

## MILLENNIALS ... A new way of truly meaningful learning?

### MILLENNIALS.... ¿Una nueva forma de aprendizaje realmente significativo?

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Received January 25, 2018; Accepted June 12, 2018

#### Abstract

Objectives, methodology

This research seeks to demonstrate that new generations promote new ways of carrying out the teaching-learning process, and this is not intended to devalue previous methods, but to visualize the application of various technological tools that guide the education not only become more agile, but also, no longer fall into the fact that to learn, you have to be in a classroom, currently, learning must be available to everyone, at any time and place. We will use the quantitative method, where we will show how important and significant it is for young people to apply technological tools to learn.

#### Contribution

This article aims to demonstrate the importance that technological tools currently have in all areas of the lives of learners, so much so that, as knowledge impartors, we must understand that instead of trying to prohibit them in the classroom, we have to generate processes of inclusion, so that students feel more attracted to the methods of study and it is not a pretext to be able to carry out activities or examinations not to be in person in the classrooms, currently, it should also be understood that Distance education is another way to learn

**Millennials, Education, Technological Tools, Teaching-Learning, Critical Thinking**

#### Resumen

Objetivos, metodología

Esta investigación busca, el demostrar que las nuevas generaciones promueven nuevas formas de llevar a cabo el proceso enseñanza- aprendizaje, y no con esto se pretende desvalorizar los métodos anteriores, sino el visualizar la aplicación de diversas herramientas tecnológicas que dan pauta a que la educación no solo se vuelva más ágil, sino además, ya no se caiga en el hecho de que para aprender, hay que estar dentro de un salón de clases, actualmente, el aprendizaje debe estar al alcance de todos, en cualquier momento y lugar. Utilizaremos el método cuantitativo, donde mostraremos qué tan importante y significativo es para los jóvenes la aplicación de herramientas tecnológicas para aprender.

#### Contribución

Este artículo, tiene como objetivo el demostrar la importancia que tienen en la actualidad las herramientas tecnológicas en todos los ámbitos de la vida de los educandos, tanto, que, como impartidores de saberes, debemos entender que en lugar de tratar de prohibirlos en el aula, tenemos que generar procesos de inclusión, para que los alumnos se sientan más atraídos a los métodos de estudio y no sea un pretexto el poder realizar actividades o exámenes el no estar de forma presencial en los salones, actualmente, se debe entender además, que la educación a distancia es otra forma de aprender.

**Millennials, Educación, Herramientas Tecnológicas, Enseñanza-Aprendizaje, Pensamiento Crítico**

**Citación:** ESCAMILLA-REGIS, Daisy, MARTÍNEZ-BAHENA, Elizabeth and LUNA-MÁRQUEZ, Marco Antonio. MILLENNIALS ... A new way of truly meaningful learning? ECORFAN Journal-Mexico 2018, 9-21: 27-32.

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## Introduction

*Millennials: are a generation of children born after Generation X (from 1965 to 1976), they are located between 1977 and 1995. Perhaps the most common date of birth is from 1980 to 1995, they are also called Generation Y, the Peter Pan or Generation Boomerang. (Millennial Generation, 2018)*

It has always been said that one of the paradigms of education is that the more you learn, the more you have doubts, that is how, as nowadays, students are involved in an accumulation of technological tools, which are increasingly more competitive, which is that the educational process is wearing more and more, however, we must note that current generations require activities that allow them to make their learning process more meaningful, and that includes the power to generate technological resources that invite you to search, development and implementation that in turn provide new methods that keep the members of a group captive, either face-to-face or virtual, so that, in this way, not only their talents become evident, but also, their new contributions to the society that surrounds them and also influences their professional development.

However, all this prevails over the fact that, although education must be modified and updated to new ways of imparting it, we must also be assertive about the fact that not all of us learn in the same way, however, technological resources they are surpassing traditional methods and millennials, they are the first to acquire and share new knowledge through these resources that are increasingly needed as social networks, tutorials, videogames, virtual chat tables, online appointments, etc.

We will also show the main apps that the young people belonging to the study team use and the time they occupy of a normal day in the use of the various online devices for this purpose.

Our central hypothesis is based on the fact that this article will show that, while the Millennials have come to revolutionize the way of life of today's society, they also try to streamline all processes to get closer to acquiring or sharing knowledge, and its critical thinking becomes more agile as they allow approaching new teaching methods, such as the use of online tutorials and videos.

