

Strategic intelligence for the educational sector



The educational field is no stranger to the challenges and the demands produced by the technological advances and the accelerated changes that occur in the current context. For this reason, it is relevant to transform education to promote adaptability and the learning of new skills that are necessary for the contemporary world.

In this sense, the collective intelligence of the network of experts and leaders of the World Economic Forum together with more than 60 of the main universities, multilateral organizations and think tanks in the world, developed a **Strategic Intelligence tool** that allows to discover the most meaningful factors that are impacting the world and monitor these strategic issues within more than 250 thematic categories. Through interactive **transformation maps**, this tool helps track interdependencies between themes and makes sense of the complex and interconnected forces that are impacting each sector, enabling a more informed and contextualized decision-making.

The main key issues in Education identified through the Strategic Intelligence tool of the World Economic Forum, are grouped into 6 categories:

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 meet the challenges created by the fourth industrial revolution. Providing flexible learning or helping employees to acquire new skills will be a key method of mitigating unemployment and unequal access to resources.

2. Educational innovation

Technological innovation is transforming the way of educating. Technology has been proposed as a solution to solve problems related to the inequality in the access to education, for example, by changing the way educational materials are generated, how educational content is distributed, the way students engage with the materials the processes used to evaluate the results of education.

3. Digital Fluency and STEM Skills

Science, technology, engineering and math skills are at the heart of the fourth industrial revolution. Therefore, young people need to 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.

Sources:

1. World Economic Forum

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4. Pertinent post-secondary education

There is a disconnect between the skills needed for a job and the training provided. Without the correct modifications to the education and training systems, this gap between supply and demand is expected to widen considerably. To address this, it will be very important to realign global talent sources with the needs of the market. However, closing this gap will become increasingly difficult since skills requirements change rapidly, especially in fields such as information and communication technology (ICT).

5. 21st century skills

Training courses are not updated very frequently and generally are not adapted to the fourth industrial revolution. The World Economic Forum's 2016, "Future of Jobs" report noted that 21st century core skills such as complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and digital literacy are important in allowing people to be flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs of the labor market.

6. Quality basic education

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

Additionally, through the SAPIENCIA Strategic Intelligence System, we have identified other key factors relevant to the post-secondary ecosystem of Medellín, such as university dropout, research and innovation, internationalization and interculturality, the effect of the pandemic, among others.

Understanding and monitoring the relevant factors that influence the educational sector in the world allows us to maintain a global vision of the emerging dynamics of the Ecosystem, which gives us a glimpse of the challenges that must be assumed within the framework of the **Transformation of Education**.



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