

Futuristic Schools that can Silently Pave Way for Students to be Future Ready

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Abstract

Education in the 21st century is revolutionary in the sense that it is constantly evolving. Over the years, technological advancement has only accelerated that change. This article highlights the impact of technological advancement in the field of education, and how schools need to be adequately resourced and flexible to ensure that the next generation of students have the necessary skills to thrive in a constantly changing world. Further, schools need to be deeply committed to ensuring that education from the earliest years through to higher education and beyond prepares citizens to navigate an AI-augmented world.

Keywords: ways to become future ready, technology and education, future ready skills, future ready students, futuristic schools.

Some of the most important questions that daunt educationists and parents alike are:

- What will children need to know to face the unimaginable world when they leave school?
- What skills and values will they need to lead a rich and fulfilling lives?
- What will children need to draw on from their school education to thrive in a world where many of the tasks and jobs will be done by machines?

The school leadership must recognize that 21st century education is not all about imparting skills and knowledge for ‘utilitarian purpose’, as machines are acquiring those skills at a lightning speed. The world we live in is flooded with information and almost everything to learn is available on the internet. Hence, for students to thrive in the future, they will need to be knowledgeable, curious, dedicated, and nuanced learners, equipped with the skills that will enable them to hold their place in the world of machines. (Loble, 2017)

Therefore, schools should address some of the key issues by aligning, streamlining curriculum and programs for their students. It should impart many of the 21st century skills that help students to adapt and become independent learners for life.

Further, the need of the hour is to deepen students' learning so that they can think about 'big questions, embrace doubt as an opportunity to learn and engage with a diversity of views and give full expression to the things that make them uniquely human-their creativity, insight and empathy.' (Loble, 2017)

With respect to this, schools must focus on imbibing skills that are not only paramount but crucial for them to thrive in the future. The following skills must be at the core of all schools:

- 1) Cognitive skills: Matter that students need to know and apply. High levels of literacy and numeracy will be necessary but not limited to just that. The school must recognize the importance of deeper understanding of the core curriculum.
- 2) STEM skills: Offer learners a mindset and skills valued in any profession. It enables students to be flexible, look for patterns, find connections, and evaluate information.
- 3) Critical thinking skills: Collaborative approach to ideas that is reflective, self-correcting, logical, and organized.
- 4) Collaborative skills: Help promote teamwork, which in turn builds many non-cognitive skills, such as empathy, ability to listen to opinions of others, curiosity, leadership skills and perseverance.
- 5) Digital intelligence: A set of social, emotional, and cognitive abilities that enable individuals to face the challenges and adapt to the demands of digital life.
- 6) Global citizenship: Educate students to understand how connected they are to each other, socially, culturally, economically and politically; to understand both the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization; and to become positive contributors in such an interdependent world. (Chung, 2017)

To conclude, the prime focus of the 21st education is not equipping students with skills that meet the demands of the workplace. Instead, it is about equipping them with the right attitudes and skills to compete globally and locally, where value will be derived largely from human interaction and the ability to invent, innovate, and interpret things that machines cannot.

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