.

Similar conversations are occurring in relation to the need for a paradigm shift in education. There are multiple themes converging to create this context, including, but not limited to;

- the impact of the world wide web on the accessibility, storage and sharing of knowledge;
- rapid advances in technology and the so-called 'Fourth Industrial Revolution';
- the potential power of networked communities;
- solving the challenge of enabling access to education for all people and;
- the increasing irrelevance of industrial era schooling for changing workplaces.



On 6 August 1991, the World Wide Web became publicly available. This moment in history fundamentally changed the accessibility of knowledge.

This was a pivotal change in the world as it was understood - essentially ushering in a new epoch. Schools still largely operate within systems that were designed for an era now past.

A new paradigm for learning needs to emerge.

Key Ideas

1. A paradigm shift in education is necessary to transform education and make it more relevant for the 21st century.
2. An Alliance can unite change makers and innovators to strengthen the capacity to bring a new learning paradigm into the global consciousness.
3. The digital age presents a unique opportunity to unite change makers and innovators on a global scale.
4. Learnlife will champion the emerging global learning paradigm, using the Alliance to unite and facilitate communication among its growing network.
5. A new global learning paradigm must be shared, not owned, therefore the Alliance is necessary to shape it together as a global community.

Questions

- Why is an Alliance necessary?
- What are the perceived or previous failings of a networked community in succeeding to bring about change?
- What are the benefits for learning communities or other interest groups or people who unite under the Alliance?
- Why would Learnlife seek to share the success of providing a new learning paradigm?

1. A paradigm shift in education is necessary to transform education and make it more relevant for the 21st century

The existing and commonly adopted, yet outdated factory model for learning continues to prioritise content-heavy curricula design. Success in this model is largely measured by a student's ability to memorise content. Learning has essentially evolved however, and content should no longer drive learning because technology is now an exceptional content-provider. Students across the world are increasingly aware of this and disengaging from formal education settings that no longer provide a suitable cultural context.

Students continue to leave formal education ill-equipped with the critical skills and competencies needed to thrive in an increasingly complex world. Education must provide a more relevant framework and model. A new paradigm for learning is required. Government systems are either unwilling or unable to lead this shift, so it

is the task of global change makers and innovators to unite and influence change. Like many other networked communities attempting to influence policy change, the education community must attempt to do the same.

The 21st century provides the global education community with a golden opportunity.

“The risk, to summarize, is that educational reforms around the globe, aptly shortened by the Finnish education author Pasi Sahlberg as the GERM, (the Global Education Reform Movement), have focused on fixing an educational paradigm that has little chance of preparing the talents and citizens we need in the 21st globalized century. The GERM, characterized by competition, standardized testing, and test-based accountability, have infected educational systems around the world and sent them to fiddle with curriculum, teachers and assessment instead of inventing a new paradigm that cultivates creativity, entrepreneurship and global competence. The old paradigm aims at strengthening schools to prepare citizens for a by-gone era, resulting in the global phenomenon of talent mismatch: the co-existence of massive youth unemployment and widespread talent shortage. As a consequence, the world is more at risk than before the reforms.”

Profesor Yong Zhao. A World at Risk: An Imperative for a Paradigm Shift.

2. An Alliance can unite change makers and innovators to strengthen the capacity to bring a new learning paradigm into the global consciousness

The Alliance is an emerging community of change makers and innovators from diverse countries, cultures and contexts. It collaborates across a complex network to envision and prototype a new paradigm for learning. The Alliance invites and welcomes change makers and innovators to cooperatively construct this new paradigm and strengthen the capacity to increase the momentum for change.

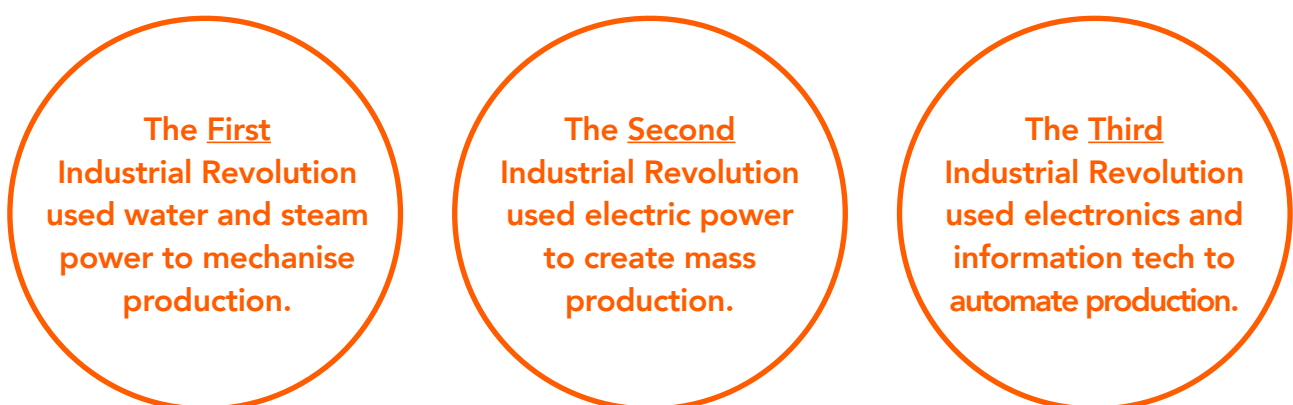
The new learning paradigm is based on a universal set of core elements that encompasses the Learnlife model. These core elements have arisen from an aggregation of research and best practices in education from around the world. The Alliance must assist to shape the new learning paradigm appropriately.

