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Assay: Seminar international the book of Dr Ken Robinson the Element.

My life in Grand Goave, Thozin #113 Haiti

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## **Introduction**

Ken Robinson has a Ph D in art of education at the University of London. Doctor Robinson is a well known professor and he has presented conference in many places in the world by sharing information about the importance of art in the school. How the art can participate in the development of the children. In this book doctor Robinson described the life of many people who were not every good at school, because the traditional schools always put emphasis on the mathematics, chemistry and biology. By focusing on those subjects the schools are preparing people for industry. The traditional schools have a curriculum that doesn't put any emphasis on the art. So in the book doctor Robinson tried to demonstrate through many example there are some people who did good in life, they were not very good at mathematics, chemistry and biology and they did not take any IQ test but today they are very popular in the world for their works. They have contribute in progression of the world.

Firstly, in this paper we are going to presents some people who had success in life, but who were not very good at mathematics, biology and chemistry. Some of the example will come from the book of doctor Robinson, some others will come from the Haitian community.

Secondly, In this paper we are going to describe the Element according to doctor Robinson and when someone find his or her Element what impact this can have in the community and the world.

Thirdly, this paper is going to increase the knowledge of its writer and see how the Element will change his life and use it to help people in his community to find the Element and motive them to group with people that have the same Element as them.

## Situation

Doctor Robinson described in his book how crucial the Element in the life of someone it helps you to reach out your goal. If we take the example of Gillian who was not very good at school according to her teacher she was not able to learn in school she had to go to special school, the teacher has been asking her mother, and there they are going to take her in charge. Until her mother took her to a psychologist and after the observation the psychologist told the mother that your kid is not sick. Because the psychologist played a radio and asked the mother to move with him/ her in the other room, they have been observing Gillian through the window. They saw active is her. She moved all around the room while her mother and the psychologist were not in the room. The psychologist has quickly realized she like to dance and told the mother to send her to a dancing school. Later on she become very famous in the world and she has created one of the best dancing school in the world. She became Gillian Lynne brought pleasure to millions of people through her choreographies.

This example shows that in the traditional school if a child is not able to do math, biology, and chemistry this doesn't mean the kid has a lack of intelligent. For the traditional schools success means be good at math, even today some schools are still believing that.

When we go deep down in this example we quickly understand that the school system is made for the purpose of the industrial revolution if you are not good at math you are not intelligent.

In fact, there are many examples that could demonstrate the school system is made for the industrial system. In many schools in Haiti before they take a child they have to make test for the kids calls evaluation test .This evaluation test is a little bit like the SAT and IQ test we have UK in United States.

If the kid doesn't pass the test he/she is not going to be part of the school. Sometimes the schools do not respect what the national government says. There are many people who did not pass the test of those prestigious schools but, they went to public school and years after become very popular in the country because they found their element be very famous.

In fact, Dr Robinson the main argument throughout the book is that people's experience in the educational system tends to greatly reduce our ability to experience the element. When the element is found it allows that person to be motivated for what is doing.

Dr Robinson presented many example of people who have found their element, but when they were in school they were not very good at math.

The history of Matt Groeing, he did good at school but she found himself bored with class and start to draw pictures and doing art. The teachers did not know if he didn't pay attention to the class. For him art was something that could help him to move on in life even there were many people who tried to discourage him. But he did not get stick to the advice of people around him. The others did not use the art supplies he was the only one in his class that was interested in art.

And found people who have the same motivation with him to work together until his dream came true. When he realized the pictures were not getting better and he decided to use another part of the art, by telling stories over pictures. There were other artist who are drawing pictures but, they had a lack of storytelling and he took this opportunity to tell stories and he became very famous. Today he is the creator of Simpsons . From elementary school to high school he knew that he was going to work with cartoon, even though he met a lot of difficulties, his father didn't want that for him they want him to go to college and do something else. To realize his dream he has created an environment of people who have the motivation with him to find his element. The element is very important in the live every in the society. when we analyze and go deeper in the experience of the two people, especially the life of Gillian Lynne, in the first time who was not good in school the teacher even wrote her mother asked her to Gillian in a special school. In spite of the counsel of the psychologist and she had privilege to became very famous. He had the chance to find her element.

