

Source: Strategic intelligence World Economic Forum



# EDUCATION IN THE WORLD

Dynamic report of  
strategic intelligence

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

With the purpose of contributing to the strengthening of post-secondary education in the City, Sapiencia carries out a tracking of the initiatives and the processes related to education in different international scenarios, through the Strategic Intelligence (SI) tool of the World Economic Forum. This brings the possibility to learn and identify projection opportunities for the educational processes of the city.

Some findings of the examination are shown below.

## 1 CORE SOFT SKILLS

Soft skills are related to the implementation of a combination of social and communication skills, aptitudes and the ability to approach others, such as: creativity, flexibility, problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork. These skills begin to develop from basic education and are strengthened and refined in secondary and post-secondary education, as well as in adult life in the workplace. They are important not only to achieve greater adaptability in future jobs, but also to improve people's quality of life.

*included, within its offer of the Arroba Medellín digital citadel, different courses focused on contributing to the well-being of individuals inside and outside work scenarios, also has included tools to improve the different skills of people, as well as fundamentals for entrepreneurship.*

*Some international news story that are related to the training of soft skills are shown below:*

*Taking into account the importance of strengthening soft skills, Sapiencia has*



**Sport improves concentration and quality of life** A Study with primary school pupils confirms positive impact of physical fitness

Science Daily  
6th of April 2022

Movement on a regular basis keeps kids healthy and fit for school. The benefits of sports have been demonstrated in numerous studies. Now a research team at the TU Munich has found proof of the correlation between physical fitness, concentration and health-related quality of life for primary school pupils. The study involved 3285 girls and 3248 boys from Bavaria's Berchtesgadener Land district. The key criteria were physical strength and endurance,

the ability to concentrate and health-related quality of life, as determined by the scientists according to internationally standardized test procedures.



**Emotional Intelligence Scale for International Students: A Proposal for a Developed Version**

Frontiers  
11th of April 2022

Emotional Intelligence is, broadly, the ability to perceive, use, understand, manage, and handle emotions. In higher education, making international students aware of their EI could improve emotional awareness, adaptability, and functioning, thereby assisting in day-to-day interactions and adapting to life in a foreign country.

## 2 QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION

Basic education is the educational level that lays the foundations for the learning process of girls and boys, however, although progress has been made in accessibility, new challenges have arisen with the appearance of the pandemic, which has made difficult, as stated in objective number four of the SDGs (Objectives of the Sustainable Development) to guarantee an inclusive, equitable and quality education, that promotes learning opportunities throughout life for everybody.

*however, within its forgivable loan programs it offers a program aimed at partially financing master's and doctorate studies of teachers and teaching directors of preschool, basic and secondary education in the district of Medellín to study in Higher Education Institutions of the nation.*

*Due to its nature, Sapiencia does not focus directly on projects related to improving the quality of basic education,*

*Some current international news related to quality basic education are shown below.*



**Community schools in Utah's Salt Lake City region thrive on place-based partnerships and family engagement**

Brookings  
3rd of April 2022

Community schools emerged in the Greater Salt Lake City region of Utah in the mid-2000s beginning with the Salt Lake School District. Today, there are approximately 30 community schools throughout the Greater Salt Lake City region. These types of schools are financed by public resources and serve both as an educational institution and as a center of community life. Therefore, they emphasize that the community can act as partner in the learning process of boys and girls, and benefit positively from it. Thus, the United Way of Salt Lake convenes a group of community, commercial, civic, educational, governmental and philanthropic sponsors, and it reinforces the participation between families and schools, which has been beneficial for the performance of the students.



**How to end the global learning crisis**

Unicef  
30th of April 2022

Millions of children lacked basic reading and math skills even before the pandemic, yet the scale of the problem is much larger today. From the United Nations Children's Fund, better known as Unicef, a call is made to governments to act now, on four fronts: 1) Get every boy and girl to return to school, 2) evaluate each child to measure their level of learning, 3) helping children make up for lost time with learning recovery programs such as classes and accelerated learning, and 4) ensuring they are safe, secure, and healthy so they are ready to learn. The future of millions of boys and girls around the world hangs in the balance, we need to recover lost learning.