The teacher therefore becomes an expert guide and monitor in the activities of the students, that is why, we have the obligation to, also get soaked not only in the use, but also in the development of new technologies and technological prototypes that help to spread knowledge among young people, and do it in such a way, that it is attractive, agile and easy to understand for them.

### 1. Millennials, what are they and how are they changing the world?

They are young people born in the early nineties, whose main characteristic is to live permanently connected to the internet through a screen or mobile device, where reality and virtuality are part-for them-of the same world; have the advantage of being considered MULTITASKING, that is, they are able to carry out different tasks using the same means or different media, accessing different types of information in real time, what is known as Omni-channel, their way of socializing is precisely through a screen, they are addicted to the app's that are offered on the internet and social networks, consult, share and comment on them, it has become the main activity they perform on their smartphones.

On the other hand, they are very critical and demanding people, where for them the online shopping experience is an aspect that has gone viral, so if any site does not meet their expectations, they easily forget about it and even do negative recommendations; their influence sometimes goes beyond their community or the society of which they are a part, many of them are called Influencers, with all the connotations that this implies.

### 2. How do Millennials learn?

Currently, for young people, it is very explanatory to be able to access video tutorials, e-books, chat rooms between friends or study groups and internet searches.



**Figure 1** Main information access apps (Google images, 2018)

That is why, Millennials sometimes consider that going to a classroom will only cause them to waste their time, since they believe that teachers limit their creativity and cognitive development in a significant way, having all the possibilities of learning within the reach of their electronic device, pretend that, only when accessing a web page, they will understand the entire context of what is shown there.

The use of these technological tools, by themselves, does not guarantee the absorption of knowledge, especially when accompanied by the use of social networks, online games, digital conversations, etc., all pretending to do at the same time. Young people today, are considered capable of performing several tasks at the same time, and if that can be done from a single instrument, (call computer, lap, cell phone or tablet), it is even better.

### 3. Traditional education vs Millennial education

*The Transmission Model or traditional perspective conceives teaching as a true art and the teacher as an artisan, where its function is to clearly explain and gradually expose their knowledge, focusing centrally on student learning; the student is seen as a blank page, a marble to be modeled, an empty glass or a piggy bank that must be filled. The student is the center of attention in traditional education. (Education in Values, 2018).*

Currently, we can see that educational models have undergone drastic changes in the fact that their functionality, no longer applies in these times, previously, the teacher was the center of learning, from it, tasks were generated and processes were given by the activities that emanated from him, the role of the student was passive, that is, was only responsible for receiving knowledge through the board and the notes that, year after year, taught by the teacher, this generated the same responses by young people who observed that their level of understanding was given by the qualification of a test (oral or written) and did not take into account other types of skills inherent in the student body; there was a limitation in the didactic and pedagogical methodology in which there was a palpable lack of innovation, which could be translated into a unilateral process, where there was no room for empathy or the tutorial processes for the different individuals that required it, the process was the same for all, generating confusion, since not all of us learn under the same methods.



**Figure 2** The traditional school (Google images, 2018)

The new educational trends, on the other hand, have as the central author the student, who has a totally active and adaptable role to the use of different technological and computer tools, for him; On the other hand, time is no longer a limitation, since you can learn anywhere, at any time that is appropriate, you no longer need to be physically in a certain space to have access to information and this results in an increase More and more tangible of the virtual classes, that is to say, each time the students get closer to this way of learning, of approaching the notions of learning.

Teachers become facilitators in this way, and peers allow spaces for consultation and collaboration when allowed, that is, students become adaptable and open to sharing new ways of capturing information, and most importantly, this it allows them to compete and exchange knowledge not only at an environmental level, they become part of the information society at a nation, continent, and even transcending borders.

This also implies that schools must change educational paradigms, based on the demands made by millennials, that is, to generate greater research, communication and collaboration capacities among their peers and the environment, this form of learning, It allows us to have many visions of the things that they live and of which they are a part, and their methods to solve situations, adapt to the resources that surround them at that moment, therefore, solving a problem can be carried out nowadays thousand ways, so they use different technological tools such as smartphones, laptops, tablets, and everything that brings them closer to the network of networks.



Figure 3 Millennial Education (Google imágenes, 2018)

#### 4. Where does this new educational trend lead us?

It is a fact that we are facing an abysmal change in education, we are already in a stage where we are surrounded by technology and in this way, we understand the new information and discoveries that occur every day, however, we are also in the stage of understanding how young people think, how they feel and how they make decisions, for that, they take into account the educational needs they have as individuals and the response they generate.