What about those who are in the undeveloped country where there is not normal school? There is a big lack of special for the kids with real problem. Not mathematics, biology or chemistry. That is to say today the poverty that we have in the world can improve if people are able to find their element and create something and live with it.

So the industrial revolution has established a world with a school, where its goal is to train people to maintain the status quo. They have been creating a big system, by financing research and studies to support their ideas.

The media don't promote the new idea and when there is philosopher or scholar who is not agreed with them, and has different idea from them, he/ she will not find any organization or government to finance his or her research.

Doctor Robinson through his book *The Element* has shown that there were people in the world that could have success in life, without being good in math. further he mentioned that "*educational system still reflect the outdated emphasis on industrialism, as a result we have been left with a hierarchy of subject and equate intelligence with logical analysis. Creativity is sacrificed for the sake of uniformity educational systems are created to be teacher proof with an emphasis placed on assessment*" according to Dr Robinson the educational system that we have in the world today is made for the sake of industrial.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries philosophers and scholars aimed to establish a firm basis for human knowledge (Dr Robinson, 2009) the system in the world is the thought of many philosophers in the past like the ancient Greek. Sciences are based on the research of those philosophers. Years in the past to be philosophers you need to be good at math, and it is all most the same today. For some schools to have a degree we need to write paper that will be based on the philosophy reasoning.

They create machines to test the intelligence of human. There is an IQ, a SAT to check the understanding of human, and plus some other test to verify the results. Can a machine measure the intelligence of a man? The machine is created by human, and there is a saying in French "there is no work that is made by a human being that is perfect" When we analyze the saying we rapidly understand a machine cannot measure the intelligence of human. Because sooner or later the machine will be improved by some other scientists. What would you say to those who have been in prison just because the court relies on the machine result to take decision. The machine has been programmed by someone to recognize certain type of emotion at the human, what about the emotion that the machine is was programmed to identify?

Let's take as this example, a machine that is made to identify lies in human. What would happen if they programmed it to identify lies. Human is made of plenty of emotions, but the machine is not able to recognize the emotions, it is not made for. For instance, when someone is under a chock and tress can push him or her to lie, sometimes even lose his /her sense things.

Most of the time in USA the judges base their judgment on the result a machine they even gave capital punishment to people due to those machines.

Finally, those machine could not and will not able to measure the intelligence of human, Because human is able to have imagination, make invention, even plan for the future. The machine is made to measure what is has been programming and making for. We need to remember that the machine is limited.

To illustrate that we can take the example of computer, it is a machine made by human to improve the work and to be more productive in industry. The computer is made by series of codes and series of programs, for instance, we need to change the version of our windows very often, because what was impossible in the last version can be possible in the new one. Just because the human is able to go further in his/her imagination and come with a new version and realize the old was limited.

We have many example to show that the machine cannot measure the intelligence of human. When we buy an antivirus for the computer, the antivirus is able to identify the virus that it was made for, and when a new virus is coming up, if we do not update our antivirus then the computer will get virus and lose our confidential password our credit card number .

According to scholars and philosophers there is no absolute truth in science because what can be true today may not be tomorrow. There can be a new discovery, that will change the human function like the age of technology. Once again this a way to prove that machine cannot measure the intelligence of human with numbers of scores. So Would the judge will be sorry for the abuse that they have been causing to the world when they the focused on the machine to take their decision, and soon the Science has leaved that a new method of discovery lies.

It is with the industrial revolution come the need for mass education to meet growing demands.

To meet the need of mass education educators needed a quick way to access students and the IQ test was born. Interestingly the test creator Alfred Binet originally created the test (Robinson, 2009, p38). So there was a need to educate a great number of people after the industrial revolution because they qualified people to work in the industry.

They have created all kind of test to measure a certain type intelligent in the human. The colleges and the universities were in obligation to teach students knowledge that is able to put into practice in the industry. Sometimes the universities went to make research in the industry and come up with new theory. All around the world the universities base their chair or their theory on a problem that happened in the industry, or anticipate problem that will happen in the system.