**Is the push for foundational numeracy and literacy in India pro-poor?**

London School of Economics  
30th of April 2022

The National Education Policy (NEP) in 2020 prioritizes the attainment of foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) for all children in India as an "urgent national mission". Subsequent guidelines for the same were laid out in India's Ministry of Education's NIPUN Bharat program in 2021. While to many, this might seem to be an objectively 'good' reform, its framing and operationalization entail several issues that need scrutiny. FLN is broadly conceptualized as a child's ability to read 'basic' texts and solve 'basic' math problems (such as addition and subtraction). Despite the rhetoric of "FLN for all", the push for attaining these basic skills is almost exclusively directed at children from rural and marginalized communities who have historically received substandard education.

However, this approach may replicate the rote learning model, for fear of having "bad results" in the standardized test, thus the learning process is directed towards the mere mastery of the evaluation, and although every good education system guarantees numeracy and literacy, it should not make them its only objective or main purpose, thus the PNE reinforces that it is the boys and girls of elite and high-cost private schools, who can focus on rich and holistic content with a focus on higher order skills such as critical thinking and creative



problem solving, while marginalized boys and girls in low-cost public or private schools, who by their results lack “fundamental skills”, are forced to first master this knowledge before any other skill.

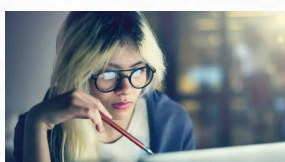
### 3 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Due to the constant changes that the productive sector is going through, it is necessary to provide training that allows the updating of knowledge, skills, attitudes, rules and concepts for people of all ages, which implies continuing education inside and outside traditional schools.

*Sapiencia runs a disruptive continuing education program, through the launch of two university citadels, one physical and one virtual, the first of which is the*

*Citadel of the Fourth Revolution and the Transformation of Learning (C4TA), where training is given to the population of the city in different programs and levels as specialists in various technological processes. The focus of the second citadel @Medellín is virtual education, where online programs of Post-secondary Education, Education for work and Specialized Talent are also offered.*

*Below there are some international news related to continuous training programs:*



#### Four reasons you should consider adult education, even if you're at the start of your career

The Conversation  
13th of April 2022

Adult education has often been associated with evening classes for older people, nevertheless, there is huge value in learning at all stages of life, including for those in their twenties and thirties – for work, self development, health, happiness and participation in wider community life.

Colleges and universities provide opportunities that include short courses, evening classes, fully online distance-programmes and work-based learning. Adults can study for pleasure, to gain a professional development certificate, or to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate degree, or even a PhD. Researches such as that compiled in the book “Lifelong Learning: Concepts and Context” has shown the positive impact of lifelong learning. Its transformative effects include the development of critical and reflective skills, fostering a better understanding of one's place in the world, relationships with others, and developing a sense of well-being, security, and satisfaction.

### 4 PERTINENT POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The need to modify the curricula has been expressed by some representatives of the business sector and the graduates, since there is a gap between the knowledge acquired in the educational processes and the skills required in the business world, as a result of the different technological changes that occur in the world. For this reason, it becomes necessary to have joint effort between the actors of the educational society to reduce this gap and the risks that derive from it.

*In 2020, Sapiencia modified its mission purpose through Decree 019, which has made possible to lead the formulation and the implementation of programs, plans and projects for the consolidation of Post-Secondary Education. In this way, the public policy for post-secondary*

*education (PPEP for the Spanish acronym) is being built, which consists of establishing a system that integrates Secondary Education, Higher Education, Training for Work, and Specialized Continuing Education, through a modular and sequential training model associated with the National Qualification System and its components, to achieve the highest degree of training according to the needs, interests and potentialities of the people, the productive sector and society in general.*

*An international news regarding pertinent post-secondary education is shown below:*



#### Why education must take a quantum leap

World Economic Forum  
11th of April 2022

Quantum computing could have benefits across industries including pharmaceuticals, renewable energy development, finance and manufacturing. To fully embrace this technology, however, we need to focus on quantum education and workforce development. Quantum computing is maturing rapidly and we are on the verge of a revolution that will allow these computers to perform faster and more accurate calculations than classical computers, accelerating the discovery of new materials, from new drugs to solar panels and polymers. Once this technology reaches this threshold, will the world be ready for these machines? Will companies know how a quantum computer could help them? Will computer science graduates be able to create a quantum algorithm? Will there be infrastructure to support hundreds, or even thousands, of these new machines?