The new trend that is shown as an integral part of education is the aforementioned NEUROEDUCATION, this one "takes advantage of the knowledge about how the brain works integrated with psychology, sociology and medicine, in an attempt to improve and enhance both the processes of learning and memory of students, as those of teaching by teachers." (Arroyo, 2018). In other words, learning takes place, first from an emotion, then as part of the inherent curiosity of all human beings and as a consequence, attention is generated towards a specific or necessary issue or process at a specific time of the student's life, to, as a consequence, provide new knowledge, new uses and technological tools, etc.

Today we know that the educational process can be generated in different ways, and there is also a great relationship between how to learn, how to memorize and how to teach (where the teacher or facilitator intervenes))

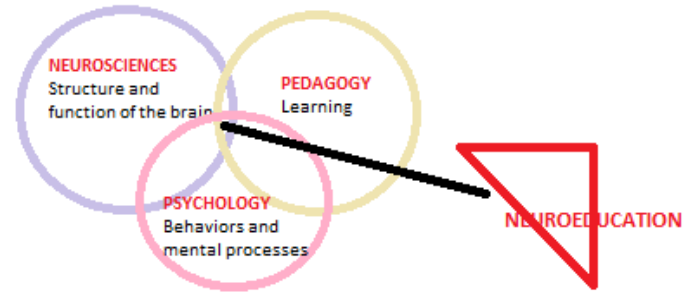


Figure 4 The Neuroeducational process (Corporacionaem, 2018)

#### 5. Technological tools with greater use by Millennials.

Currently, many IES higher education institutions and their teachers have to adopt new disruptive strategies that are associated with the 4.0 revolution, as this allows us to begin meeting the new needs, styles and learning styles of the Millennials students; it is for this reason that, next, it will be shown how important and significant it is for the students the application of technological tools for the construction of their popio learning, being this core part of this article.

To carry out this objective, we began with a study which allows quantitative research to be carried out in the IES, said higher institution has approximately 4,800 students; therefore, it is considered to apply the following formula to obtain a sample size, having a margin of 5% and a confidence level of 95%.

$$n = \frac{z^2(p*q)}{e^2 + \frac{(z^2(p*q))}{N}} \quad (1)$$

#### Statistical equation for population proportions

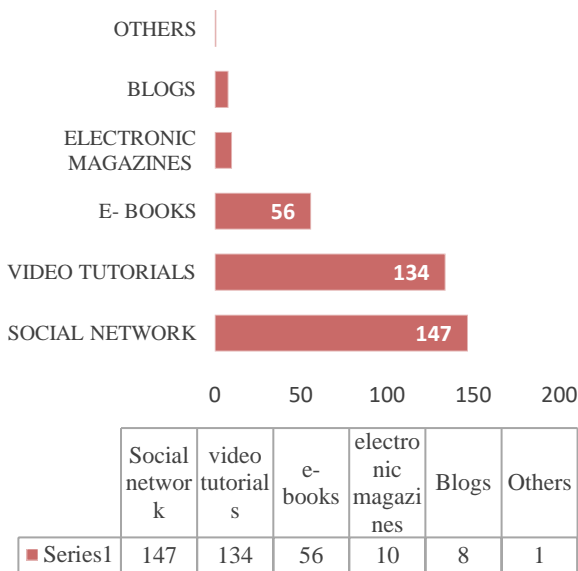
n = Sample size  
z = Desired confidence level  
p = proportion of the population with the desired characteristics (success)  
q = Proportion of the population without the desired characteristic (failure)  
e = Level of error willing to commit  
N = Size of the population

Figure 5 Formula simple calculation (Corporacionaem, 2018)

Taking into consideration the sampling by applying the formula shown in Figure 5, it results in a total of 356 students, which were considered to apply a test, which aims to identify which tool they use frequently and in which they pass more time, as well as the importance of a teacher presence sharing materials with technological tools to support students, and finally identify what is the tool that students use most to support their subjects, all mentioned is to be able to check and demonstrate the importance that currently have the technological tools for Millennial students as a new form of meaningful learning.

Therefore it shows the importance of social networks, for Millennial students, since for this generation they are one of the tools where they spend more time as shown in Figure 1.

