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Brook’s key point is that data can tell more things about situation or specific subject matter than any tool without bias. Moreover, this helps evaluate the situation at hand with a clearer view; with data we can analyze certain pattern that are in the news, on people, nature, politics, economic, education, and much more, the list goes on. However, he also argues that data not always gives a desirable outcome, as one can say, or a defined answer. Sometimes, you have to trust your instincts and senses. One can argue that with statistical tools to analyze any set of data is going to give a define answer. However, there are moments where the best choice one can make is based on one’s personal intuition.

Analyzing data gives us a greater tool to know how we are going to perceive the world in this modern age. Everything is computerized and all that information and all that data can give a wider view of the outcomes. The thing that is interesting is that data can be combined with one’s own instincts and sense of guidance to analyze and evaluate data. There always going to be an experiment where data and statistical results give you one answer but instinct (intuition) gives you a different answer; with these two (data and instincts) one can have more advantage to come to a conclusion by evaluating all the key points and factors.

Every day, we see how data and statistics is been used to enhance our ability to analyze information and how we interact with and interpret it. I am most interested in learning about our capacity on collecting and using data and statistical tools to learn how we can integrate statistical results to help students and teachers get the most out of the learning experience to achieve a higher degree of education better than before (the days we did not have statistical tools to help us see the result through a mathematical model). The reason why I am interested in this topic is because human beings need to learn lot of different things throughout life. Since the day we are born, we are bombarded with information that is around us until the day we die. I think the technology we have in our disposal, will help us understand and learn better and faster than ever before.

In addition, we conduct and analyze data from experiments on how the human being learns new things. However, there have not been a lot of implementations to education from these experiments. The only result we can see are the ones where education is provide online (on the Internet), where students and nonstudents take classes online (virtual classroom or online classroom). One of this online classroom is edX, “open-source online learning platform and hosts an online web portal at [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org/) for online education” (E (edx.org, 2013). We have seem a great interest on online education, however, how can we measure the results of the data that is out there? Right now there top universities taking advantages of this by giving classes online for free to the general public. Then, the data on how students learn on this online classroom is then evaluated and applied to real world classrooms in their campuses. Universities like Harvard and MIT, for instance, “say one of their main goals with edX is to generate learning data that the universities can share freely with education researchers” (Kolowich, 2012).We have to implement system like this in real classroom as well, where we can achieve better prediction of students’ performance. Data is one of the keys to understand ourselves, but we too need to learn on how our instincts are capable to evaluate things on its own and enhance it in the process.

Through the United States and the World the education system focuses on given standardized tests while students are in the school to measure the output (capability) of the students. This type of data gathering does not help a lot if it is not combined with statistical tools to analyze the meaning of this tests because these tests are so narrow (and sometimes so board) that they do not cover all the subjects (or interest that a student, for example, has). The kind of information that I found on this topic is about how data mining help students and teachers throughout all level of education achieve better results to help education to be more effective and improve the system that we have in place right now. Example of such a system is inBloom which “was set up to host a vendor-neutral data service to collect student data gathered in many different software systems and services and feed it back in such a way that the data would become more useful” (Carr, 2013).

For example, students need to be evaluated in term of their GPA and standardized test. There are different ways on how to evaluate students; however, no system is perfect, but combinations the raw data of a student with different techniques like data mining, classification, and prediction. Furthermore, systems like inBloom which “One of the goals is personalization, or what the education world calls adaptive learning, where the software starts to understand which concepts the student understands and which ones he or she struggles with”, (Carr, 2013), will not only help students’ grades but also their performance.

Moreover, “schools have changed. In the last decade alone, technology innovations have created new ways of teaching and learning, far away from the convention of textbooks and other printed resources. How can you grasp what your students need now, and really evaluate their progress? Data. Nowadays, one cannot undervalue the importance of data” (Powe, 2011). In the case of Florida's Broward County School District we see an implementation of data mining system, like IBM AS/400 running IBM's DB2, to visualize and analyze the student’s performance throughout the day. For instance, teachers and administrators enter information, for example, “historical view of each child's academic performance” (Messmer, 2000), of the students in the system in a day to day basic. In addition, this demonstrates one way in which data can help students and teachers improve learning and focus on the areas that are the most weak for the students. However we choose a definitive guide to either use data to help us learn and perform better, we will have in our disposal an arsenal of tools that help us in our pursuit of knowledge.

In conclusion, the relationship between this and Brook is that, we may not be listening to the data the way we should to improve education. We need a system in better predicting the achievement of students throughout school and life. Statistical tools, like data mining, will help us understand better the result of students and teacher if we can manage to understand the significance of the output.

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