

Global Risks 2024: Misinformation and Disinformation Tops Global Risks 2024

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/ai-powered-misinformation-is-the-worlds-biggest-short-term-threat-davos-reports/article67726959.ece>

The World Economic Forum identifies misinformation and disinformation as critical global risks, particularly highlighting India's vulnerability due to its robust digital infrastructure and widespread internet use. This challenge is not unique to India but also impacts countries like the United States, Saudi Arabia, and France. The report emphasizes the need for global and local actions to address these risks, suggesting that enhancing digital literacy is key to countering misinformation and preventing societal divisions.

In India, where the education system often overlooks critical thinking, there's a pressing need for schools, teachers, and students to work together to improve digital literacy. This includes teaching children to identify credible information, navigate the internet safely, engage ethically online, and manage their digital footprints. Through responsible participation in digital communities, individuals can foster a culture of positive digital citizenship and contribute to a more informed and harmonious world.

INDIA AND EDUCATION

Turning the Tide from Brain Drain to Brain Gain

<https://www.news18.com/india/brain-gain-75-indian-diaspora-scientists-to-return-to-india-under-new-fellowship-scheme-most-from-us-canada-8781220.html>

The Indian government has launched a new fellowship program, with an 80-crore budget, to attract Indian scientists abroad back to collaborate with Indian Institutes. This three-year program allows for in-person collaboration for two months yearly, with remote contributions possible. It targets STEM fields like Medicine, AI, Machine Learning, and Data Science. This initiative aims to strengthen India's R&D, foster innovation, and improve India's global scientific standing. Furthermore, it can enhance STEM education by connecting students with scientists, promoting a culture of curiosity and practical learning, and preparing the next generation for STEM careers.



EDUCATION TECH TRENDS

What Is Age-Appropriate Use of AI?- The 4 Developmental Stages

[What Is Age-Appropriate Use of AI? 4 Developmental Stages to Know About \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/technology/ai/2024/03/what-is-age-appropriate-use-of-ai-4-developmental-stages-to-know-about/)

The consensus among education and technology experts highlights the necessity of AI literacy for students entering the workforce, though there's less agreement on the timing and methods for introducing AI technology in education. Based on consultations with teachers and child development experts by Education Week, a stage-by-stage approach to AI literacy is proposed:

For **K-2** students, the focus is on understanding that AI, such as chatbots and smart speakers, are not real people, helping them distinguish between AI and reality.

Upper elementary students are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills and responsible AI usage, which includes recognizing AI biases and verifying information accuracy.

Middle school education should maintain restricted AI access, leveraging AI to support the development of critical and abstract thinking skills, positioning AI as a tool rather than a comprehensive solution.

By **high school**, the curriculum shifts towards recognizing AI's limitations, such as biases and inaccuracies, while also broadening to include social-emotional skills that promote responsible AI use, emphasizing kindness, equity, and critical thinking.

This educational strategy aims to progressively integrate AI literacy at different developmental stages, preparing students for a future where technology constantly evolves, with a foundation in critical thinking and ethical considerations.

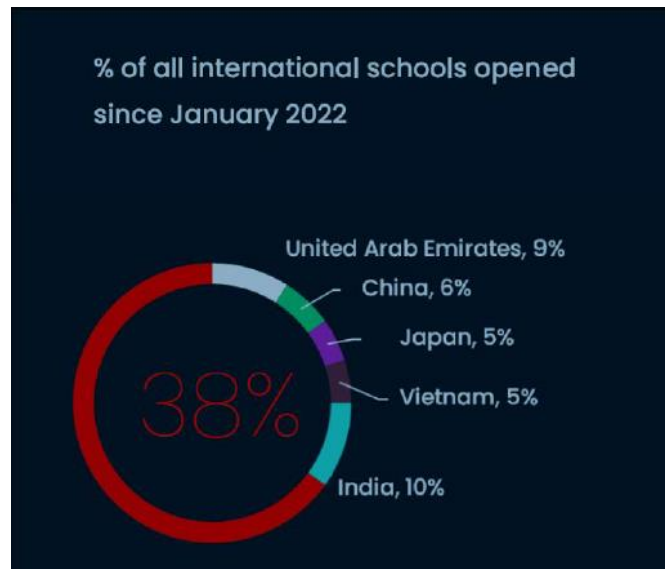
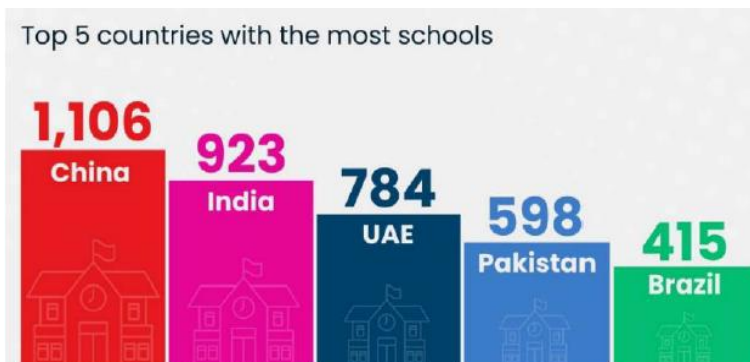
India's Educational Initiative for Global Sustainability

