

**"Unveiling the Essence of Humanity:  
The Inherent Capacity for Continuous Improvement"**

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## **"Unveiling the Essence of Humanity: The Inherent Capacity for Continuous Improvement"**

One of the many challenging questions many scholars struggle with is a what being human means. Let's look at what makes us different from other beings, from a diverse perspective.

The thesis of the paper is “the innate nature of human beings to improve themselves is what makes them human.” This research paper draws from various resources and articles to attempt to prove that the thing that makes human being unique is their nature and ability to improve. Like thousands of living beings, humans have had access to the same resources on earth, but what has separated humans from other animals is their ability to improve the way they perform tasks. Since the dawn of mankind, there has always been a steady progression in human society in terms of technology, innovation, art, and culture. And this progression is to never stop. This is how human species has thrived.

Oxford dictionary defines human beings as “a man, woman, or child of the species *Homo sapiens*, distinguished from other animals by superior mental development, power of articulate speech, and upright stance”. *Homo sapiens* some will argue are the most curious species, and thus the reason why no other living being have come no where near close to the accomplishments made by humans. Even before all the technology, as they were just evolving into modern humans, they were mentally growing on a constant basis. They learned their environment and harnessed resources from it, they discovered fire and used it to perform various tasks, they made tools, and traveled all over the planet. It is safe to say that, although a lot of animals share some characteristics with humans, they don't have the same mental capacity to process.

Research in genealogy suggests that humans genetic make up is actually not very different from other living beings. Human share 98% to 99% of their DNA with chimpanzee, and a surprising 26% with banana. The element that separates humans has been a culmination of traits that they have developed over evolutionary period . The story of human evolution began about 7 million years ago, when the lineages that lead to Homo sapiens and chimpanzees separated. Create their own culture.

If we look back at annals of human evolution we will find that humans have found ingenious ways to fulfill their needs whether it is building a shelter to protect them from the extremities or building weapons for hunting and self defense. A research article by Institute for Human Evolution and School of Geography, Archaeology, and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg suggests that early humans from middle stone age were skilled people, as they had learned and discovered a technique that allowed them to make stronger adhesive for their weapons. The article “Implications for complex cognition from the hafting of tools with compound adhesives in the Middle” makes a noteworthy mention that hunters' lives depended on reliable weapons. Thus, their dependency on reliable weapon would have been a powerful incentive in the past to create trustworthy adhesives for composite weapons. We learned that "compound adhesives combining plant gum and ochre have properties different from those of simple adhesives using only plant gum, and they would have had different uses”. So order for them to be the most effective and they must have realized that improving their weapons was the way to go.

The ability to achieve what they imagine as long as it does not defy the rules of physics and nature is what makes human beings different from any other living being. That means the

ability to generate insightful information, analyze complex problems, come up with solutions and utilize their environment are all abilities that are innate in humans. Time and time again there have been instances where humans have come up with ingenious ways to improve various aspect of their lives. It's always a matter of time that humans discover solutions, and create tools to execute difficult tasks that may seem impossible in the beginning. When author Jules Verne published his fictional novel titled "From earth to moon", it was viewed from a point of fantasy rather than a practical possibility. The mere challenge now is normalcy and space missions now are not only possible but are regularly commissioned activities.

Space Technology is another sector, where there has been tremendous improvements. In its less than 100 years of discovery. In the last decade there has been tremendous amount of space launches. In fact, according to a report by Satellite Today (2021), there were more space launches than any year in history since Sputnik, including record breaking 31 space missions by SpaceX alone. The space sector has seen amazing inventions in the recent years and opening a world of possibility to future generations. The world came to an awe and surprise then they witnessed Space X Falcon 9 reusable rocket booster return to earth and land vertically in 2016. News article written by Kenneth Chang (2017, The New York Times) reports that this improvement in space technology has saved billions in production. And now, the commercial space flight has become a thing of reality which has peaked the interest of many individuals.

Use of technology and science has made it possible for humans to create mechanisms that aid to continuously improve the way they perform daily tasks. Over the centuries of history there have been a significant improvement in various sectors of human civilization. From the time humans wake up to the time we go to bed we are surrounded with inventions and technologies

that are a product of the discoveries in the past. As suggested in Richard Dawkin's (1976) "Selfish Gene", humans are genetically designed to behave and perform action that benefit each individual, although they show signs of altruism when a group involvement also benefits them individually. We can witness this phenomenon in many aspect of human culture. The sharing of knowledge of science and advancements have promoted the growth of human civilization as a whole. Scientists of today's generation are able to easily use formulas and scientific principles that took decades if not centuries for their predecessors to prove the conclusions. It is this human nature that has promoted the growth of human society in large.

Every facet of human existence undergoes continuous evolution. Regularly upgrading personal devices is a common occurrence in human culture. Mobile phones have evolved since its first ever release in 1983. In todays era, a person is able to perform banking, commerce, and many more activities in the palm of one hand. It has greatly benefited human civilization (information, education, digital art) thus been a must have for every person. Achievements in science and engineering have made companies like "Apple", the tech giant, very popular. Their release of new phone models are well received by people all over the globe. According to a study done by Strategy Analytics (2010), "almost half—45% to be precise—of all American iPhone users aged 18-24 buy a new iPhone "in less than 2 years", while some 13% even opt for annual or more frequent upgrades."

George Basalla's (1988) work on the evolution of technology explores how technological advancements have unfolded over time. He delves into the idea that technological innovations often build upon earlier developments, creating a cumulative process. Basalla, in his book, "The

evolution of technology” highlights the role of culture and human preferences in shaping technological progress, emphasizing the dynamic and iterative nature of technological evolution.

In retrospect, it is common today to receive constant updates on mobile apps, version upgrades on video games, and updates to the infotainment system in one's vehicle. Every tool that humans have incorporated into their culture undergoes curation and improvement. Technological advancement and human evolution go hand in hand; one is not possible without the other. This illustrates people's attachment to technology. Individuals have grown accustomed to this small yet powerful computer capable of solving various tasks and making their workflow more efficient.

In conclusion, looking at the resources mentioned in this paper, there seems to be a clear correlation between human evolution and the improvement in their technological sector. Current technology affects every human in one way or another as they are used to build and appear in various facets of human society. From time and time again, there have been various inventions and discoveries that have helped shape the way of human culture and society, over and over again. The thing that separates humans from any other living being, is the result of humans' need to improve and their search for growth and advancement. Humans have built tools, infrastructures, complex languages and technologies to unveil the possibilities that are available to them. Resources suggest that homo-sapiens are good at adapting to their environment and learning ways to use it to their advantage. This is a trait that can be seen throughout the history of humankind. They have evolved their way away from sticks and stones to modern technology such as advanced space flight systems, and that is only possible because of their innate need to improve themselves.

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