Nowadays, the jobs or the profession that are the most worthy in the world, we find them in industry like management, engineer and so on.

Finally, even though in the society today we pay more attention to profession that goes on with the industrial revolution. Creating all kind of test to measure the intelligence of human, those machines can replace the intelligence of human, they are made to help the human in his her work, but human intelligence is above all those machines.

Dr Robinson goes on to explain that "the society has come to incorrectly associate intelligence with a number and that instead of asking the question how intelligent are you" we should begin to ask how are you intelligent (Robinson 2009, p 42) the human intelligence is not unique it is different from one person to another person, as we have a diversity of culture in the world it is the same for the intelligence of human. If we have a diversity of intelligence how can one test can measure the intelligence of everybody? When all is said and done, it seems that human intelligence is diverse and multifaceted it is also unique to each individual (Robinson 2009, 44)

The machine is programmed to identify what, they programmed it to, and the human intelligence is diverse and unique. The human can imagine about multiple things and reach the highest level thinking, in this case can the imagination human be limited by a machine or test?

Robinson defines imagination as the power to bring to mind things that are not present to our sense"

*The power of imagination Robinson remind us that it is the power of imagination that sets us apart from all other species. So it is surprising how imagination tends to come in second place to our traditional example of intelligence that are more rooted in math and Science. ( Robinson 2009)* According to Robinson the power imagination is much important than math, because it through the power imagination that someone can invent something. If we take as an example ash time to invent the atom to make bomb he had to have imagination to do this. Robinson mentioned that:

through imagination ,we can visit the past contemplate the present ,and anticipate the future we can also do something else of profound and unique significance. We can create ..it is the foundation of everything that is uniquely and distinctively human. It is the basis of language. the art the Science ,system of philosophy, and all the vast intricacies of human culture

The author wants to show us that imagination is above the intelligence. If can pretend that we can measure the intelligence through all kind of test that has been creating to do that, what about the imagination can we measure it? The imagination is beyond intelligence and the imagination is main basis of the intelligence. This why we say is impossible to measure intelligence because we can separate them. So we think that the brain of the human is made of three things:

1. Intelligence which diverse and unique for each individual
2. Imagination which the power to bring to mind things that are not present to our sense
3. Creativity which is the application and combination of words or actions to put your idea into reality.

Creativity is a step beyond imagination because it requires that you actually do something rather than

lie around thinking about it. It's a very practical process of trying to make something original<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr Ken Robinson (2009) the element



Those three things cannot be tested by the machine because we cannot grade them with numbers. The reactivity is action " our creativity is what allows us to liberate what our lives could be like if we take a different path. In the other hand, our imagination empowers us to reframe situations and take on different perspectives.

Finally intelligence is the capacity to understand and to analyze to know good and bad. (Robinson 2009)

The three things are the foundation of the element. How the element can be crucial in life of people who did not get discouraged by the educational system? Those who found the element they become very motivated to reach their goal and the element becomes an epiphany for them.

People may who have found their element speak of the experience as if a light went off their heads in the book of Dr Ken Robinson gives us the permission and the language to the epiphany very seriously.

Imagination is not the same as creativity. Creativity takes the process of imagination to another level. My definition of creativity is "the process of having original ideas that have value." Imagination can be entirely internal. You could be imaginative all day long without anyone noticing. But you would never say that someone was creative if that person never did anything. To be creative you actually have to do something. It involves putting your imagination to work to make something new, to come up with new solutions to problems, even to think of new problems or questions. You can think of creativity as applied imagination. You can be creative at anything at all—anything that involves using your intelligence. It can be in music, in dance, in theater, in math, science, business, in your relationships with other people. It is because human intelligence is so wonderfully diverse that people are creative in so many extraordinary ways. Let me give you two very different examples.

It allows us to say that when you want to realize something in life we need to have a passion for it, it is this passion is going to create the epiphany for what we like. This allows me to share my story when I wanted to speak English I had to choose language to learn but, I had to find people who had the same motivation with me and make team. Once I found them we quickly became friends, we did our homework together and make conversation practice. we were very motivated to learn the language and we found our element. Find the element is very important when we want to learn something.