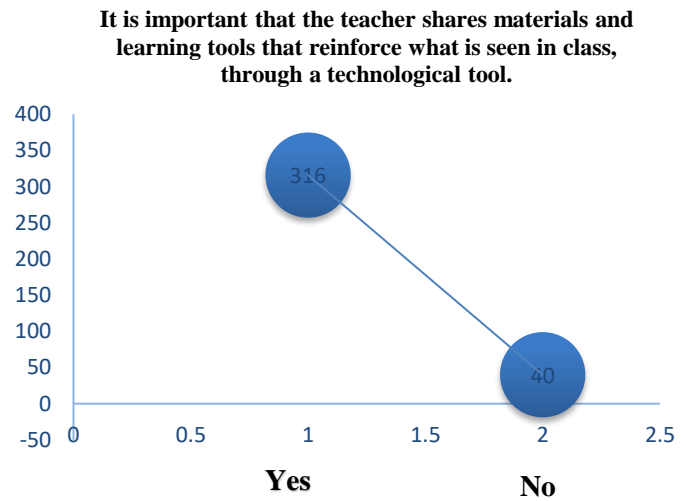
**Tool where Millennials spend more time**



**Graphic 1** Millennials use and spend more time

Likewise, it is also investigated, about the importance of the teacher including technology in their subjects even being presential, since for the students it means to relate them more in their world, and in this case the teacher has to step aside to the technological tools update educative, that allow to strengthen the teaching-learning techniques that it offers to its students, with the objective that their students feel in their same technological world mixing the knowledge and knowledge of the subjects that they are studying in their moment, thus also helping that the student can build their own knowledge and this is significant.

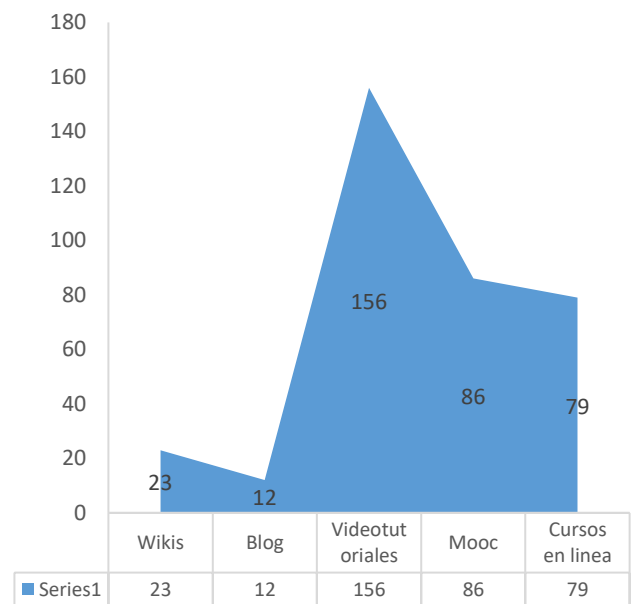
In Graph 2, it is shown that more than 60% of students give a positive response, since they feel even more identified by the use of tools.



**Graphic 2** Importance for Millennials, that the teacher includes technological tools in class

Millennial generation, are very accustomed to have a device that allows you to have Internet connection, and just have access to the search engine, type the subject and have too much information, which can sometimes confuse the knowledge they have acquired in person.

Based on the previous paragraph, it was necessary to identify what is the technological tool that Millennial students use frequently, when they need any help on any topic or research they need to perform, for that, in Graph 3, it shows that the videotutoriales are your great support to reinforce your knowledge and keep building it, since it is your main source of information.



**Graphic 3** Technological tools that Millennials use frequently to support their subjects

## Results

According to the research carried out, it can be observed that millennial students are very accustomed to the use of technology and for that reason they would not know the world without the help of the internet, this is how, as in the current 21st century, this generation has been able to cover certain deficiencies in various areas, which can be social, economic, and learning, since it is enough, with a device that is connected to the internet to be able to consult any type of information that requires at any time, contact friends, family and even work online, which for them technology is the most important.

Currently, the teacher has to be a facilitator for the Millennial student, which is why it must be updated in technological tools and new teaching-learning strategies, which motivate the student inside and outside the classroom, so that together they can build knowledge significant. Millennial students, technology is deeply rooted, and that is why everything that surrounds it must be on the same line.

## Conclusions

Millennial generation works in a variety of technological tools to be able to socialize, distract or learn, but in this case, what is the role of the teacher? Well, according to the researched, the teacher is only the person who guides and reinforces that knowledge, by means of technological tools, such as video tutorials, since this is one of the tools most often used by students, and it also facilitates their learning, since they must identify how to learn to build their own learning, that with the demacía of information that exists, it can be confused.

So the teacher has to be updated in the millennial environment, to find alternatives that allow them to digest the information, which will be of great help to clarify doubts that may have in the future.

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