

Skilling & Life Long Working Dynamic Briefing

Generated 11 May 2022 for Sabine Hauswirth



Skilling & Life Long Working

Last review on Wed 11 May 2022

About

This dynamic briefing draws on the collective intelligence of the Forum network to explore the key trends, interconnections and interdependencies between industry, regional and global issues. In the briefing, you will find a visual representation of this topic (Transformation Map – interactive version available online via intelligence.weforum.org), an overview and the key trends affecting it, along with summaries and links to the latest research and analysis on each of the trends. Briefings for countries also include the relevant data from the Forum’s benchmarking indices. The content is continuously updated with the latest thinking of leaders and experts from across the Forum network, and with insights from Forum meetings, projects communities and activities.



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Executive summary

Wohlstand hängt sehr eng mit der Bildung der Menschen in einer Volkswirtschaft zusammen. Skilling & Life Long Working werden zunehmend als reales Szenario, auf das wir uns positiv einstellen sollten.

1. Longevity and Education

Governments anticipating longer life spans should invest in continuing education opportunities for adults.

2. Healthcare and Long Lives

The pandemic-related growth of telemedicine could expand access to health span-improving services, particularly for the elderly.

3. Financial Security and Ageing

As income disparity and uncertainty increase in many places, more people face difficulties in terms of retirement.

4. Education Innovation

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be able to deliver instruction in new and more compelling ways.

5. Core Soft Skills

Soft skills should have a more prominent place in instruction, in order to increase adaptability.

6. Arts in Education

Arts education can develop crucial skills and values, and foster creativity.

7. Relevant Continuing Education

Technical and vocational training is often unjustly neglected by education systems.

8. Lifelong Learning Pathways

Education typically ends at an early stage of life, to the detriment of workers and employers.

Longevity and Education

Governments anticipating longer life spans should invest in continuing education opportunities for adults

Around the world, the people who are able to complete more years of schooling tend to live healthier and longer lives, regardless of their country's level of development. Schooling develops basic cognitive functions like reading, writing, and communicating, and can help people think logically, critically analyse data, solve problems, and put planning into practice. Higher education is often the key to stable and well-paid jobs, which in turn help pay for nutritious food, better-quality housing, and high-quality medical care. In addition, education can promote healthy lifestyles; highly-educated people tend to use their knowledge and skills to access information that helps them avoid health-related risks and adopt behaviour such as quitting smoking, reducing alcohol intake, and getting physical exercise. In addition, education can provide socio-psychological resources that aid health and extend longevity. Investing in education systems improves health at the population level and education rates generally, and literacy rates have been increasing worldwide. One reason for this is the better nutrition and disease prevention that prolong lives, while also lowering student absences and raising enrolment rates and completion levels - though rates of schooling vary tremendously by region.

For example, people in North America, Japan, South Korea, Israel, Australia, New Zealand and most of western Europe and Scandinavia generally complete about 13 years of schooling. Meanwhile people in most of Central and parts of South America complete about seven years of schooling, and people in sub-Saharan Africa complete about four years. These early education gaps translate to troubling gaps during adulthood. The OECD survey of adult skills found that countries where people have relatively more years of schooling also have higher general rates of numeracy and literacy, and more prevalent problem-solving skills among adults (and correspondingly higher wages). Fortunately, life-long learning is now more accessible than ever. Online and hybrid models abound, with millions of students having been enrolled in online classes even before the advent of COVID-19. These help re-skill workers as job markets change; research indicates that training for older learners enhances their self-efficacy, strengthens cognitive and emotional capacities, and has immediate relevance. Since schooling around the world tends to be largely financed with public resources, governments anticipating greater longevity should be cognizant of the importance of continuing education in helping people live longer, healthier lives.

Related insight areas: [Public Finance and Social Protection](#), [Youth Perspectives, Values, Arts and Culture](#), [COVID-19](#), [Digital Communications](#), [Taxes](#), [Entrepreneurship](#), [Education](#), [Skills and Learning](#), [The Digital Transformation of Business](#), [Innovation](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [The Digital Economy](#), [Internet Governance](#)



VoxEU

Pension systems matter for wealth accumulation and distribution

05 May 2022

Retirement saving is at the centre of the debate on rising income and wealth inequality. This column studies the role of the pension system in wealth accumulation and distribution in Denmark. The authors find that a pension reform in the late 1980s increased the savings rate and aggregate pension assets significantly by introducing mandated funded pensions. Moreover, it has had an equalising effect on the wealth distribution. The findings illustrate the importance of pension system design for the level and distribution of wealth.



RAND Corporation

Pathways to Retirement Among Dual Earning Couples

21 April 2022

This paper examines the transition from full-time work to fully retired among dual earning couples, which we call joint retirement trajectories. We analyze 12 waves of the Health and Retirement Study to map out the distribution of potential pathways that couples undertake when retiring.



Asian Development Bank

Is the Global Productivity Slump Here to Stay?

