



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.

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



Athlete students lead a healthier life than their non-athlete peers: A cross-sectional study of health behaviors, depression, and perceived health status among university students

Frontiers
4th of August 2022

Some studies show that athlete students are more likely to engage in health-risk behaviors with negative health consequences, while others suggest that they lead a healthier life than their non-athlete peers. Given these inconsistent results, this study aims to compare health behaviors, depression, and perceived health status between athlete and non-athlete students, and explore the associations between health behaviors and health outcomes.



When Students Acquire Spatial Skills, Their Verbal Abilities Get a Boost

Scientific American
11th of August 2022

Conventional testing can underestimate a student's learning ability. Sociocultural barriers, test anxiety and differences in rates of brain development can skew results. In principle, neuroscience tools that allow observation of brain activity might better characterize learning gains. But neuroscience and education have not always formed fruitful partnerships.

New researches that more profitably pairs the two fields suggests that when students use spatial skills in the classroom, the benefits extend beyond spatial understanding to other kinds of thinking, such as mentally deciphering a problem using words

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.

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

An international news article related to quality basic education is shown below.



The multidimensionality of school choice: Evidence from Trinidad and Tobago

VoxDev
8th of August 2022

Student performance on standardised tests is typically the main measure of school quality. Important decisions (such as school closures, the design of teacher performance pay schemes, and school accountability procedures) often rely on test score metrics. This begs the question whether the schools that improve long-term outcomes are the same schools that causally improve academic test scores. Otherwise, basing policy decisions on the impacts of test scores (which is common) may not actually improve long-term outcomes that policymakers and parents can see and value.

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.

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.

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

Below there is an international news article related to continuous training programs:



How Can We Help The Youth Reimagine Their Future?

Observer Research Foundation
12th of August 2022

Young people face a complex set of challenges post-pandemic: Years of lost schooling, a future in peril from climate change, and increasingly dangerous social networks. Even so, young people across the emerging world are more powerful than ever – coordinating and coalescing around issues and fashioning creative solutions. Video speakers discuss questions on how to create a meaningful space in formal political debate for young people? What kind of investments are needed today to support young people's ambitions? How can international institutions, such as the G20 and the Commonwealth, support young people in all geographical areas and create opportunities and exchanges?, among other interesting questions and reflections are proposed in the dialogue space shown in the video.

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.

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.

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

Some international news regarding pertinent post-secondary education are shown below:





Inclusive by Design: Accelerating Digital Transformation for the Global Goals

PNUD
26th of July 2022

Digital transformation must be intentionally inclusive if it is to contribute to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. This policy brief explores the concept of inclusive digital transformation and what it involves in practice. The brief emphasizes the importance of approaching digital transformation in an inclusive whole-of-society way and outlines its illustrative benefits for countries and societies. The brief also provides some inspiration for how countries can accelerate inclusive digital transformation and mitigate its potential harms, through case studies and ten emerging good practices.



Mexico: new research shows the historic link between opening schools and falling murder rates

The Conversation
28th of July 2022

In Mexico an average of 94 people were murdered every day in 2021, an increase of 76% since 2015, demonstrating a rapid rise in killings across the country. Understandably, researchers and government officials are urgently looking for ways to bring down this number down. The authors of this article compiled available and comparable data from national censuses for the period 1950-2005, where they observed a potential positive correlation between the reduction in homicide rates that Mexico experienced between 1940-2005, and the increase in years of schooling that the country keeps and the opening of schools.



The end of Roe creates new challenges in higher education

Brookings
8th of August 2022

The recent Dobbs decision by the Supreme Court, which overturned half a century of abortion rights, will affect wide areas of society, and higher education will be no exception. The impacts on higher education will fall into (at least) five areas: reduced college enrollment, particularly for Black women; disruption of training in medical schools; changes in on-campus student health services; reductions in out-of-state enrollment in anti-abortion states; and shifts in faculty location decisions away from anti-abortion states. For some of these problems, existing research provides useful guidance for likely short-term outcomes. Other results will take time to develop and will depend on how anti-abortion restrictions and enforcement evolve in individual states, however, informed guesswork will always be possible.



A-levels: A grades are up compared to pre-pandemic results

The Conversation
18 de agosto de 2022

For the first time since 2019, A-level results are being decided by formal exams. Students were warned that grades were likely to be lower than in 2020 and 2021, when cancelled exams and teacher assessments in A-levels led to record high results. Nevertheless, the proportion of students receiving A grades is up from pre-pandemic levels in 2019. This year, 44% of 18-year-olds have been applying, this includes record numbers of students from areas of the country with historically low participation in higher education. These figures show that many young people believe that higher education can make a difference in their future opportunities.

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:



Giga: Empowering communities in Asia and the Pacific through school connectivity

ITU Hub
12th of August 2022

The GIGA project addresses the underlying inequities in access to the Internet in schools. This new study examines the feasibility of countries in the Asia and the Pacific region participating successfully in the Giga initiative and realizing their potential by exploring implementation through the four pillars of Giga (Map, Finance, Connect, and Empower).

The study emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach for mapping school connectivity that engages a wide range of stakeholders, and that encourages leveraging existing government

policies to deliver greater connectivity, including effectively utilizing USOs and USFs to connect schools

¹ It is a long-standing consumer protection that ensures that everyone has access to landlines and public phones, regardless of where they live or work.

² It is a system of telecommunications subsidies and tariffs administered by the United States Federal Communications Commission intended to promote universal access to telecommunications services in the United States.

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 Sapiencia Observatory, 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:



Fighting the global education crisis with data: What we're doing to turn the tide

Unicef
2nd of August 2022

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the education systems were stopped, threatening an entire generation of schoolchildren with learning loss that could last a lifetime. To address this crisis in education for all, countries would need to know which children were in school and which were not; which infants were learning and which were falling behind their peers. The challenge for countries is to pave the way towards more resilient education systems that can withstand future pandemics, recognizing differences around which children can access remote learning and which are out of reach? That's where the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys-Analysis of Education for Global Learning and Equity (MICS-EAGLE) initiative comes into play. Through MICS-EAGLE, countries have access to data in an easy-to-understand format on

topics such as critical learning skills, inclusive education for children with disabilities, and children who are not in school. Decision makers can take advantage of this data to create evidence-based policies that can change the lives of children.



**Creating Conditions for Teachers' Use
of High-Quality Instructional Materials**

RAND Corporation
3rd of August 2022

In this webinar, RAND researchers and state Department of Education officials in Delaware and Mississippi discuss the work that states and districts are doing to encourage and support the use of high-quality materials. RAND researchers shared findings on the adoption, use, and support of high-quality materials across the United States. For their part, state representatives reflected on their curricular reform efforts and highlighted individual school districts that are serving as models for these efforts for the benefit of educational processes.

LA EDUCACIÓN EN EL MUNDO

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