3. The digital age presents a unique opportunity to unite change makers and innovators on a global scale

We are at a critical juncture in human history - the early stages of a technological era widely coined The Fourth Industrial Revolution. Much information conveying the effects of the current wave of technological change states that due to 'scale, scope and complexity', this revolution will be like nothing experienced before. Its impact will be felt across cultures, governments, people, industries and education. Many individuals, school systems and governments have sought to transform or innovate in education with varying degrees of success. Behind these attempts however, lies a wider challenge.

It is not just the application of new technologies driving change, but the fact that the internet has effectively democratised knowledge. This has enormous ramifications on how we learn. In the space of just a few years, content has shifted from being exclusively found in books or shared verbally, to a commodity that can be accessed online anywhere, anyhow and anytime. Education is in the painful process of attempting to reinvent itself as it tries to comprehend these shifts.

The internet has ushered in a new epoch - the digital age - and suddenly the landscape for learning is very different. It has offered unlimited potential for communities and networks otherwise removed from one another to connect in ways not possible before, providing opportunities to share knowledge and experiences that can enhance learning for everyone. There are many individuals and organisations working hard to devise new frameworks for learning, in some instances forming cluster groups to deliver change. Technology can now unite these cluster groups on a macro scale.



We are on the cusp of a Fourth and distinct Industrial Revolution. "It is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres. The speed of current breakthroughs has no historical precedent. When compared

with previous industrial revolutions, the Fourth is evolving at an exponential rather than a linear pace. Moreover, it is disrupting almost every industry in every country. And the breadth and depth of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management, and governance.”

Adapted from: The Fourth Industrial Revolution: what it means, how to respond (WEF)

4. Learnlife will champion the emerging global learning paradigm, using the Alliance to unite and facilitate communication among its growing network

Learnlife was established under the founding wisdom that existing education and schooling models have outlived their shelf-life. One of the missions at Learnlife - to create a new learning paradigm - can be best achieved by connecting the individuals and communities across the world who can help generate the momentum to embed and sustain change.

Learnlife has created the Alliance platform to enable the sharing of efforts to respond collaboratively to the challenges encountered in improving learning opportunities in different contexts. The Alliance intentionally seeks a broad range of interested people - individuals and change makers, educators and education system leaders, non-profits, NGOs, small and large communities, entrepreneurs, businesses, research organisations and corporations - to deliver a new learning paradigm on a global scale.

The creation or implementation of a new paradigm will not occur in a uniform manner around the world, so the Alliance is intended to support efforts wherever they occur using the crowd-storming strength of a wide community to support change.



Momentum for a paradigm shift in learning will come by working together.

5. A new learning paradigm must be shared, not owned, therefore an Alliance is necessary to shape it together as a global community

An Alliance conveys that the processes of educational change and innovation must be shared, not owned. Strength in numbers and global reach supports to increase overall impact. One of the overarching goals for a new learning paradigm is universal change, therefore collaboration must be encouraged. Collaboration includes

everyone - from the developing and developed world. Using the Alliance platform to educate and share knowledge of the innovative practices occurring around the world, can help motivate and inspire others to innovate and accelerate change in their own context. The following principles are vital to growing a shared and cohesive Alliance;

- a mission that communicates universal targets and goals;
- principles that define the new learning paradigm;
- inclusion through invitation and collaboration;
- values that exemplify the Alliance mission;
- continued research and evaluation of new discoveries and trends in education;
- constructive feedback to increase understanding and improve actions.

