Did you ever wonder whether education has a role to play in preparing our societies for an age of artificial intelligence? Or what the impact of climate change might be on our schools, families and communities?

Trends Shaping Education 2019 explores major economic, political, social and technological trends affecting the future of education, from early childhood through to lifelong learning. It aims to inform strategic thinking and stimulate reflection on the challenges facing education, and conversely, the potential of education to influence these trends.

Examining the future of education in the context of global mega-trends is necessary to help education deliver on its mission of supporting individuals to develop as persons, citizens and professionals. In a complex and quickly changing world, this might require the reorganisation of formal and informal learning environments, and reimagining education content and delivery. In an ageing world, these changes are likely to apply not just to basic education but to lifelong learning as well.


Mobility of money
New frontiers of innovation
The e-waste problem
Shift in economic power
More mobility in a global world

The global balance of economic power is shifting, with giant economies emerging, notably China and India. Globalisation facilitates the emergence of transnational networks and the accompanying economic growth has lifted many people out of poverty, resulting in an expansion of the global middle class. Human mobility across borders has increased with more affordable transport and communications. Yet globalisation also brings new challenges: growing consumption, unsustainable use of resources, and a sense for some of being left behind. The challenge for countries lies in the ability to enhance joint efforts to counterbalance negative trends such as the widening gap between rich and poor.
PUBLIC MATTERS: A VISUAL OVERVIEW

What is the role of the nation-state in a global world? A well-functioning democracy relies on the knowledge, skills and engagement of its citizens, yet in many countries traditional measures of civic participation, including voter turnout, have fallen throughout the last half century. Social media and online platforms provide new channels for citizen engagement, strengthening the power of citizen’s initiatives, but they also make it easier to disseminate false information. At the same time, rising inequality within countries creates challenges in terms of life opportunities and access to services. These elements combine to increase worries about declining trust and growing political and social unrest. Education has an important role to play in improving civic and social participation and fostering democratic citizenship.

Chapter highlights

Voting turnout down
Average voter turnout in national parliamentary elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Turnout %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010s</td>
<td>68%</td>
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</tbody>
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Increasing inequality
Year-on-year income growth shows an increasing divergence between the bottom 10% and the top 10%

Unfair taxation?
US dollars were held in tax havens globally in 2015. Almost 12% of world GDP

Legislating fairness
The number of countries with laws defining gender quotas in national legislatures worldwide increased from 1 in 1990 to 54 in 2014

Going (g)local
Cities increasingly working together on social, economic and environmental issues

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SECURITY IN A RISKY WORLD: A VISUAL OVERVIEW

On average OECD countries are more secure than they were in the past. They have benefited from less armed conflict on their soil, growing affluence, safer roads and more effective medicines and healthcare. However, in an increasingly borderless and connected world, we are now facing ever more complex security challenges. Climate change; disease and the risk of rapidly spreading pandemics; networks of terrorism and cyber threats all pose serious risks for society. Threats can also be very personal: Many individuals are experiencing financial and work-related insecurity and are concerned about the safety of their families and communities. Education can play a role in helping understand, prevent and mitigate security risks. It can also help build resilience and better prepare citizens for times of crisis.

Chapter highlights

Declining savings

National security

Cyber risks

Changing climate

14% 1970

5% 2016

13% 2013

The number of worldwide natural disasters has been increasing since the 1960s.

Bacteria increasingly resistant to antibiotics

Data breaches due to poor security, accidents or hacks have surged

Combined records lost

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**LIVING LONGER, LIVING BETTER: A VISUAL OVERVIEW**

Our population is ageing. Healthier seniors are living and working longer, and they also tend to be relatively richer on average, opening the possibilities of a “silver market” aimed at the specific needs of this group. However, there are risks as well: chronic diseases such as diabetes and dementia are becoming more prevalent, and shrinking social circles increase the potential for loneliness. Digitalisation may help address many of these risks, but it also opens up new threats, for example Internet fraud targeted specifically at the elderly. These trends invite reflection about the role of education, so often seen as primarily for the young. Questions about retraining, lifelong learning and using the expertise of so-called silver workers are key questions for education in an ageing society.

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**Chapter highlights**

**Dementia on the rise**

19 million people in OECD countries suffered from dementia in 2017. This number is likely to reach nearly 41 million by 2050.

**Ageing societies**

Share of people aged 65+ expected to grow

**Digital elders**

Adults aged 55-74 increasingly use the internet almost every day.

**Lengthier retirement**

Average years in retirement increased across all OECD countries.

**Living longer**

All OECD countries reported gains in life expectancy at birth, most of it in good health.

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MODERN CULTURES: A VISUAL OVERVIEW

We seem to live in a more individualistic world, with a declining sense of belonging to the traditional reference points of community, church or workplace. At the same time, the notion of a “network society” suggests that belonging is changing not disappearing. Modern cultures looks at evolving patterns of work in the digital world, and the emergence of the gig economy and what this means for consumption and ownership. It explores changing families and gender roles, with fewer traditional families and more active parenting from fathers. Education plays a crucial role in equipping coming generations with the necessary skills, knowledge and sentiment to thrive, shape society and preserve their livelihood.