

12 educational trends we'll see even more of in the future



Artificial Intelligence, immersive technologies, and personalized learning are just some of the **educational trends** that will be seen even more in the **future of education**.

That's the view of **Esteban Venegas**, Director of the **Observatory** at the [Institute for the Future of Education](#) at **Tec de Monterrey**, who talked about the technologies and educational models that have already begun to be introduced.

*"Our lives are being impacted by **digital technology, Artificial Intelligence, and algorithms**. This **digitalization** has had repercussions in areas such as communication and commerce, and of course, in **education**,"* said Venegas.



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Future trends in education

The Director of the Observatory **pointed out** that **distance education, hybrid classrooms, immersive worlds, and gamification** will be a part of how education is imparted.

What's more, **educational content** will be increasingly **personalized**, taking into account **students' level of knowledge and learning styles**.

The importance of topics such as **mental health, entrepreneurship, and humanities** on syllabuses has been bolstered.

Here are the **12 educational trends** that Venegas shared with **CONNECTA**:

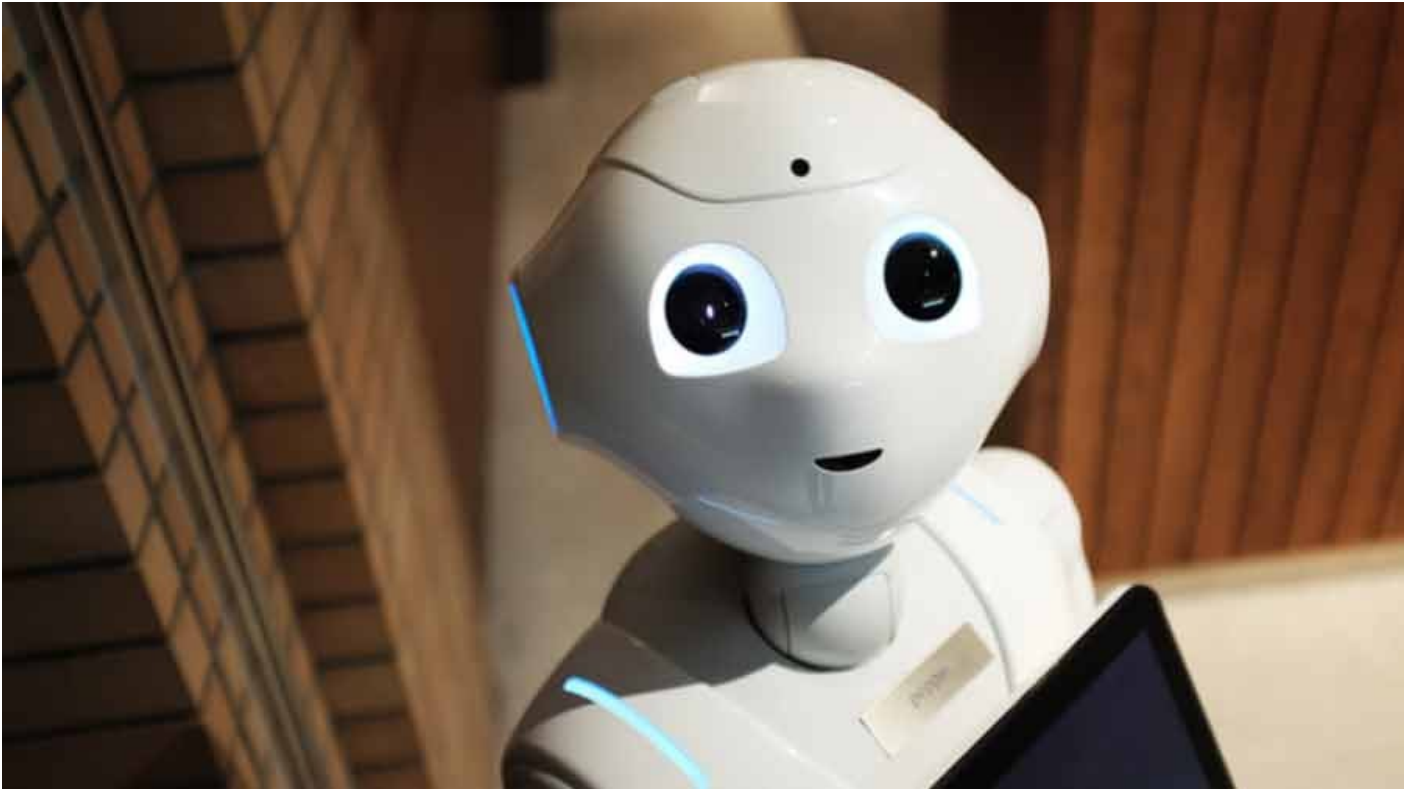
1. Immersive technologies + Metaverses + Gamification

Venegas says that technologies such as **Metaverses, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence**, and the use of [gamification for learning](#) will continue **to trend** and combine with each other.

However, he notes that although there are very high expectations about the use of this technology, such as the use of **virtual reality headsets** in **anatomy** classes, **technology** should always be at the **service of education**.

For example, he says that **chatbots** are being used as teaching assistants that respond using **artificial intelligence**, similar to existing assistants on the market.

“This automation is having an impact on **education** and professions. There’s a consensus among those of us in education that these **technologies** will lead to **human collaboration** and **technology** coming closer together,” he said.