08 April 2022

The world economy has slowed down visibly since the global financial crisis of 2007-2008. Indeed, global growth has consistently underperformed market expectations in the post-crisis period. Tellingly, the International Monetary Fund titled the latest April 2016 edition version of its World Economic Outlook Too slow for too long . The failure of the world economy to get out of first gear naturally brings up the issue of productivity growth. After all, productivity growth is the only sustainable source of economic growth in the long run.



Pew Research Center

More than half of Americans in their 40s are ‘sandwiched’ between an aging parent and their own children

08 April 2022

(Justin Paget via Getty Images) As people are living longer and many young adults are struggling to gain financial independence , about a quarter of U.S. adults (23%) are now part of the so-called “sandwich generation,” according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in October 2021. These are adults who have a parent age 65 or older and are either raising at least one child younger than 18 or providing financial support to an adult child. Americans in their 40s are the most likely to be sandwiched between their children and an aging parent. More than half in this age group (54%) have a living parent age 65 or older and are either raising a child younger than 18 or have an adult child they helped financially in the past year.

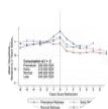


Asian Development Bank

Asian Development Review: Volume 39, Number 1

30 March 2022

This issue focuses on demographic change and human capital. It explores types of insurance for older people and considers economic security, education, and health. Among other topics covered are fuel subsidies and insulin prices.



VoxEU

The hidden costs of incentivising later retirement

22 March 2022

This column uncovers significant redistributive costs of pension reforms that incentivise later retirement, especially when it comes to incentivising later retirement at very early and late retirement ages.



Next City

People With Dementia Can Work on Farms in Holland

21 March 2022

Four days a week, Kees Oranje’s 81-year-old mother Paula gets up and goes off to work on a farm in the neighboring village of Brielle, just west of Rotterdam. Depending on the day, Paula might feed the chickens, assist with chores, or help prepare hot lunches. The farm raises pigs for meat, and grows pumpkins, beans, kale and more in a large vegetable garden. In many ways, Boerderij Op Aarde — “Farm On Earth” — resembles a typical Dutch working farm, but with one key difference: Paula and most of her fellow farm workers have dementia. Boerderij Op Aarde is one of hundreds of Dutch “care farms” operated by people facing an array of illnesses or challenges, either physical or mental.

Healthcare and Long Lives

The pandemic-related growth of telemedicine could expand access to health span-improving services, particularly for the elderly

While the nature and quality of healthcare systems varies widely around the world, access to high-quality, affordable healthcare is a universal must for ensuring longer and healthier lives. While average life span has long been considered a viable measure of the health of a nation, more recently attention has turned to the measurement and promotion of health “span” - or, the duration of one’s time on Earth that can be considered active and healthy. While average lifespans have increased in part due to improvements in the treatment of acute diseases, this has meanwhile led to an increase in chronic diseases where age and lifestyle choices are risk factors that play out over decades. Focusing on health span may therefore offer a fuller picture of national health, and it could well be a better metric than lifespan for determining the relative merit of potential national healthcare investments. In addition, the measurement of health span can help healthcare providers opt for the right intervention at the right moment, imbuing healthcare services with maximum benefit at different points during a patient’s lifetime.

Health span measurement may also provide important new insights into healthcare disparities, because socioeconomic factors have long played critical roles in health-related outcomes. Currently, multiple measures exist for assessing health span; each has its own limitations, however, and further research into their respective effectiveness is needed. One related trend accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic has been an increase in telemedicine infrastructure and use. This involves providing healthcare remotely, whether through video visits, telephone calls, websites, or even smart devices equipped to measure biometrics. The ultimate impact of this transition to more remote delivery of healthcare remains to be seen, though prior research indicates that telemedicine can be beneficial, cost effective, and the source of high levels of patient satisfaction. While it will not completely replace in-person doctor visits, advances in telemedicine coupled with a buildout of global access to high-speed internet connectivity hold the promise of delivering high quality service in ways that reduce healthcare inequality. This could be especially valuable for older people, who often find that mobility and transportation issues negatively impact their ability to access healthcare.

Related insight areas: [5G](#), [Global Health](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Inequality](#), [Gender Inequality](#), [Agile Governance](#), [Systemic Racism](#), [COVID-19](#), [Digital Communications](#), [Public Finance and Social Protection](#), [Health and Healthcare](#), [Insurance](#)



Society for Women's Health Research
The Fertility Journey: Understanding Options and Navigating Care

06 May 2022

Infertility is increasingly common in the United States, but navigating fertility treatment can still be complex for many couples, with significant emotional, physical, and financial stressors. The Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) hosted a virtual public forum to share educational information about fertility options for women and feature women who will highlight ways they navigated infertility and their maternal health care journey. This public forum is part of SWHR's Fertility Program. It builds on SWHR's Fertility Roundtable held in September 2021 includes reference to the Clinician Resource Guide to Fertility Health Care and the Women's Resource Guide to Fertility Health Care, both released in February 2022. #fertility #infertility #SWHRtalksFertility #womenshealth #womenshealthresearch.



