

DYNAMIC REPORT OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE



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



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Source: Strategic intelligence
World Economic Forum





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

Education is in Crisis: How Can Technology be Part of the Solution?

23rd of July 2021

A learning crisis affects many developing countries in Asia. Millions of children attend school but are not learning enough. They cannot read, write, or do mathematics at their grade level, and yet they pass to the next grade, learning even less because they have not grasped the previous material. The magnitude of the crisis is staggering: in low- and middle-income countries more than half of children are not learning to read by age 10. At the same time, there is an emerging revolution in learning brought on by digital technologies.



WIRED

Access to birth control lets more girls finish high school

8th of July 2021

A new study finds that making contraceptives and reproductive care accessible through a state-funded program in Colorado reduced the dropout rate for young women. After seven years of the program's implementation, Colorado state's birth rate fell 54 percent for women ages 15 to 19, and the abortion rate fell 63 percent among the same age group.

**SCIENCE DAILY****New report aims to improve VR use in healthcare education**

6th of July 2021

Professor David Peebles, Director of the University's Centre for Cognition and Neuroscience, and Huddersfield PhD graduate Matthew Pears contributed to the report -- 'Immersive technologies in healthcare training and education: Three principles for progress' -- recently published by the University of Leeds with input from range of academics, technologists and health professionals. The report argues for greater standardisation of how to use immersive technologies in healthcare training and education. As Professor Peebles explains, "It's about developing a set of principles and guidelines for the use of immersive technology in medical treatment. Immersive technology is becoming increasingly popular and, as the technology is advancing, it's becoming clear that there is great potential to make training more accessible and effective.

**VOXDEV****Improving school outcomes with better data sharing:
Evidence from Chile**

30th of June 2021

Grade retention and early dropout are two of the greatest challenges facing education systems in middle-income countries. In Latin America, only 52% of students graduate from high school on time, and only 66% of individuals aged 20–25 who have completed primary school graduate from secondary school (Busso et al.) Researchers have identified absenteeism, failing grades, and classroom misbehaviour in middle school and in earlier grades as strong predictors of grade retention and the probability of dropout (Balfanz et al. 2007, Manacorda 2012, Wedonoja 2017). While schools around the world routinely record these early warning outcomes, families often do not have timely access to this information.

**EPFL****The secret to acquiring professional skills**

18th of June 2021

While it is important for students to work in groups during their studies, that is not enough for them to acquire many of the transversal skills needed in the professional world. A recent EPFL study highlights the need for engineering courses to explicitly address professional skills through a combination of theory and feedback. When it comes to soft skills like project planning, communicating and risk assessing, there is often a gap between the employer's expectation and what engineering graduates bring to the table. Engineering schools could do more to prepare their graduates for the job market by incorporating these skills into their curricula.



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.



CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)

A renewed EU approach for jobs and skills
20th of July 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the European labour markets and led to an acceleration in digitalisation and the adoption of new technology on a larger scale. In addition to this, if the European Green Deal becomes a successful growth strategy, it will set in motion a profound industrial transformation towards a greener economy. Such a transformation will affect the labour force in many ways: job creation and destruction, the need for up- and re-skilling and (spatial and sectoral) relocation of dismissed workers, and the potential deterioration of the quality of newly created jobs. This report, prepared in the context of the CEPS Industrial Policy Task Force, proposes a comprehensive and coherent policy framework to bring a social dimension to the new industrial strategy for Europe. To this end, it presents 10 recommendations focusing on skills and job quality. Such policy actions can contribute to making the industrial transition to a green and digital economy more socially acceptable, and enhancing its potential in terms of competitiveness.



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

An alternative approach to measuring community engagement in higher education
12th of July 2021

Universities across the globe are increasingly being called on to contribute to their surrounding communities and regions, especially so as they are mobilised in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reflecting on these emerging demands within Europe, Thomas Farnell, presents the TEFCE project and its role in the development of a European framework for community engagement in higher education, based on a qualitative and participatory approach, rather than one driven by metrics. Outlining the aims of the framework and what makes it different to previous approaches, he argues why the time might be right for such a project to embed itself in a European context.



NATURE

COVID Needs and Schools: the evidence for reopening safely
7th of July 2021

A growing body of evidence suggests that schools can be opened safely. But that hasn't quelled debate over whether they should be open and, if so, what steps should be taken to limit the spread of the virus. After a school term filled with anxiety and vitriol, researchers assess the spread of coronavirus and the prospects for a return to normal



HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW

Dear CEOs: The Gen Z's open letter to his future employers
29th of July 2021

For the class of 2021, our last year of college — supposedly the best time of our lives — was spent following restrictive regulations in response to the pandemic. After grinding through a virtual recruiting season, a lucky few have a handful of offers from which to choose.



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.



