



D³ Consultants
DEDICATION. DEVOTION. DEPENDABILITY.

Education Plus

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Seven Global Challenges for 21st Century Education

The world population has quadrupled since World War II (from two to nearly eight billion). Artificial intelligence now effectively has the computing power of a human brain. We are exhausting over 150% of the planet's biocapacity. Globalization and social media have made the world far more accessible than ever before. At the same time growth in income disparity have further created separate enclaves in the planet's population.

The world of today is one of "VUCA" (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity). Society would appear unrecognizable (at least technically) to our great-grandparents. And the intuitive response is that the education we are providing for young people should, therefore, change radically.

As we approach the first quarter of the 21st Century, schools, universities, industries, and society at large are asking fundamental questions about education. Whether you like it or not, we are in a paradigm-shifting age. Technological, demographic, social, environmental, economic, and political shifts are forcing us to redefine what our educational structure should be.

The discussion has also widened from the inner circles of curriculum experts and researchers to the broader public. Discourses run amok from academics, neuroscientists to sound bites from politicians, celebrities, and CEOs.

What it means to be an Educator?

At the center of this whirlwind is the young person looking into the midst of the future. In each child, there is the promise of the powerful, ethical, creative, critical, and engaged adult they will become.

What a privilege to educate but what a responsibility too. The decisions we take as instructors can help shape the way they act for the future of humanity. Just as the educator nurtures knowledge, skills and dispositions in the learner and helps her along the

path to maturity, so should the educator open her mind to the world with the fresh perspectives of youth. We could dynamically conceptualize so much of the world's present and future in game-changing ways if adults could embrace the vibrancy, curiosity, hope and thirst for opportunity that characterizes growth mindsets as opposed to the fixed mindset of closure and judgement that, unfortunately, distinguish so much of the adult world.

7 Education Challenges



1 Mindfulness

In many so-called developed countries and most schools, human beings are complaining about high levels of stress as they carry out hyperactive lifestyles that can become unhealthy and compulsive. This has led to some responses, especially in schools, in Mindfulness. What are schools doing and should they be doing to promote happy, focused calm and appreciative people and how well does the Mindfulness movement stand up to this challenge?

The areas of sports and arts can have the effect of allowing the mind to gain focus. We must sensibly mediate the interference of new technologies in the average person's life.

2 Singularity

uniqueness of some of the essential constituents of human intelligence. Human beings, including young people, appear increasingly attached to devices and dependent on them. What are the implications for education?

Artificial intelligence implies that some areas of human activity can be outsourced by machines whereas others cannot. This leaves a space for schooling to develop those facets of humanity that are uniquely human and cannot be taken over by artificial intelligence.

3 Terrorism

International terrorism has become a global problem. Few societies feel entirely sheltered from the risk of an attack. A climate of fear, mistrust and xenophobia grows in response to these attacks. How can schools work with young people to face the problem of terrorism and, hopefully, reduce it?

An educational approach to terrorism must incorporate not only awareness of what terrorism is and why it exists, but the more subtle underpinning areas of identity and faith that are ultimately determining factors in the conversion of moderate people into terrorists.

4 Sustainability

We are depleting the planet's biocapacity at an exponential rate. If current behaviors do not stop soon, we will quickly exhaust our planet's resources. Human beings will then face a level of resource scarcity that will make life intolerable if not impossible. What can schools do to slow down this time bomb?

Such a situation, probably the most urgent for our planet, even if the behavior continues to suggest that biological extinction. It is a distant and abstract possibility, requires a deep-seated emotional and intellectual approach to ensure that sustainable action is rooted in a long-term, lifelong attitude to profound change.

5 Post-Truth Politics

Political developments in the middle of the first quarter of the 21st Century have led some to argue that truth does not mean what it used to, that we are entering a type of post-truth era where communications strategies supersede the verity of what is being discussed.

One should, nonetheless, be careful about how to grapple with information in the 21st Century. There are approaches to knowledge construction that are essential in an age of sound bites broadcast on social media.

6 Knowledge in the 21st Century

Because of new technologies and the way that knowledge is made available and distributed in the 21st Century, some believe that we need to rethink what is taught in school entirely and perhaps teach less content, opening more time and opportunities for skills development.

7 Character

At the core of any response to the global challenges that face us is the question of a person's character. The moral fiber that will determine the scope and style of their response to any given situation. Today's world is fast changing and uncertain and therefore requires a particularly developed level of resolve and sturdiness.

You can determine character through three core concepts: discipline, ethics, and emotional intelligence.

Sources:

<https://www.internationalschoolparent.com/articles/seven-global-education-challenges/>