Kaiser Health News
Downsized City Sees Its Health Care Downsized as Hospital Awaits Demolition

02 May 2022

HAMMOND, Ind. — In 1898, three nuns took a train to this city along the south shore of Lake Michigan to start a hospital. They converted an old farmhouse into a seven-bed medical center.



Harvard Business School Working Knowledge
As Disney Board Chair, What Would You Advise CEO Bob Chapek Regarding 'Don't Say Gay'?

04 April 2022

(Unsplash/Brian McGowan) Early in 2022, Bob Chapek, CEO of The Walt Disney Company—one of Florida's largest employers with roughly 80,000 employees—and taxpayers, had reason to be satisfied with the company's performance, having just logged one of the most successful quarters in the company's history. Its stock, suffering the typical ups and downs of entertainment companies during the pandemic, had recovered and was at about the same price as when Chapek took over from "legendary" CEO Bob Iger two years earlier. He was aware, however, of a potential problem on the horizon. On March 8, the Florida legislature, after several weeks of heated public controversy, passed and sent to Governor Ron DeSantis a Parental Rights in Education bill stating:



Raconteur
When will you retire? - Raconteur

30 March 2022

The state pension age is rising around the world as people live longer and birth rates decline. This means that the old model of starting work (or university) at 18 and retiring between the ages of 60 and 65 in becoming increasingly uncommon, as is that of women getting to retire before men.



London School of Economics and Political Science
LSE students announce fee strike

29 March 2022

Jack Calland and Marta Perich Pallaruelo tell us why 100+ ID students sent an open letter to the LSE Directorate announcing a fee strike in response to lost teaching time. On Friday, 18 March, postgraduate students from the Department of International Development (ID) sent an open letter to the LSE Directorate announcing a fee strike in response to lost teaching time resulting from failures to meet the demands of striking LSE University and College Union (UCU) staff. Over 100 students have so far signed the letter committing to withhold their next fee instalment due on 28 April, or demanding a refund for those who have already paid. We decided to organise this action after more strike action was confirmed for this week, the final week of Summer Term, meaning yet another round of teaching being lost.



World Economic Forum
We desperately need to disrupt our approach to retirement saving

21 March 2022

Today's retirement and pension plans were not designed for the current reality of people living longer, healthier lives. The traditional three stage life of school, work and retirement no longer functions in an age of unprecedented longevity and shifts in work and health outcomes. Many people will want to work past mandatory retirement age because they will live for another 20-30 years, while others will need to work longer to remain financially resilient in later life. As societies continue to age, with many women living longer than men, new ways to deal with the retirement savings gap will have to be created to address gender and racial disparities, the changing needs of older workers, as well as the growing number of gig workers.

Financial Security and Ageing

As income disparity and uncertainty increase in many places, more people face difficulties in terms of retirement

Financial security is strongly connected to levels of health, happiness, and longevity. But as much of the world experiences unnerving increases in income disparity and uncertainty, many people face serious financial issues particularly as they near retirement - if they are indeed able to retire at all. According to studies published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and other sources, a significant portion of adults are concerned about their financial situation and worry about financial problems. The institutional pillars that support financial security include social protection systems, social security programs, pensions (both defined benefit and defined contribution), and personal savings. In most of the developed world, there is a mismatch between people's expectations for the age at which they want to retire, and the amount of money needed to fund that retirement. Every related institutional pillar is being challenged by ageing demographics and changing practices, while risks and burdens are divided differently depending on country; in those with relatively generous defined benefit programs and early retirement ages, it is the government that bears most of the risk, while in places like the US it is individuals.

Amid these growing concerns, and increasing individual responsibility for preparing for retirement, financial literacy has become an even more important skillset. Financial literacy education should start early, and should be offered throughout active work years - including instruction on health and wellness, managing medical issues and costs, and developing realistic expectations regarding the role people must play in financing their increasingly long lives. Pension and savings programs need to be as simple and understandable as possible; information should be easily accessible and transparent. Programs and policies should meanwhile encourage the use of "nudges" and "defaults" - proven methods of increasing savings behaviour - and should be portable in the sense that they can easily follow people as they transfer to new employment. Governments must ensure that social security programs are solvent, sustainable, and dependable. The advent of longer lives has added additional "longevity risk" to retirement planning, now that healthy people retiring at 65 can expect to live at least another 20 years, and many live to 100. As Stanford economist John Shoven has noted, "It's difficult to fund a 30-year retirement from a 40-year career."

Related insight areas: [Public Finance and Social Protection](#), [Behavioural Sciences](#), [Human Rights](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Peace and Resilience](#), [Risk and Resilience](#), [Values](#), [Inequality](#), [Institutional Investors](#), [Banking and Capital Markets](#), [Financial and Monetary Systems](#), [Taxes](#)



Frontiers

Green Space, Air Pollution, Weather, and Cognitive Function in Middle and Old Age in China

02 May 2022

Prior research has shown that environmental hazards, such as limited green space, air pollution, and harmful weather, have the strong adverse impact on older adults' cognitive function; however, most of the studies were conducted in developed countries and limited to cross-sectional analyses. China has the largest aging population in the world so the research evidence from it can offer an insight to the study in other developing countries facing similar issues and inform future public health policy and disease control.



Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Climate change, ageing societies and the sustainability promise

30 March 2022

Will 2050 mark a turning point in human history when the human population has reached its peak and innovation has allowed us to put fossil fuels and mining in the past? Technology optimists make the case that high-performance products can be made by recycling scrap metal. Will the drive towards climate neutrality ensure prosperity for all, including developing countries? Will our decarbonisation and carbon neutrality objectives be a catalyst for this transformation or are they a pre-condition for it?.



RAND Corporation

Improving Care for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Across the Lifespan

28 April 2022

This report presents findings from a study designed to identify the long-term outcomes of traumatic brain injury for veterans, the future needs of this population, effective treatments, and the availability of community-based resources.

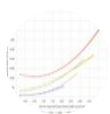


Max Planck Society

Unravelling the mystery of parrot longevity

30 March 2022

Parrots are famous for their remarkable cognitive abilities and exceptionally long lifespans. Now, a study led by Max Planck researchers has shown that one of these traits has likely been caused by the other.



VoxEU

Health, income, and the Preston curve

23 April 2022

GDP per capita is a commonly used, but imperfect, proxy for human wellbeing. This column analyses the relationship between life expectancy at birth and per capita income over the past 150 years. It shows that life expectancy and per capita income growth behaved differently in terms of trends and distribution over the period. The relationship was particularly weak during the period 1914 to 1950. Separately, medical improvements and the diffusion of medical knowledge have been crucial drivers of life expectancy improvements across the world.



Frontiers

Association Between Living Risk and Healthy Life Years Lost Due to Multimorbidity: Observations From the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study

17 March 2022

Background Multimorbidity has an effect on life expectancy, while its effect on healthy life years is unclear. This study aims to investigate the associations between healthy life years lost due to multimorbidity and living risk. Methods The participants of The China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) were assessed at four visits between 2011 (baseline) and 2018. At baseline, 13,949 individuals were administered surveys. A combined score based on seven health-related factors was calculated, and the participants were classified into 3 groups based on living risk. We used the adjusted Cox regression methods to examine the associations between living risk groups and multimorbidity. We estimated the healthy life years lost due to multimorbidity using the Sullivan method.



RAND Corporation

Strategies to Improve Long-Term Outcomes for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

22 April 2022

This brief describes findings from a study on the long-term outcomes of traumatic brain injury for veterans, the future needs of this population, effective treatments, and the availability of community-based resources.

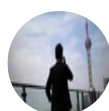
Education Innovation

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be able to deliver instruction in new and more compelling ways

Even prior to the pandemic, technological innovation was changing the ways educational materials are generated, educational content is distributed, material is engaged with by learners, and educational outcomes are evaluated. Technology companies such as Amplify and Knewton have been digitizing textbooks and creating content based on gamified learning, while others such as Coursera, edX, and Khan Academy have sought to revolutionize education delivery through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). However, some education systems, especially at the primary and secondary level, have been relatively slow to incorporate even the most basic, widely available learning technologies - and unequal access to technology has hindered online education efforts during COVID-19. While technology has long been viewed as a potential means to address issues related to unequal access to education - particularly in rural or hard-to-reach communities and among traditionally-marginalized groups - the pandemic highlighted the need for more related infrastructure. As of mid-2020, a few months after the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, less than half the population in 71 countries had access to the internet for the purposes of remote learning, according to UNICEF.

In addition to the delivery of education, more innovation is also required in terms of school curricula. UNICEF has advocated for balancing hard skills such as reading, writing, and math with soft skills such as problem-solving and creativity; in addition, instruction should no longer necessarily take place through front-of-class teaching, according to recent research. Pedagogy is a field ripe for innovation, especially when it comes to personalized learning. However, research has also highlighted that new learning tools do not always enable engagement with hard-to-reach groups - and it is critical that the drive for related innovation is matched by the monitoring of its effectiveness. Funding should be strategically allocated to trials, and any successes can be scaled up in the future. Greater public-private collaboration aimed at expanding this opportunity could also be beneficial - since governments cannot necessarily directly influence every classroom, they should instead focus on setting the right conditions for future-proof curricula and more innovative formats. As the education sector is both highly sensitive to change and a central pillar in the economy, better data collection could help ensure effectiveness.

Related insight areas: [Innovation](#), [Entrepreneurship](#), [COVID-19](#), [Digital Communications](#), [Social Innovation](#), [Pandemic Preparedness and Response](#), [Virtual and Augmented Reality](#), [Future of Computing](#), [Inequality](#), [Science](#), [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#)



Cornell University

China's segregated school system hinders migrants

02 May 2022

Eli Friedman's new book reveals how cities in China have granted public goods to the privileged while condemning poor and working-class migrants to insecurity, constant mobility and degraded educational opportunities.



Frontiers

How deaf kids hear harmony through a cochlear implant?

01 March 2022

The first part shows if the children with CIs and the normal-hearing children prefer the same types of musical chords. The second part of the video is an experiment to show if CI users notice a musically expected ending.