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Asian universities are on the rise. This is what it means for the rest of the world
8th of July 2021

Asia has increased its representation in the Times Higher Education's World University Rankings from just over a quarter of all ranked universities in 2016 to almost a third today. Recent data also shows that the world's most dynamic and exciting younger universities are heavily concentrated in East Asia. As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, the world's most pressing grand challenges will only be addressed through a collaborative, open and diversified global higher education system. The data does not lie: in successive editions of the annual Times Higher Education World University Rankings, Western nations have been losing ground while the East rises.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

In Pakistan, direct cash payments to families are key to helping more girls stay in schools
25th of June 2021

Conditional cash transfer programs, in coordination with strategic policies, can improve the educational opportunities of millions of children in Pakistan, especially girls. Poverty is the strongest constraint to reaching universal primary education in Pakistan. Children belonging to economically better-off families have higher school enrolment rates and lower dropout rates than their poorer counterparts.

**CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT****There's No Such Thing as a "Low"-Skill Worker**

23rd of June 2021

High-income countries depend on immigration to help foster strong societies and economies. Yet when deciding who is allowed to enter, most use a simple dichotomy based on educational attainment: "high" and "low" skilled. In this blog, based on a new policy brief by Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP) and discussions at a recent LaMP-CGD co-hosted event, we outline why this dichotomy is wrong, and how high-income countries can build mutually beneficial migration pathways at all skill levels.

**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.



4. Pertinent Post-Secondary Formation

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).



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Women who argue in front of the US Supreme Court win just as often as men – but it's harder for them to get there.

16th of July 2021

Over the past 70 years, lawyers have argued cases before the US Supreme Court more than 10,000 times, but just under seven percent of these appearances have been by women. In new research, Jonathan S. Hack and Clinton M. Jenkins find that while over time, women have been no less likely to win a Supreme Court case than men, women have had to be, on average, more qualified and experienced compared to their male counterparts in order to be able to appear there in the first place.



BROOKINGS

Why are states banning critical race theory?

2nd of July 2021

Fox News has mentioned “critical race theory” 1,300 times in less than four months. Why? Because critical race theory (CRT) has become a new bogeyman for people unwilling to acknowledge The United States' racist history and how it impacts the present.

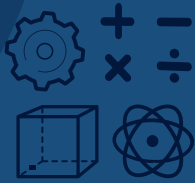


WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

To be successful, you have to first build your 'squad'

29th of June 2021

Squads, Richard Branson said, are “the missing link... between a promising business person and a successful business person”. Four decades of scientific study have confirmed the benefits of squads. They help you look beyond the blockers that hide the many options available. A key component of individual success is not individual at all - it is the support from your "squad," your very own personal committee that helps you achieve your own goals. In the words of Mark Twain: “Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you can be great.”



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.



CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Introducing the Global Skill Partnership Portal

15th of July 2021

Too many migration pathways are extractive; taking the best and brightest talent from low-income countries and moving them to high-income countries. This can exacerbate worker shortages and lead to concerns about “brain drain.” The portal provides detailed and practical information for countries seeking to use migration to help businesses find workers, help people find jobs, and help economies grow.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

In Asia, education is key to maintaining an edge in innovation

7th of July 2021

Compared to Latin America and other regions, Asia scores high on innovation. The reasons are complex but education is fundamental to the process.

For decades, Asia grew much faster than any other part of the world while many Latin America economies struggled. While Latin America was far richer than Asia in 1960, Asia’s sustained rapid growth has greatly reduced the income gap. Innovation is a key ingredient of economic growth and development, and more innovative economies experience faster productivity growth. As an anecdotal example, Asia is home to well-known innovative tech giants such as Alibaba, Samsung Electronics, and Infosys. Such globally known tech companies are much less common in Latin America.



VOXDEV

Closing the gender profit gap through savings and training: Evidence from Mozambique

2nd of July 2021

The ILO estimates that 78% of the world’s poor living in low-income countries are self-employed (ILO 2017). Yet female-led microenterprises often struggle with low levels of growth and rates of survival. Indeed, a salient fact about self-employment is the persistence of a substantial business performance gap between male and female microentrepreneurs (Nix et al. 2015, Morgan and Kagy 2018). Female-led businesses often report less than half of business profits, even when they operate in similar sectors as their male counterparts (Morgan and Kagy 2018).



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.



THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTIONS - CENTER FOR UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

How can education be the antidote to a world prone to fracture along environmental, social, and economic fault lines?

07 de julio de 2021

Since 1960, the world's population has more than doubled. Average life expectancy increased by 50 percent and income per person tripled. The share of people living in extreme poverty declined from 54 percent to 10 percent (data are available through 2018, pre-pandemic). Technology revolutionized how we communicate, how we travel, and even what we eat. This progress didn't result from miracle—it was through investment in education, research, and development. It came because most governments dedicated themselves to the idea—framed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—that “everyone has a right to education.” So, even as the world's population grew quickly, so did educational attainment, and people's capacity to produce, build institutions, invent, and adapt.



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Students of color in the Caribbean share the same plight as counterparts in white dominated countries.

25th of June 2021

In countries such as the UK and the US, Black and Brown people continue to be underserved by education systems and are more likely to leave school early without adequate qualifications for higher education or well-paid employment. This phenomenon is often linked to the White dominated environment in which they live. S. Joel Warrican draws a parallel between the plight of minority groups in these larger countries and in the Caribbean. He suggests that though they are in the majority in the Caribbean, Black and Brown people are still affected by the legacy of the region's White colonial past, where deeply entrenched education structures are maintained, even in the face of evidence of their harmful effects on today's landscape.