



**D<sup>3</sup> Consultants**  
DEDICATION.DEVOTION.DEPENDABILITY.

# Education Plus | D<sup>3</sup> Monthly Newsletter

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## 4 ways COVID-19 could change how we educate future generations

- Coronavirus-related disruption can give educators time to rethink the sector.
- Technology has stepped into the breach and will continue to play a key role in educating future generations.
- In a world where knowledge is a mouse-click away, the role of the educator must change too.

Not since World War II have so many countries around the world seen schools and educational institutions go into lockdown at around the same time and for the same reason.

**While we know that the impact of this virus will be far-reaching, what might it mean in the longer term for education?**

For a while now, educators around the world have been talking about the need to rethink how we educate future generations.

This might just be the disruption that the sector needed to get us all to rethink how we educate, and question what we need to teach and what we are preparing our students for.

The majority of students in our educational institutions today are from Generation Z, a generation that has grown up in a truly globalized world. This generation, the oldest of whom are now 25 years old, is likely to be reflecting on their education as a result of a truly global pandemic, with many facing cancelled exams, sporting events and even graduation. **This generation is defined by technology, where the terms FOBA (Fear of Being Alone) and FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) express their expectation of instant communication and feedback – effected through apps like Instant Messenger, Snapchat and WhatsApp.**

This is also a generation that sees the power of working collaboratively to solve the world's biggest challenges – climate change and mental health being top on their agenda, and at present their collective responsibility to self-isolate to protect older members of the community. The COVID-19 crisis may well change our world and our global outlook; it may also teach us about how education needs to change to be able to better prepare our young learners for what the future might hold. These lessons include:

### 1. Educating citizens in an interconnected world

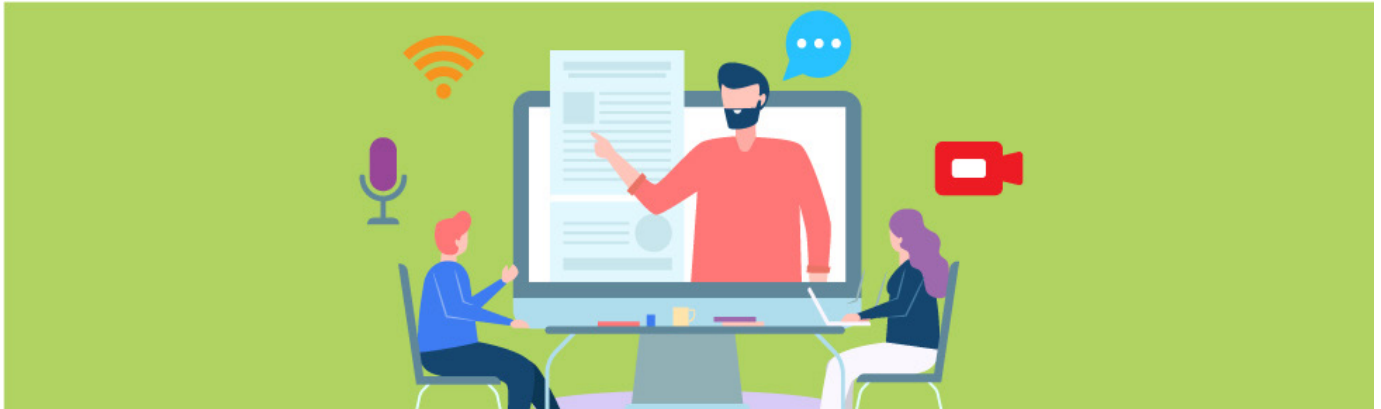
COVID-19 is a pandemic that illustrates how globally interconnected we are – there is no longer such a thing as isolated issues and actions. Successful people in the coming decades need to **be able to understand this interrelatedness and navigate across boundaries to leverage their differences and work in a globally collaborative way.**



## 2. Redefining the role of the educator

The notion of an educator as the knowledge-holder who imparts wisdom to their pupils is no longer fit for a 21st-century education. With students being able to gain access to knowledge, and even learn a technical skill, through a few clicks on their phones, tablets and computers, we will need to redefine the role of the educator in the classroom and lecture theatre.

**This may mean that the role of educators will need to move towards facilitating young people's development as contributing members of society.**



## 3. Teaching life skills needed for the future

**In this ever-changing global environment, young people require resilience and adaptability – skills that are proving to be essential to navigate effectively through this pandemic.**

Looking into the future, some of the most important skills that employers will be looking for will be creativity, communication and collaboration, alongside empathy and emotional intelligence; and being able to work across demographic lines of differences to harness the power of the collective through effective teamwork.



Flexibility & Adaptability



Resilience



Creativity & Critical Thinking



Continuous Learning



Entrepreneurial Skills



Emotional Intelligence

## 4. Unlocking technology to deliver education

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in educational institutions across the world being compelled to suddenly harness and **utilize the suite of available technological tools to create content for remote learning for students in all sectors.**

Educators across the world are experiencing new possibilities to do things differently and with greater flexibility resulting in potential benefits in accessibility to education for students across the world.

These are new modes of instruction that have previously been largely untapped particularly in the kindergarten to Grade 12 arena.