UNICEF

Going back to school in Madagascar | UNICEF

06 April 2022

This is how 12-year-old Clarissa from Madagascar found her way back to the classroom amid COVID-19. .



International Labour Organization

UPSHIFT Uganda - how life skills are supporting youth

21 February 2022

"UPSHIFT", a social innovation and entrepreneurship programme of the ILO and UNICEF is being implemented by "Unleashed", a community organization for youth. In this video, watch trainers explaining the programme and how life skills are supporting youth to identify and solve their own issues.



United Nations

China: Empowering Scientists | Gender Equality Today - A Sustainable Tomorrow | United Nations

21 March 2022

Prof. Lu Zhi (China): Scientist at Peking University, Founder, Shanshui Conservation Centre Professor Lu started her panda research 40 years ago, despite the fact that everyone discouraged her, saying this was not a "job for a girl". She works on community-based conservation, helping communities see opportunities that lie in biodiversity and in the sustainable use of resources. She also believes that as a woman, she can connect better to local villagers to understand their needs. #WomensHistoryMonth.



Brookings

A whole new world: Education meets the metaverse

14 February 2022

As technology advances to bring us new immersive and imaginary worlds, how we educate children and prepare teachers must also advance to meet these new opportunities.



Frontiers

"Now We All Share the Same Knowledge Base"-Evaluating Professional Development Targeting Preschool Staff's Understanding of Autism and Inclusion Skills

16 March 2022

Using a mixed-methods intervention approach this study examined the impact and process of a professional development and whether it induces changes in attitudes and practices related to autism among preschool professionals. We assessed professionals' understanding of autism and their inclusion skills using questionnaires, audio-recorded seminars, and interviews pre- and post-intervention. Professionals, autistic children, and their parents participated. The results indicate that professional development improved attitudes and inclusive practices related to autism as experienced by professionals and parents but not as evident by autistic children.

Core Soft Skills

Soft skills should have a more prominent place in instruction, in order to increase adaptability

By 2025, some 85 million jobs may be lost to the emerging division of labour among humans, machines, and algorithms, according to a World Economic Forum report published in 2020, though 97 million more jobs may emerge that are better adapted to the new dynamic. Among to top 10 skills in terms of prominence by the year 2025, according to the report, are soft skills including creativity, leadership, and flexibility. While education can generally provide a basis for future re-skilling, self-actualization, and forming a civic identity, specific educational curricula cannot remain fixed as standard career paths continue to evolve and become less linear than ever before. While there is a wide-ranging consensus that no single skill set or area of expertise is likely to be able to sustain a long-term career in the future, the core soft skills of the 21st century - including not just creativity and flexibility but also complex problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration - will be crucial for enabling people to become better able to adapt to the changing needs of the job market.

These soft skills should be developed early, in basic education, and then later refined at colleges and universities - as well as, ideally, during lifelong learning as an adult. By providing a strong base of soft skills, an educational system can serve as a catalyst not only for an increased adaptability to future jobs, but also for a generally improved quality of life. However, shifting demand for skills across industries will require that curricula be updated and adapted on a regular basis - because they are naturally informed by the evolution of labour markets. Upgrades to curricula should also be built into systems incrementally, to avoid the excessive disruption and implementation time-lag associated with major, infrequent overhauls. One, single organisation cannot provide these soft skills alone, and certainly not for the duration of a person's life - therefore the creation of adequate learning systems requires at least a certain amount of input from both public and private institutions. In general, more emphasis should be placed on collating insights from government, businesses, and civil society organizations when designing curricula.

Related insight areas: [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), [Science, Innovation, Public Finance and Social Protection](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Social Innovation](#), [Corporate Governance](#), [Future of Computing](#), [Agile Governance](#)



Frontiers

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

25 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 (e.g., oSTEM). Building on the previous literature, we 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. We report findings from a large online survey with 477 SGM STEM undergraduates, 463 of whom participate in STEM organizations, which offers one of if not the largest study on the topic to date.



The Conversation

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

13 April 2022

Adult education has often been associated with evening classes for older people, such as the wonderful non-formal educational opportunities provided by organisations like the University of the Third Age. 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. Research has demonstrated the positive impact of lifelong learning.



Asian Development Bank

5 Ways to Make the Most of Philippine Education Investments

06 April 2022

In the Philippines, it is not unusual for families to pawn their last asset to support their child’s education. With education costs rising and the job market uncertain, returns to education are not necessarily viewed as being commensurate to education-related investments. Families and policy makers alike are looking to understand how to better invest in education and maximize positive outcomes. To support this effort, ADB partnered in 2017 with the Philippine Department of Education to conduct the Youth Education Investment and Labor Market Outcomes Survey (YEILMOS). The survey examined factors that influence the youth’s education choices and investments.