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2. Alternative credentials: a la carte learning

The director also says that **alternative credentials** in education could be more **popular** in the future due to the current situation, in which there are more and more **workshops, courses,** and **online degrees** in **asynchronous formats**.

“We’re experiencing this more often and there are **lots of changes** in the world. People are **getting certified** on sites like [Coursera](#) or [EdX](#) which are massive.

“They’re **workshops** and **bootcamps** where you can learn a new **programming** language, or **software**, or about topics like **statistics**. The **limitations** of **traditional education** are being removed, and there’ll be a lot of **flexibility**,” he says.

3. Distance and hybrid learning will grow

Venegas says that **distance education** is one of the **trends of the future** that has been accelerated by the **COVID-19 pandemic**, forcing education to rely on technology.

He says that although its use will be increasingly common, we shouldn’t forget about opportunities for **access** in **less developed regions**, as well as the lack of skills and knowledge needed to use technology in education.

*“**Teacher training** is important, and we believe there has been a lot of training on the subject, but there must be **access** to this **technology** for online education to exist.*

*“I don’t think it’s going to go fully **online** or fully **in person**, but in a **hybrid format**. We’re going to see how it works out and buy some time to **build infrastructure for access to everyone**,” said Venegas.*

4. Humanities will be in high demand.

The director points out that the **humanities** will be an ideal **complement** when it comes to developing **skills** for the future of education.

*“Who better to teach **critical thinking** than **philosophers**, for complex thinking or working as a team?”*

*“That **complement** of **humanities** to **science and technology** will be important,” added Venegas.*

5. There’ll be a greater appreciation for education

When the **pandemic** began, Venegas says that **parents** faced the **challenge** of **educating** their children more actively, which is why he notes that there could be a **greater appreciation** for the teaching profession.

*“Technology doesn’t solve everything (in education). **Technology** enables **teachers** to function better as **guides** or **mediators** and to focus **education** on the **student**.*

*“If there’s been anything positive to come out of the pandemic, it’s that parents have realized how difficult it is to educate. Let’s hope that the teaching **profession** is **more valued**,” he says.*



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6. Student experience will play an important role

Venegas says that students' **experience** with **real-world problems** will have greater **significance** in the future, since this will allow them to learn by doing.

*"That's why there are models like the [Tec21 Model](#) that are based on experiential learning (**challenge-based learning**.)*

*"This will be **important** for **developing 21st century skills**," said the specialist.*

7. Education could be personalized according to students and their needs

The director says that **education of the future** could be **personalized** according to each **student** or their **needs**, making use of both **technology** and **Artificial Intelligence**, as well as **guidance** from **teachers** themselves, aided by technology.

*"When you have **adaptive learning**, you adjust it to the user, depending on how they did in their last exam or on the last course. All this **information** can suggest content that might serve the student.*

*"It's not just the **technology** but **teachers** themselves with their **knowledge** and way of **handling** this **information** who can look at it and make adaptive learning work," he explained.*



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8. Mental health will play an important role

Distance learning, especially over a **long period of time**, has made it clear that **mental health** plays an **important role** in student performance, says Venegas, who believes that there will be more openness toward the subject in the future.

*“In the past, it was **taboo**, but now with the pandemic, lots of teachers, researchers, school staff, and particularly students are tired.*

*“**Mental health** is important, and universities should **encourage it** with offerings like the **Tec’s Student Leadership and Education** program to recognize we’re people and not robots,” he said.*

9. There will be more women in education

The director points out that if we **foster** and **work at it**, the **future of education** could include more and **more women**, both as **students** and as **leaders**.

*“We have to open up **access** for **women to education** and to the **workplace** as well. There’s a lot to do. We’ve seen a **big change** in some ways,” says Venegas.*

If we could address the lack of access, lack of funds, and lack of support for women, Venegas says this **would reinforce** the **current trend** of more and **more women** graduating from universities.



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10. Educational partnerships to face global challenges

Venegas says that the **future** will bring with it a **greater number** of **partnerships** between **universities** and **educational centers**, both private and public, as well as **partnerships** between **education** and other areas, such as the occupational or civic spheres.

*“For example, the **Tec** has established very good **networks** with universities in **Argentina, Spain,** and others such as **La Triada** (UNIANDES and the Catholic University of Chile).”*

*“These **collaborations** we’ve made during the pandemic will be **important** in the **future**. Global issues will be different and there must be more partnerships. Not just with universities, but also with **companies** and **organizations**,” he said.*

11. More education promoting entrepreneurship

*“**Professions** are **changing**, and the **future of work** will be **different**. It’s important to have entrepreneurial skills for **adapting to change**, and it’ll be increasingly easy to access the development of these skills,” says Venegas.*

These **skills** that are usually picked up by **entrepreneurs** will be increasingly **vital** in the **education of the future**, says the director.

12. Universities: leadership for generating knowledge

Venegas highlights that the proliferation of **misinformation has led to universities playing and continuing to play an important role** in the **dissemination of science and knowledge**.

*“Universities are going to be **more important than ever** because they can help us **train people to adapt to tackling these issues**, whether it’s people saying the world is flat or telling others to ingest cleaning fluids for COVID.*

*“Fighting against **misinformation** is **part** of what we (as universities) **are going to do**,” he concludes.*

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