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Weekly book Inside

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THE EDUCATION MOVES OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

For more than 100 years education has taken place in a classroom, mostly in the morning hours up to early afternoon. With the advent of technology, that model can change. Learning can now take place outside of the time and physical limitations of a typical school day.

Expanding the learning ways

Just as consumers’ behavioural shifts drove the digital transformation of traditional media companies, it seems that the increasingly digital and tech-centric behaviours of students, teachers, and parents are expanding the way learning occurs. Understanding and positioning ahead of that behavioural shift will be critical in helping educational organizations succeed in the digital future. Technology has impacted education by introducing new methods of learning, such as adaptive learning, flipped classroom models, and massive open online courses (MOOCs), but more shifts will occur as technology continues to evolve.
An example: India

The Indian education sector is undergoing a revolution, thanks to rapid digital penetration, availability of low-cost mobiles, and cheap data packs. According to the Statistics, the number of smart phone users in India is estimated to reach 299 million in 2017 and the number of people having an access to internet is estimated to be around 462 million.

Youth of today are fast moving towards using digital technologies for self-learning as Ed-tech firms are providing them the comforts of „Live and Interact anywhere“, through their online programmers. Accessibility, affordability, and imparting technical skills are three of the most important factors for integrated implementation and availing benefits of these evolving paradigms. [1]

ICT can improve education and teaching

We live in a world that is characterised by abundant information, advanced technology, a rapidly changing society, greater convenience in daily lives and keener international competition. Therefore, it is important to be proactive and take a leadership role in identifying how Information and communication technology can enhance the education system, particularly in the areas of teaching, learning and assessment.

Information and communication technology (ICT) tools have the potential to improve education and teaching in several ways. In the domain of assessment, digital tools can improve precision and efficiency of measurements, and expand the kinds of knowledge and skills that can be assessed (e.g. problem solving. Perhaps more important, ICT tools make it easier for students to identify their learning needs as they participate in the assessment. Indeed, computers’ interactive nature, rapid feedback loops and powerful analytical possibilities can be harnessed in the interest of universal learning principles. When digital tools support students’ engagement with challenging material, thus extending learning time and practice, or help students to assume control over the learning situation, by individualising the pace with which new material is introduced or by providing immediate feedback, students probably learn more. [2]
Using digital technologies in education may have positive effects on students’ learning outcomes.

Traditional education systems are not best equipped to cope with the changing nature of learning, the changing demands on learners and their competences, and the need for new ways of teaching and managing complexities. Numerous studies find that systemwide educational innovation is notoriously difficult to achieve.

By now, there is consistent evidence that embedding digital technologies in education tends to have positive effects on students’ learning outcomes. Evidence similarly points to the fact that the magnitude of these effects depends largely on contextual factors. Among these contextual factors, teachers’ attitudes and pedagogical competences are the most important [3].

Teachers are empowered to play a key role in overcoming some of the barriers of education technology adoption.

Continuing learning outside of the classroom

A survey from USA, states that while education technology has seen growth in the classroom, a prime opportunity for education technology to connect in-classroom curriculum to enhanced learning outside the classroom. The widespread availability and adoption of electronic devices at home, along with growing interest by teachers, parents, and students in continuing learning outside of the classroom has created an expansion of the education ecosystem [4].

Learning can now take place everywhere. The Information and communication technology (ITC) makes is possible to study any time and everywhere.

INCENTIVES REGARDING GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT, SOCIAL ASPECTS, PARTICIPATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES AND INNOVATION.

by Slavica Joković PhD

Under the new EU rules, public procurement procedures are becoming a policy strategy instrument in order to implement environmental, social and innovation measures as well as the better access of small and medium sized enterprises to public procurement markets[1].

The contracts and environmental, social and labour regulations

The New Directive stipulates that contracting authorities may exclude from participation in a procurement procedure any economic operator in case of violation of applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law established by the Union law, national law, collective agreements or by the international environmental, social and labour law provisions [2].

Furthermore, it notes that contracting authorities shall reject the tender where they have established that the tender is abnormally low because it does not comply with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law established by the Union law, national law, and collective agreements or by the international environmental, social and labour law provisions [3].