### 5 STEM EDUCATION

STEM education consisting of those areas of knowledge related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, currently is presenting a high demand in the world of work, leading to plan how can students be equipped to acquire these skills that are necessary and transversal to all areas of knowledge. This digital fluency builds on basic digital literacy, adding the ability to apply critical thinking and ethical considerations when using or developing digital technologies and/or data processing.

*Sapiencia, through the Talento Especializado program offers a series of free and modular courses focused on these areas, which allows the acquisition of skills for the so-called industry 4.0,*

*which includes software development, programming languages, automation and intelligent manufacturing, among others, that allow a greater articulation with the technology industry. Likewise, a dissemination and awareness strategy is carried out to promote women's access to post-secondary education programs related to the software valley.*

*An international news article about the actual landscape of STEM education is listed below:*



#### “Now I’m Not Afraid”: The Influence of Identity-Focused STEM Professional Organizations on the Persistence of Sexual and Gender Minority Undergraduates in STEM

Frontiers  
25th of April 2022

In comparison to work on women and historically excluded racial/ethnic minority students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), research on sexual and gender minority (SGM) students in STEM is somewhat incipient. There is little scholarship available on SGM-focused STEM organizations. Building on the previous literature, the authors examine how SGM-focused STEM organizations provide social capital, both expressive (e.g., emotional support) and instrumental (e.g., academic resources), that helps students feel they fit in STEM and ultimately persist.

### 6 EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

Educational processes have been undergoing changes, which were accelerated after the pandemic and the mandatory use of virtual education, making it necessary to think about education in the short, medium and long term. Educational technologies are emerging around the world, and this represents great opportunities to improve access to education, but also poses challenges in terms of its application and evaluation. In this way, research in pedagogy is relevant, which can demonstrate the performance of the different technologies: their applicability and monitoring for all students, even those with specific needs.

*From the Observatorio de Sapiencia, information search strategies are carried out that allow identifying the main technological initiatives that are carried out at an international level, in order to communicate and transfer knowledge that is useful to experts and/or decision makers, such is the case of the dynamic reports and the issues notes.*

*Below there's a summary of some international news about educational innovation*



#### Book Review: Subversive Pedagogies: Radical Possibility in the Academy edited by Kate Schick and Claire Timperley

London School of Economics  
1st of April 2022

The book opens with a call to action. It is an invitation to collectively carve out ‘generative and fulfilling spaces’ for learning – offering ‘alternatives to the narrow and exhausting scripts that structure our teaching’. The collected volume acknowledges that COVID-19 laid bare the kinds of challenges the academy has been facing for multiple decades. The eleven chapters help readers to orient themselves in their own efforts to radically address ‘what we teach, how we teach,

where we teach, and who we teach'. Positioning teaching as a subversive act towards transformation, the contributors draw attention to the kinds of pedagogies that are situated, embodied, caring and decidedly political.

Experts affirm that these pedagogies are subversive because they move away from the neoliberal idea of individualism and productivity, questioning the dominant educational frameworks and the structures of academic power.



**5 Ways to Make the Most of Philippine Education Investments**

Asian Development Bank  
6th of April 2022

Families and policymakers alike want to know how to best invest in education and maximize positive outcomes.

To support this effort, the Asian Development Bank partnered in 2017 with the Philippine Department of Education to conduct the Youth Education Investment and Labor Market Outcomes Survey (YEILMOS). The survey examined the factors that influence youth choices and investments in education. Thus, the experts propose the following: 1) improve the quality of career guidance programs, 2) make parents the center of career guidance and start the process early, 3) universities and colleges can provide better information on admission standards, course offerings, and expected labor market outcomes, 4) technological innovations can improve the impact of career guidance programs, and finally, 5) suggest focusing on more high-quality jobs, this implies that investments in education must be complemented by investments in job creation.

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