What is the zone of the element? it is when we found a purpose for our motivation and we hold on to it. Robinson describes the zone as being 7th deep heart of the element and he goes on to describe what it is when you are in your zone. We become focused and intend. We live in the

moment . We become lost the experience and the perform at our peak. Our breathing change our minds merge with our bodies and we feel ourselves down effortlessly into the heart of the element. (Robinson 2009, p 87) again Dr Robinson want to demonstrate that when a group of people who found their element can a lot of changes in the world together they make great things.

## Creating great creative team

In addition to being assigned tasks that allow them to work in their element great creative team:

- Diverse - people with different but complementary talents
- Dynamic creative teams find ways of using their differences as strengths not weakness
- Distinct - creative teams have a distinctive personality and come together to do something specific members are not merely there representing specific interest on the committee.<sup>2</sup> Dr Robinson presents imagination creativity as the main part of the element. When we find our element we become creative and have the ability to work with people in our circle

How we can use the element our school today? How the national the local school in haiti can use the element to make promotion for new system of education.

Years in the pass we did not have many school in Haiti, When we have to sand a kid to school we had to move to Port au Prince to find a high school. Few decades after there is going to be school in some big city like "les cays, Cap Haitian" children of people who worked for the national or local government can have access to school. The methods and book that they used make school very difficult for some children. Many of them have dropped school since elementary. If they were not good at mathematics teachers always told them without doing math well we are not going to have success in life. So what happened to those who have left the school very late and what they become?

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<sup>2</sup> Dr Ken Robinson (2009) the element

In fact, there are a lot of them that have good testimony to share. Some of them worked as Macon, carpenters and it is them that are doing the handle profession in the Haitian society. Jean Paul left school at grade 6 and went to learn house construction, today is very famous in the town of Grand Goave. He built many beautiful houses in the town, and his works are more population than the one who was good at math and went to learn civil engineer. He learned the profession by observation and become and great practitioners of engineer without math. Once again this example show us that imagination and creativity cannot be measured by a machine. Just because Jean Paul was not good at math he had to drop the school. He had a mentor that saw in him the love and a great sense of observation, encouraged him to come in his workshop to learn a profession. Dr Robinson describes this phenomenon like a tribe which when we found our element we need to group with people who have the same motivation as us. Dr Robinson also mentioned this:

When I talk about tribes, I'm really talking about two distinct ideas, both of which are important for anyone who is looking to find their Element. The first is the idea of a "domain" and the second, of a "field." Domain refers to th sorts of activities and disciplines that people are engaged in—acting, rock music, business, ballet, physics, rap, architecture, poetry, psychology, teaching, hairdressing, couture, comedy, athletics, pool, visual arts, and so on. Field refers to the other people who are engaged in it.

Dr Robinson presents the tribe as a crucial element of the element, once you find your element and you group with those who have the same idea as you, you can realize your dream. In the book Dr Robinson has presented a lot of people who realize their dream, but they have gone through many difficulty in their life, but they did not stay in their situation and be satisfied, they had break the chain and move on.

What can prevent someone from finding his/ her element , in order words, what can be berries to finding your element? According to Dr Robinson the barriers can be:

- Personal
- Social
- Cultural

As human being our destination depends on us, it is we that have to decide what to do with our life. If we don't take a step forward no one is going to do it for us. Some people believe if they fail in school, it is going to be impossible for them to have success in life. In Haiti we have many sayings that can prevent someone from moving on, the society has been influenced by the western and American culture, and people have to try new things very often.

Society is the way that people are agreed to live, it is the physical environment of the human, we together define the principle ways to live. Sometimes there are some societies that don't give many opportunities once you fail it seems that you are condemned to stick where you are at. If we don't have a strong personality to be imaginative and to be creative, which means to find our element.

Finally, those three are involved in the expectation that we have and others place on ourselves. We need to have a strong internal to overcome the obstacles of circumstance and opportunity ( Dr Robinson 2009, p 136)

In fact, there are some people who always say they are not lucky, because success is never on their way. They never try something new even if they have been doing activity they always have thoughts in their mind.