Requirements

According to the provisions on contract award criteria, “the most economically advantageous tender from the point of view of the contracting authority shall be identified on the basis of the price or cost, using a cost-effectiveness approach, such as life-cycle costing in accordance with Article 68 and may include the best price-quality ratio, which shall be assessed on the basis of criteria, including qualitative, environmental and/or social aspects, linked to the subject-matter of the public contract in question. Such criteria may comprise, for instance: quality, including technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, accessibility, design for all users, social, environmental and innovative characteristics” [4].
Taking into account the fact that overly demanding requirements concerning the financial capacity in practice constitute an unjustified obstacle to the involvement of small and medium sized enterprises in public procurement, pursuant to the new Directive on public procurement, the minimum yearly turnover that economic operators are required to have shall not exceed two times the estimated contract value, except in duly justified cases [5].

**Serbia and the new Public Procurement Law**

Serbia adopted a new Public Procurement Law (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 124/12) in December 2012 in order to align further with the EU acquis in this field. The existing public procurement legislation provides for the rules governing the procedures in the award of public procurement contracts, including utilities. The Public Procurement Law is largely based on the EU public procurement legislative framework, namely, Directive 2004/18/EC [6] and Directive 2004/17/EC [7].

**The progress in harmonisation between the national legislation and EU Directives**


In overall terms, the need emerged for further harmonization of the Public Procurement Law with the new Directive on public procurement, according to the Public Procurement Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014-2018 and the Action plan. Especially, further progress in harmonisation between the national legislation and EU Directives in the area of public procurement should be made to promote green procurement, social aspects, innovation, as well as the concept of life-cycle costs and to facilitate access of small and medium sized enterprises to public procurement markets.

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GROWING INEQUALITIES [1]

Due to accelerated technological change and diffusion, machines in the workplace have become capable of performing both routine and non-routine tasks. They can perform a range of manual tasks in addition to those requiring non-cognitive skills. Initially there was much demand for human workers to complement machines, managing and specializing in new kinds of roles.

However, the pace of learning has evolved slowly—meaning many in the workforce with a range of skills were unable to work in tandem with technology and keep pace with the changes underway. That has led to large swathes of the workforce becoming increasingly unemployable. The lack of appropriate talent for emerging new roles has led to increasing pressure to automate even further. Robotics, algorithms and machine learning—managed by just a handful of human workers—have begun to do most of the world’s production and distribution, leading to a ‘hollowing out’ of the labour market, which has resulted in deepening and growing inequalities.

Polarized values and divided views about technology dominate society. There are large-scale movements of people, within cities, regions and countries and across international borders, in desperate search for opportunity. High-skilled people from lower-income communities have migrated to high-income, high-skill enclaves, as a cluster of globally-dispersed urban ‘super-economies’ have formed and trade ideas, goods and services with each other. Elsewhere, with the national economies of the past disintegrating, previously affluent left-behind regions and communities are increasingly reverting to efforts at local self-subsistence while a large segment of increasingly disenfranchised lower-skilled workers earn a meagre living by catering to the needs of a privileged few.

As a business owner, have you ever thought about growing your business in another country? Why not create a partnership with Serbia? Slavica Joković is a Serbian Public Procurement expert that outlines the ins and outs of how businesses can grow through the procurement process. Being equipped with Winning Public Procurement Contracts In Serbia Manual by Slavica Joković is a great starting tool. This guide informs the reader about what it takes to be in partnership with the Serbian government through the procurement process, from understanding Serbian contracting and how contracts are awarded to learning about the 5% special bid preferences. Slavica Joković provides Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that offer detailed explanations on how to get into the game and win the bid.

With a diverse knowledge of the procurement process in the U.S., I fully understand the essence of how the procurement process works. It appears that by reading Winning Public Procurement Contracts In Serbia Manual by Slavica Joković, there are some universal ways to successfully sell your goods and services to your ideal customers - whether they are within your country or abroad. Winning Public Procurement Contracts In Serbia Manual by Slavica Joković contains everything for a business owner’s needs. Clearly every state and country has some type of procurement program where business owners can both benefit and thrive - the main objective is that if they understand the system and process of partnering, everyone wins.

Reviewed by Vernita Naylor

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The world is changing all around us. A skilled population is the key to a country’s sustainable development and stability. We know that obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people’s lives and sustainable development. To contribute to skill people over the next ten years and beyond, we must look ahead, understand the trends and forces that will shape our business in the future and move swiftly to prepare for what has to come. We must get ready for tomorrow today. We will make it possible for youth and young adults all over the world to gain skills they can use in the labour marked or to create their own jobs. We will make it possible for every person to have lifelong learning opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to fulfil their aspirations and contribute to their societies.

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- Our purpose is to bring Quality Education and Skills Everywhere.
- Our mission is to support education for building skills to all kind of businesses to create possibilities for jobs and make a lasting difference to people’s lives. Globally. 24/7.
- To be the world leader in knowledge transfer across all borders.