[UN Sustainable Development Goals: India Ranked 112 Among 166 Countries for Performance in 2023 \(thewire.in\)](#)

India's 112th rank out of 193 UN member countries in the 2023 Sustainable Development Report highlights the need for urgent progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations and NITI Aayog are pushing for national programs to reflect these goals, with a significant focus on education. Schools are pivotal, embedding SDG principles in curriculum and community engagement, preparing students as future leaders for a more equitable and sustainable world. This evolution redefines the role of educators, who are encouraged to become lifelong learners about global sustainability challenges, incorporating these lessons into their teaching and living eco-consciously. They are tasked with creating a classroom environment that fosters sustainability, motivating students to engage with and address real-world issues. This comprehensive strategy aims to ready students to make a positive difference in an increasingly volatile world, positioning sustainability at the heart of both educational and individual commitments.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS MARKET TRENDS

- Asia represents 57% of the international schools market worldwide and four of the five countries with the highest number of schools (China, India, UAE, Pakistan)



- Significant growth in major cities (Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata) due to global commerce and schooling culture.
- Trend towards hybrid curricula, with about two-thirds of new schools (2018-2023) adopting this model.
- 13% increase in the number of teachers employed by international schools. Increased visibility of DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) frameworks.



TESTIMONIAL



"First of all, congratulations on the new initiative. This is a very thoughtful move. Very informative and time-appropriate, I would say. The special focus given to technology is the attraction. Your segment on mindset shift in Indian parents and their attraction to learner-centric approach is a reiteration. Keep up the good work and looking forward to the next edition." - Ms. Praseedha Sreekumar, Principal-Indus Altum International School, Belgavi

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Tong Tong : The AI child shaping the future of Emotional Intelligence

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-13060507/AI-child-Chinese-scientists-creepy-Tong-Tong.html>

The Beijing Institute for General Artificial Intelligence has introduced Tong Tong, an AI with the emotional and cognitive abilities of a three-year-old child, capable of learning and performing tasks independently. This AI can grasp complex human concepts, offering potential for future AI progress.

BIGAI's Zhu Songchun also unveiled the "Tong Test," aimed at evaluating AI against broader criteria than the Turing Test, considering a wider range of capabilities.

Debating the Math Curriculum: The Essential Skills for High School Students

[\(Data science under fire: What math do high schoolers really need? - The Hechinger Report\)](#)

Despite facing skepticism, a district in the US reports positive outcomes from replacing Algebra II with data science. The Oxnard Union High School district, situated northwest of Los Angeles and known for its economic diversity, is witnessing a surge in popularity for its data science program.

Educators are advocating for an updated math curriculum that prioritizes data science—a blend of computer science, mathematics, and statistics—to better prepare students for a data-centric world. Now, 17 states have incorporated data science as a high school math choice, with Oregon and Ohio recognizing it as a substitute for Algebra II. This shift is altering student perceptions of math, engaging those who previously struggled with or disliked the subject.

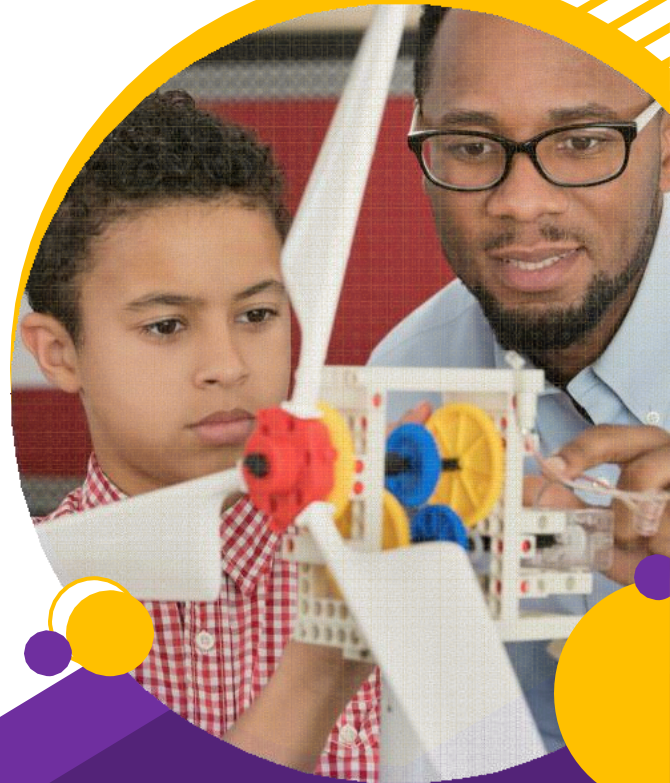
However, some math educators resist moving away from Algebra II, asserting its foundational role in mathematics education and its importance for students' success in STEM fields and other areas.

SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS

The latest McKinsey report from February 2024 highlights global educational challenges with **23** countries advancing, **17** declining, and **33** remaining stagnant.

As educators face the twin challenges of addressing learning losses and catering to the increased need for higher order cognitive skills due to technological advances, innovative strategies to improve educational outcomes are critical.

We are eager to discover the array of creative approaches being employed around the world. We invite educators to share their groundbreaking practices with us. Please contribute your innovative ideas @ research@itari.in.



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