How come they can move on if they do not realize it is them that have to take the first step of action. There is a saying in French " who risks nothing, will have nothing" and another saying " what you sow is what you reap". When we apply those sayings in our life we quickly understand that we cannot limit ourselves, so we were born to be creative and imaginable, with those potentials we can contribute to the development of the world.

Describing ourselves as lucky or unlucky suggest that we are simply the beneficiaries or the victims of chance circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

According to Dr Robinson lucky people are good at creating noticing and acting upon opportunities and they trust their tuition. In the other hand, the unlucky people are those who don't want to risk at things and believe in miracles, they expect to be

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<sup>3</sup> Dr Ken Robinson (2009) The element

overwhelmed by ill fortune. ( Dr Robinson 2009).however, to be lucky or not it not what we need in life, what is important is to find our element and have a dream.

Some dreams truly are impossible dreams , however many are not. Knowing the difference is often one of the first step to finding your element because if you can see the chances of making a dream come true , you can also likely see the necessary next steps you need to take toward archiving your dream. ( Dr Robinson2009, 194)

Again Dr Robinson put emphasis on another aspect of the element which is dream. Most of the time there are some people who live without having a dream, some of them even think if they dropped school, there is nothing that can do in life. When you find your element does it means we have to go back to school? It is not necessary to go back to school to find your element, or it is not also in school that we need to find our element. It can be found anywhere.

Once we found our element we need to group with people who have the same idea with us, it is also crucial to find a mentor, someone who can be your example, who will teach about what to do get to reach our goal.

A mentor is there to help us and motivate us with natural advice, and find new and existing way of doing thing, the mentor is to raise up our self esteem, our purpose and sense of imagination and reactivity.

Even if we are realistic to go back to school or begin a new career in, but it is never too late to take on a new hobby with a great passion and interest. W cannot have enough time to go school every day, because the traditional programs require that we need to present on the campus every day. Most of them did not pay attention to our professional life, and they did not care about what we do in our job life can be a plus in our curriculum.

Dr Robinson said that " so educators continue to focus on curriculum and assessment without looking at how we teach, what we teach. More than 70 % of school district have cut back or eliminated art programs because simultaneously standardize teaching has become a booming industry we are more and more teaching to the test rather than

taking the time to allow our students to become aware of their strengths and passion." This example shows that school's programs are made for the industry need and when the students are good in math, they most have to drop school. So today there suppose to be a new approach of education, where we have to pay attention the talent of the students.

Dr Robinson propose that the school system create a personalize dynamics curriculum that is fluid among disciplines rather than subject oriented in isolation. The main thing is encourage kids to fallow anything that have enthusiasm for.

Today school are worldwide open because of the internet through the new methods of communication all, there is no limit on the education. Someone in Haiti can be student in Honolulu, everywhere in the world.

The Atlantic International University has been practicing a method of curriculum designed, it is the students who has the responsible of the student build his curriculum in which we pay attention to our personal experience. With the online program it is possible for someone wherever you are in the world we have the same access. The curriculum designed with apply by AIU and which propose by Dr Robinson in his book the element is one of the best solution to invaded the educational system in the world. For the high school and the elementary school we need to change the way we do them by orientation to the kids through what they are gifted to do, instead of subject orienting them. When they are not able to do what we taught them we are ready to send them to special school. Throughout the book of Dr Robinson we have seen many example of people who have found their element and became great in the society without not being good at math, biology, chemistry. So today we take the example of these people to share them with students in different schools, colleges and universities so that we can motivate and to let them know that if we are not good at math, it doesn't mean we are going to fail in life.

Finally, the curriculum designed one of the best method that can be well equipped the adult who wants to go back to school or who left the school a long time ago. We highly

recommended schools , colleges and universities to use the methods of curriculum designed in their instructions.

## **Conclusion**

Dr Robinson has studied and research one aspect of motivation which is the element. He made interview with many people to write the book the element. In the book we have learned that there were people who were not good at math when they were in school. Just because they found their element and become great and very famous in the world. The imagination and the creativity, are basis of the element because when we find

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www.google scholar.com

AIU students resources, video conference of the book Dr Ken Robinson

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