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Catching the Knowledge Wave?: The knowledge society and the future of public education in New Zealand

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Over the last six years or so, the New Zealand government main policy focus has been on improving our economic performance. A key aspect of this focus is an emphasis on innovation and knowledge development – in particular, the cross-disciplinary *Knowledge Wave* and *Growing an Innovative New Zealand* projects. These projects make it clear that a ‘quality’ education system is seen as being the solution to many of the problems we face as we try to become a ‘knowledge-based’ society.

This chapter argues that the current government’s focus on ‘quality’—that is, improving *what we do now*—will *not* produce the kind of education system we need if we are to participate in the knowledge-based societies of the future. Recent education policy has clearly been influenced by some Knowledge Society ideas. However, it neglects *other* Knowledge Society ideas, some of which are highly significant for educationists. This chapter explores two of these ideas. It looks at what the Knowledge Society is, focusing in particular on knowledge’s new meaning and its consequences for conventional understandings of identity/individuality. Then it explores the implications of this for our education system. It argues that while these new ideas are deeply challenging to many of the assumptions our education system was built on, they also allow us to ‘think outside the square’ with respect to some of education’s most difficult and long-standing problems—in particular, the problem of educational inequality.

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This type of education will promote values that are shaped by society and include academic freedom; student self-government; the establishment of self-governing research teams composed of professors and students; a dynamism in constantly generating and mastering new knowledge and competencies; and the ability to concentrate intellectual and financial resources on key topics of interest. The education system in 100 years will move into the virtual world through a “real” SYSTEM of education. What are the key issues in the future? Challenges include navigating and accessing expanding resources, developing optimal strategies, mastering educational courses, and creating search engines for identifying solutions. The knowledge society and the future of education', Wellington, New Zealand: NZCER Press] | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. In this article, we attempt at analysing the thoughts of Alvin Toffler. Toffler is a prominent futurist and the proponent of the theory of 'The Third Wave society'. In his theory, Toffler has explicitly discussed the role of knowledge and technology in effecting changes and thus shaping the coming of the new type of society in the future. View full-text. Discover more. Download citation. What type of file do you want? RIS. BibTeX. Education – a fundamental activity in the knowledge based society Education has played and is still playing an important role in forming and training the individual throughout his existence. Several authors in their works underline the importance of education over the time. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1996) came up with a definition of education starting from three basic sources: nature, humans and objects.