Afrobarometer

Majority of Kenyans say competency-based curriculum will improve quality of education, Afrobarometer survey shows

09 March 2022

A pan-African series of national public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, and society Une série panafricaine d'enquêtes nationales portant sur les attitudes publiques par rapport à la démocratie, la gouvernance, et la société Press releases > Majority of Kenyans say competency-based curriculum will improve quality of education, Afrobarometer survey shows Majority of Kenyans say competency-based curriculum will improve quality of education, Afrobarometer survey shows Two-thirds of Kenyans believe that the new competency-based curriculum or CBC system will improve education in the country at least “a little bit,” a new Afrobarometer survey shows.



The Brookings Institutions – Center for Universal Education

Making pre-K work: Lessons from the Tennessee study

28 February 2022

The recent evaluation of the Tennessee pre-K program by Kelley Durkin and colleagues found that by the end of sixth grade, children who attended the public statewide pre-K program in Tennessee actually did worse on academic and behavioral outcomes than those who had not attended pre-K. Other less rigorous, quasi-experimental longitudinal studies showed substantial gains....

Arts in Education

Arts education can develop crucial skills and values, and foster creativity

Providing a quality arts education can help students gain skills and attributes that are currently in high demand, such as problem solving, flexibility, persistence, and cooperation. The Arts Council of England published a review in 2014, *The Value of Arts and Culture to People and Society*, which noted that participation in the arts can reduce social exclusion and strengthen communities, as high school students who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer in their communities as those who do not, and are 20% more likely to vote as young adults. According to a report commissioned by the Wallace Foundation, *The Qualities of Quality*, a quality arts education can strengthen one's capacity to think creatively and to make connections - and one's ability to apply creative thinking can in turn positively impact society. Many benefits of arts education are not easily quantifiable through data sets, however. Funding for arts education around the world has suffered drastic cuts in recent years, and it is often only included as a supplement to other subjects. The so-called STEM to STEAM movement, founded by the Rhode Island School of Design, aims to expand traditional STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to include "A"rt and Design, in order to enhance innovation. A digital mapping tool that illustrates "STEAM" activity around the world, in order to help advocates of the movement connect, was published in 2014.

Adopting creative thinking in the commercial world can lead to positive results. A survey of CEOs published by the consultancy PwC in 2017 showed that 77% found it difficult to find the creativity and innovation skills they need; and, while STEM skills were seen as important, according to the survey, demand for them was outstripped by the desire for "soft" skills including creativity. The World Economic Forum's 2016 *Future of Jobs* report counted creativity as one of the top three skills workers would require by 2020, and a subsequent Forum report, *The Future of Jobs and Skills in the Middle East and North Africa: Preparing the Region for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, flagged a current deficiency of skills in the region including creativity and independent thinking. Creative risk-taking and experimentation can aid confidence; increasing students' capacity for creative thinking is essential to prepare them to take on careers that do not yet exist, and to tackle problems not yet identified.

This key issue was curated in partnership with Elizabeth Eder, Head of Education at the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, and Carol Wilson, Lunder Education Chair at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Related insight areas: [Economic Progress](#), [Civic Participation](#), [Social Innovation](#), [Education, Skills and Learning](#), [Innovation](#), [Entrepreneurship](#), [Workforce and Employment](#)



[Institute for Human Rights and Business](#)
On Twitter – Why Free Speech Is Too Important to be Left in the Hands of Elon Musk

26 April 2022

There is an old journalistic axiom, that if you are annoying the left and the right, you are doing something right. Twitter may have thought it was at that sweet spot, since the medium enrages those who want the platform to ban preachers of hate speech, as well as those who have suddenly discovered the virtues of free speech and complain loudly when standard-bearers – (most notably former US president Donald Trump) – are suspended from the medium. Liberals have been in a dilemma, trying to balance free speech with Twitter’s no-holds-barred conversations, where insults are frequent, personal attacks common, doxing to be expected, and misogyny , homophobia , and racist comments routinely go undetected, although the company is trying to combat hatred with policies against racism , personal attacks , and hateful conduct .



[Institute for Human Rights and Business](#)
Why Convert Twitter into a Public Trust – A Radical Idea

26 April 2022

Elon Musk has set Twitter on fire by proposing to buy-out existing shareholders of the popular social media platform and to take it private. To put it bluntly, placing a global public square (as Twitter fashions itself to be) in the hands of a mercurial billionaire risks undermining freedom of expression by placing too much power in the hands of an individual and further concentrating political power in Silicon Valley, which already has too much of it. Rather than simply protest, as millions of outraged users have done in recent days, it is time for those with an interest in protecting free speech and hundreds of millions of Twitter users to come together and convert the company into a public trust. This may well be an academic exercise since Musk appears to be nearing completion of the acquisition.



[Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)
Twitter Has a New Owner. Here’s What He Should Do.

25 April 2022

Elon Musk’s purchase of Twitter highlights the risks to human rights and personal safety when any single person has complete control over policies affecting almost 400 million users. And in this case, that person has repeatedly demonstrated that they do not understand the realities of platform policy at scale.



