



In The “Old Days”

In the “old days”, a young man (or woman, but usually a man in those days) would find a job. A nice, comfortable job. An entry-level job. Perhaps on the ground floor of a huge building. The young man would go to work every day for many years. Along the way, he would move up the corporate ladder. He would get a secretary and a nice office on a higher floor. He would put in his time and eventually, 50 years later, he would retire. By then, he might even be the boss!

Today...

Today the pace is faster and the stakes are higher. Young people don't always start at the bottom. And they don't always have to work their way up. There are more young managers, directors, chief executives and entrepreneurs in the business world than ever before. Their progress and mobility is often extremely rapid and their earnings, far higher than in the past!

Also, gone are the days when people worked for one company their whole lives. The trend today is for people to learn as many facets of their industry as possible. This is called multi-skilling and it's the secret of career success in the new world of work.

Why The Change?

The globalisation and intensification of business require new skills. As a result, the power brokers (influential people) on the new global stage have to cram more challenges and changes into each day than their grandparents experienced in decades. They have to be innovative, flexible and able to cope with new technology and fierce competition. Often, they have to be self-starters too – capable of initiating, establishing and sustaining their own successful businesses.

In South Africa, 30-year olds now earn more than any other generation of 30-year olds has ever earned!

In addition to emerging trends in employment, emerging trends in education make it possible for today's businesspeople to cope. A major catchphrase is lifelong learning - the ability to access information, develop knowledge and enhance new skills on an ongoing basis.

This is important because the world is changing at an ever-accelerating pace and life, society and business are growing ever more complex.

The more skills and experience you have, the better equipped you'll be to make your mark on your chosen industry (and, let's be honest, make money!).

People who are not afraid of change and who, like chameleons, can adapt themselves to fit new and scary environments, will thrive in today's business world. So don't resist change. Welcome it. Seek harmony with it. Use your energy and vitality to take you where you want to go!

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