

# STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE



A look over the main educational news and tendencies of the international landscape



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Source: Strategic intelligence  
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# 1. Continuing education programs



Generally, education ends early in life, which is a disadvantage for labor market productivity. Training for adults is vital to ensure that those already in the workforce and their employers can face the challenges generated by the fourth industrial revolution. Providing flexible learning or helping employees acquire new skills will be a key method of mitigating unemployment and unequal access to resources.



## ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

### Powering a learning society during an age of disruption

28th of May 2021

Written by policymakers, practitioners, and researchers, the book's 21 chapters emphasize that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic provides an opportunity to build education systems that are stronger and more equitable. The book discusses closing the digital gap, improving learning assessment, financing technological innovations, providing students with access to hardware, and ensuring teachers and students know how to maximize the technology. It also calls for dedicated resources to promote lifelong learning and for communities to have a greater role in promoting learning.



## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

### Reimagining education

26th of April 2021

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, 188 countries closed their schools, affecting 1.54 billion students. These disruptions provide the opportunity to restore the skills that should be prioritized in the primary and secondary education and beyond. From global citizenship to digital skills, What policies, practices and associations are needed so that employability skills that are ready for the future rank higher on the educational agenda? Speakers: Andrew Jack, Angela Duckworth, John Goodwin, Igor Tulchinsky.

## 2. Quality basic education



More than 263 million young people around the world do not go to school. Basic education should provide a stronger foundation to learn new skills in the future. Unequal access to education leads to a unequal access to opportunities and can permanently hinder the students' potential to learn new skills in the future. Technological innovation could be a good way to tackle this problem.



### VOXEU

**Low-performing boys are particularly affected by family environment**

22nd of June 2021

Modest gender gaps emerge in primary school, with girls tending to perform better than boys in reading tests, for example, and less likely to experience disciplinary incidents that result in suspension. This column uses data from the US state of Florida to examine why these modest gaps translate into large gender differences in later educational attainment, such as completing secondary education and enrolling in and graduating from tertiary education. It finds that early childhood family environment has differential effects on boys, and particularly those at the lower tails of the academic test score and attendance distributions



### FRONTIERS

**School professional needs to support student mental health during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

18th of June 2021

School closures due to COVID-19 left students in Michigan without physical access to school mental health professionals (SMHPs) and other supports typically available in schools. This report examines the needs of SMHPs across Michigan during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic and how those needs informed programming and resources provided by a University of Michigan school mental health training and implementation program. In April 2020, a web-based survey asking about student and SMHP mental health was sent to 263 SMHPs who had previously participated in this program. 155 SMHPs (58.9%) responded. Nearly half of SMHPs reported their students' most pressing needs were support for self-care, anxiety, depression, and traumatic stress. Some SMHPs also met screening criteria themselves for depression and/or anxiety.

# 3. 21st Century Skills



Learning courses are updated very infrequently and usually they are not adapted to the fourth industrial revolution. The 2016 report "The Future of Jobs" published by the World Economic Forum pointed out that the basic competences of the 21st century, such as complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and digital literacy are important to allow people to be flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs of the labor market.



## LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

**"Minimum expectations" are no way to value arts, humanities and social sciences**

7th of June 2021

The UK government recently announced its intention to reduce funding for 'low value' degrees in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Drawing on her research into the history of higher education policy, Zoe Hope Bulaitis argues that current government demands for courses to demonstrate value fail on their own limited terms and that like previous debates around minimum expectations reflect questions of resource allocation, rather than value.



## UNESCO

**Realising the potential of Think Tanks - Conference, WorldPressFreedomDay 2021**

7th of June 2021

This session will explore the possible roles think tanks can play in addressing the dramatic growth in harmful digital speech. The discussion will include how think tanks could bridge the divide between theory and practice, and in expanding perspectives on the potential roles of law, intermediaries and governments in reaching solutions.



## CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

**English, Education and Employment: Connecting the dots**

28th of May 2021

Post liberalization, we've often come across the statement that "English is the language of the elite" However, with each passing day I feel this notion changing in ways that are not easy to comprehend. We come from a nation that has more than 19,500 mother languages but somehow every student who learns a vernacular language, be it from a multistoried private school or a small government school across the street has the dream of studying abroad and becoming a global citizen for which English becomes a necessity. Perhaps, this dream might sound unrealistic at first for those coming from low-income backgrounds, but these aspirations are supported by parents who wish to impart quality education to their child.