[Smithsonian Magazine](#)
This Small-Town Newspaper Is the Last of Its Kind

30 March 2022

A mechanical ruckus. Oiled metal clattering hard and loose. A room astounding in its clutter, alive with spinning gears, reciprocating arms, rattling chains. A single man at the controls, coaxing the steampunk contraption along. It’s publishing as an athletic act, all the more impressive for its medieval roots.

Relevant Continuing Education

Technical and vocational training is often unjustly neglected by education systems

Employers have long been warning of widening gaps between the skills in demand and those that workers actually have - while governments have touted a need to foster more technical talent if countries want to be globally competitive. One report published by Deloitte estimated that 2.4 million positions in the manufacturing sector alone could remain unfilled between 2018 and 2028, with a potential economic impact of \$2.5 trillion. Without adequate modifications to education and training systems, this gap will only worsen. Closing it promises to only become more complex, as skills requirements change at an accelerating pace - particularly in emerging technology fields. This calls for greater collaboration between the public and private sectors - in particular, more needs to be done to better balance the goals and desires of policy-makers, politicians, and educational institutions with those of entrepreneurs and investors. There is a need to better understand the linkages between these sometimes disparate interests, and ways they can be combined to serve people, the environment, and broader economies in healthier and more complementary ways.

In 2019, Germany introduced a national continuing-education strategy based on a more holistic culture that takes into account the interests of the government, industry, and trade unions - and employs algorithmic matching, financing, and the visualization of competencies. Accurate, timely career guidance can help successfully transition young people from their school years to employment, by ensuring that they understand their true options based on real labour market data and demand. Proactive career guidance can also help circumvent the gender stereotyping and socio-economic opportunity gaps that often hold young people back from choosing certain occupations. In general, technical and vocational training is underutilized - and often unjustly neglected by education systems as a second-best option. Such training and education can be a key driver of economic growth, by providing many of the skills required for jobs that will have genuine staying power in future labour markets. Technical qualifications may be best designed through collaboration between employers and industry groups, and particular attention should be paid to fostering their evolution based on sets of mutually agreed-upon standards.

Related insight areas: [Gender Inequality](#), [Innovation](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), [Sustainable Development](#), [Systemic Racism](#), [Migration](#), [Youth Perspectives](#), [Inequality](#), [Ageing and Longevity](#)



Nature

Women are under-represented in economics globally

14 April 2022

They occupy fewer top positions at leading economics institutions than men, and are more likely to leave the profession early. They occupy fewer top positions at leading economics institutions than men, and are more likely to leave the profession early.



Policy Center For The New South

Education-Skills-Mobility Nexus

13 April 2022



UNICEF

How to end the global learning crisis | UNICEF

30 March 2022

This is what governments must do to get children's education back on track amid COVID-19.



UNICEF

How to talk to your child about school anxiety

30 March 2022

Is your child having a hard time being back in the classroom after COVID-19 closures? Dr. Hina Talib shares tips on how to help them cope.



The Conversation

Higher education funding shake-up: what it means for students and universities

25 February 2022

The UK government has announced changes to university funding and student finance in England. It may not be welcomed either by future students or by universities. While the limit for fees is set to remain frozen at a top rate of £9,250 a year, changes to the system of loan repayments are coming in. Graduates will now have to start paying back their loans as soon as they start earning £25,000, rather than the current threshold of £27,295. The full term for repayment will be lengthened to 40 years, from the current 30 – meaning it will take an extra ten years before any outstanding loan is written off.



Frontiers

Learning Through Play at School – A Framework for Policy and Practice

17 February 2022

Learning through play has emerged as an important strategy to promote student engagement, inclusion, and holistic skills development beyond the preschool years. Policy makers, researchers and educators have promoted the notion that learning through play is developmentally appropriate—as it leverages school-age children's innate curiosity while easing the often difficult transition from preschool to school. However, there is a dearth of evidence and practical guidance on how learning through play can be employed effectively in the formal school context, and the conditions that support success. This paper addresses the disconnect between policy, research and practice by presenting a range of empirical studies across a number of well-known pedagogies.



TED

Adrian K. Haugabrook: 3 ways to lower the barriers to higher education | TED

16 February 2022

Less than seven percent of people worldwide have a bachelor's degree -- and for many, this is simply because the cost of university is too high, says higher education executive Adrian K. Haugabrook. In this barrier-breaking talk, he introduces an innovative approach to expanding access to higher education by driving down costs and rethinking three key things: time, place and how we learn.

Lifelong Learning Pathways

Education typically ends at an early stage of life, to the detriment of workers and employers

In Europe and the US, demand for physical and manual skills in repeatable tasks is expected to decline by 30% in the coming decade, according to McKinsey & Company, while demand for technological skills like coding is expected to increase by more than 50%. As career paths are increasingly altered by fundamental labour market disruptions, there is a growing need for lifelong learning - at all ages, both inside and outside of traditional schools, including after the completion of formal education. Adult training is vital; helping employees gain new skills will be a key way to alleviate unemployment, address unequal access to resources, and engage older people in the workforce. While nearly 84% of the world's talent under the age of 25 is being "optimized" through education, that figure falls to 45% for those over 25, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Human Capital Report. In order to better engage people over 25 in gaining new skills, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning has recommended the development of national qualifications frameworks, and providing lifelong learning through community centres.