The Alliance provides a cooperative code of civility to its members to ensure an online platform that encourages communication and free expression. The following parameters are necessary for it to thrive and reach its mission:

1. The Alliance is open to anyone who believes they can contribute positively to the community and its vision and mission.
2. The Alliance will expand by invitation, recommendation, self-nomination and collaboration.
3. The Alliance seeks to connect diverse people, organisations and/or communities who share a common view that global action is required to generate the momentum for a paradigm shift in learning/education.
4. All communications and commentary will be exemplified with respect.
5. The Alliance operates with mutual transparency.
6. The Alliance will continue to identify and share relevant research related to its mission.
7. The Alliance will endeavour to discover and share recognised global best practices in learning/education.
8. The Alliance recognises that constructive feedback on individual and collective ideas is part of its growth process.

From the Alliance, a global movement can emerge that by its nature inspires change and becomes more powerful than the sum of its parts.

“The present convergence of crises—in money, energy, education, health, water, soil, climate, politics, the environment, and more—is a birth crisis, expelling us from the old world into a new.”

Charles Eisenstein

Act now

The following section provides information about the Alliance and how you might wish to use it.

“For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflicts, debate.”

Margaret Heffernan

1. Sign up

Join now for free - help build the momentum for global change!

The Alliance is supported by our website and forum pages, and presence on social media sites Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Regular posts keep individuals up to date and informed about events, trends and our paradigm principles and ideals. We have bespoke email subscriptions to gain specific information, insights and ideas at Learnlife.

2. Contribute

Share your vision and expertise!

The purpose of the Alliance is to collectively envision and grow a new paradigm for learning. Members of the Alliance can participate as much as they wish - anywhere, anytime. Growth mindsets at Learnlife are a result of viewpoints being challenged and we seek individuals who can challenge and grow our thinking.

3. Inform others

Spread the word!

Word of mouth is immensely powerful - it is in fact statistically more successful than TV advertisements, print or brand presence on social media.

4. Challenge the system

Become a change agent!

Building momentum for a new learning paradigm requires change agents. As the Alliance collectively challenges assumptions and practices, clarity will grow to help navigate the emerging system in the right direction.

5. Share knowledge

Got ideas? Share them!

Sharing stories of change is a powerful way to share wisdom and experience. The Alliance provides a great space to do this.

6. Learn

We are all learners!

We are all learners. The Alliance forum can be used to help others grow.

7. Reflect

Use the questions below (and your own) to spark debate:

- What does your educational 'utopia' look like?
- How do you view the future of education;
(i) under the current status quo?
(ii) if your educational utopia was actualised?
- Are global education systems equipping learners with useful knowledge and skills?
- Are you happy with the education your children are receiving or will receive under the current system?
- What are the risks of inaction for education?
- What one action would you take to change the current status of education?



We cannot teach people to be growth oriented if we are afraid of change.

Examples in action

Creating or joining an Alliance encourages like-minded individuals and groups to emerge, and provides the necessary momentum to deliver meaningful change.

Below is a list of organisations and change agents who work towards catalysing social change in local and global communities. Examples include social, education, environment and human rights movements. The success of these examples is rooted in ideals that individuals can easily relate to. These are the influencers whose principles and beliefs have created, and continue to create, the conditions necessary for change.

Education

[GELP Global Education Leaders Partnership](#)

GELP is a partnership of education leaders representing 12 countries, who unite to strategise how they can transform education. Its mission is for every learner to develop the skills and knowledge to survive and thrive in the 21st century.

[HundrED](#)

Seeks and shares impactful and scalable K12 innovations with the world, for free.

Environment

[Global Climate Change Alliance](#)

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) is a European Union flagship initiative helping the world's most vulnerable countries to address climate change.

[ISEAL Alliance](#)

ISEAL is the global membership association for credible sustainability standards. ISEAL's mission is to strengthen sustainability standards systems for the benefit of people and the environment across the globe.

Human rights

[Global Movement for Children](#)

The Global Movement for Children encourages and inspires every individual and organization to invest in children by doing all they can for and with them.

[Amnesty International](#)

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Social

[UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have inspired movements and change agents across multiple dimensions around the world to deliver on global changes that they have set out to achieve by 2030.

[Social movements that have changed the world.](#)

A homage to some of the most influential figures in history, whose capacity to drive social change has had a lasting, global impact.

Further reading

[David Price: OPEN. How we'll work, live and learn in the future](#)

[Education Forward: Moving Schools into the Future, David Price \(ed.\)](#)

[Valerie Hannon: What Is It For? Renewing the Purpose of Education](#)

[Yong Zhao: A World at Risk: An Imperative for a Paradigm Shift to Cultivate 21st Century Learners](#)

[Harvard Business Review: A New Alliance for Global Change](#)

[The Borgen project: How to start a social movement to create change](#)

[Paul Hawken: Environmentalist, Entrepreneur, Author and Activist](#)

[UPLIFT: The Largest Social Movement in History](#)

[Forbes: How to Spark a Movement](#)

[Dana Meadows: 12 Leverage Points to Change the World](#)