## 4. Pertinent Post-Secondary Education



There is a disconnect between the skills needed for a job and the training that is given. Without the proper modifications to the education and training, this gap between supply and demand is expected to increase considerably. To deal with this, it will be very important to go back to align global talent sources with market needs. However, closing this gap will be increasingly difficult, as the requirements of skills change rapidly, especially in fields like information and communication technology (ICT).



### FRONTIERS

#### Age specific life skills education in school: A systematic review

22nd of June 2021

Strengthening life skills is a popular approach for prevention and health promotion in schools. It aims to empower students to deal effectively with the demands of everyday life by improving self-regulation, making informed decisions, and building supportive social relationships. By addressing various health-related topics such as friendship, sexuality, violence, or substance use. Life skills education has the potential not only to teach students how to act responsively regarding their health and well-being, but also to build a comprehensive understanding of the biological, psychological, and social factors influencing their individual development.



### REACH INITIATIVE

#### Overview of gaps in education service delivery in Yemen and the drives of poor educational outcomes

1st of June 2021

In July 2020, the Yemen Education Cluster (YEC) conducted a Secondary Data Review (SDR) as part of the YEC's participation in the Joint Education Needs Assessment (JENA) Coaching Program. This factsheet summarizes the main findings of the SDR, the key gaps in the education service delivery in Yemen, and the multi-sectoral drivers of poor educational outcomes for Yemen's children, such as food insecurity, economy, displacement, etc. Moreover, the maps visualizing education indicators represent the gap (if present), the target that was not reached or that was sometimes overreached compared to the target set by the education cluster.



### BROOKINGS

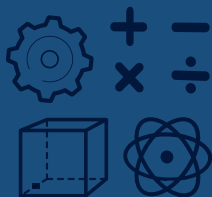
#### How local leaders can use American Rescue plan funds to support playful learning in cities

1st of June 2021

To address these disparities, leaders need to look beyond traditional solutions such as tutoring or after-school programs and fully reimagine how we can create learning ecosystems both within and outside of formal educational settings—preparing all children to thrive in school, in work, and in citizenship.



## 5. Digital fluency and STEM skills



Science, technology, engineering, and math skills are at the core of the fourth industrial revolution. Therefore, young people must develop digital fluency and STEM skills from a young age if they want to be prepared to thrive in the workplace and in modern society.



### PUBLIC POLICY FORUM CANADA

**Supporting entrepreneurship and SMES. A post-pandemic skills and training agenda**

17th of June 2021

The impact of COVID-19 on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has been significant and severe. SMEs are the backbone of Canada's economy, yet few have the resources to deal with the skills and labour shortages they face – shortages that the pandemic has only made worse. By combining preliminary data from an ongoing survey of SMEs, associated focus group discussions, and existing research, this report highlights opportunities to better support SMEs in the pandemic recovery and after. This includes a specific focus on embracing diversity and inclusion as a key way of addressing their skills needs.



### HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL WORKING KNOWLEDGE

**Are employers ready for a flood of a "new" talent seeking work?**

1st of June 2021

Uncertainty about the future is always on the minds of leaders. Concern about change defines their primary role. It's up to others to manage, set and meet goals, etc. Recent polls have shown that many leaders are most uncertain about inflation and the possible return of a pandemic.

## 6. Educational Innovation



Before the pandemic, initiatives were being generated to create educational materials and content in a more technological and intuitive way. Different technology companies like Amplify and Knewton have been digitizing textbooks and creating content based on gamified learning, and others like Coursera, edX and Khan Academy have revolutionized education through massive open online courses (MOOCs). However, many challenges remain at the primary and secondary levels of school, as put by in evidence the pandemic, when more than half of the population in 71 countries did not have access to the internet for remote learning purposes. Also, more innovation is required

in the schools curricula, balancing hard skills like reading, writing, and math with soft skills like problem solving and creativity. Therefore, it is profitable to expand the investigation of pedagogy, to make use of data and tests that allow the best performance with all types of groups of students, even those that are difficult to access.



### WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

**Organizations can get reskilling right. This McKinsey survey shows how**

28th of May 2021

As jobs are transformed by the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we need to reskill more than 1 billion people by 2030. A recent McKinsey survey highlights the benefits of reskilling to organizations, but lays bare the difficulties in getting the design and implementation of skill transformations right. A holistic approach to reskilling is critical – where efforts are iterative, multi-layered and embedded into everyday work practices.