Better integrating literacy and basic skills programs into national education agendas can lead to an improved quality of life. Many developing countries have made significant progress in terms of increasing investment in education for young people, though education systems around the world continue to emphasize the front-loading of learning at an early stage of life - leaving older generations with educational attainment only as an increasingly faint memory. Skills decline when they are not used, as noted in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Survey of Adult Skills; accurately mapping the typical skills lifecycle is key for estimating the points at which people will likely have a need to refresh their competencies - whether with the aim of simply changing careers, re-entering the workforce after caring for a family member, or following an extended illness. Ideally, education systems can thrive thanks to a fundamentally strong public sector. However, by working together with the private sector, governments and educators could potentially develop more necessary infrastructure for providing learning and training opportunities to workers at all stages of their careers.

Related insight areas: [Social Innovation](#), [Behavioural Sciences](#), [Economic Progress](#), [Gender Inequality](#), [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), [Workforce and Employment](#), [Ageing and Longevity](#), [Artificial Intelligence](#), [Innovation](#), [Infrastructure](#)



Frontiers on COVID19

How Can Web Lessons Be Taught to Reduce Screen Fatigue, Motivational, and Concentration Problems in Different Disciplines?

02 May 2022

When conducting web lessons after transitioning to online learning due to the coronavirus, lecturers can base their work on experiences gained during the emergency situation and instructions prepared by the teaching support staff. However, students' perception of engagement strategies, screen fatigue, difficulties motivating themselves and problems with concentrating on web lessons should be also taken into account. The goal of this research is to find out how students rate the importance of engagement strategies in web lessons and how the ratings differ between disciplines. Also, the study aims to investigate how concentration difficulties, students' motivational problems and screen fatigue are connected to student engagement strategies in web lessons.



IndiaSpend

Education And Empty Stomachs: The Struggle Of Davari Gosavis And Other Nomadic Tribes

06 April 2022

Despite the lack of basic amenities, Shinde got a PhD from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai. A monumental achievement--one that has cost Rs 4 lakh in loans, he said. Education would have been out of reach, but for a lucky break in his life. In 1994, his parents were in huge debt following their daughter's wedding, and decided to resume their occupational nomadism. On Shinde's insistence, his father agreed to send him to a government-aided Ashram school, run for tribal children in Kolhapur.



Asian Development Bank

Six Ways to Make Cities Healthier and Age-Friendly

30 March 2022

More than 65% of the world's population will be concentrated in cities by 2050. This along with rapid aging, smaller households, and fewer children forces us to prioritize healthy and age-friendly city planning and public space design. This a challenging prospect for the massive cities of Asia but a look at best practices around the world offers a path forward. The world's healthiest and most inclusive cities show that planning should be integrated with consultation and investment in the following six areas: Community .



The Economist

Malala: what Ukraine's invasion means for girls' education | The Economist

08 March 2022

This year's International Women's Day is marked by thousands fleeing war in Ukraine.



UNESCO

Open Educational Resources (OER) and innovation: Why OER?

23 February 2022

This video outlines the transformative and innovative power of OER in building inclusive knowledge societies and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.



ReliefWeb

Closing the Gap: From Work Rights to Decent Work for Syrian Refugees in KRI

14 February 2022

Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) are in need of decent work opportunities. While Iraqis and Syrians are struggling in the midst of a weakening economy, NRC's research highlights the barriers and work rights violations faced by Syrians. It also reveals unrealised potential for refugee-led enterprise and job creation, which if fostered, can help drive economic recovery in KRI. More than a quarter of a million Syrian refugees currently reside in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). They have been allowed residency and the de facto right to work by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and their shared identity as Kurds has contributed to a high degree of social and cultural integration.

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Acknowledgements

- Cover and selected images throughout supplied by Reuters.
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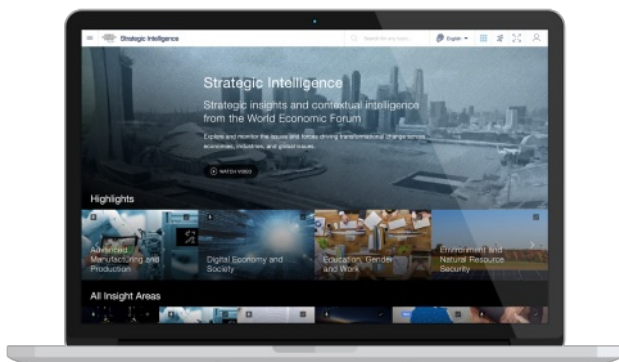
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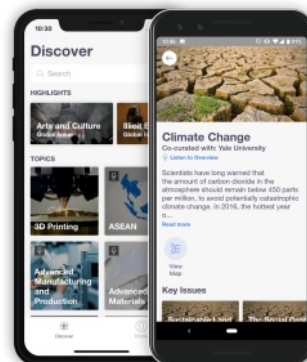
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