

Future of Work



What this topic covers

The landscape of work is changing. This is due to technological advancements and the evolving nature of society. This module will explore why people work, the crucial role of employment in economic growth, ongoing trends in the future of work, and the important skills that can help you prepare to succeed in a global work force.

By the end of this topic you will have prepared for dialogue with your peers by:



Critical Thinking

Analysing why we work and the impact it has on your own and others' lives.



Asking Questions

Posing meaningful questions about the experience of decent work based on your own and others' experiences.



Global Communication

Respectfully engaging in dialogue about the future of work to understand different experiences and opinions.



Reflection

Reflecting on how the skills you learn in a dialogue can be used in your own work in the future.

This learning module on average takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete

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Learning about the Future of Work



Why do people work?



Watch this video and think about the different reasons why you and the people in your life work.

Why do people work?

Source: Generation Global



Why do people work?

Hide transcript

Why do people work?

Personal meaning

Working gives people, a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

Financial security

Working enables individuals to support themselves and their families.

Social interactions

Work encourages social interaction, fostering friendships and connections.

Professional identity

A job shapes identity by uncovering strengths and achieving goals.

Contribution to society

People can use their abilities at work to benefit society.

Career development

People progress in their careers by gaining experience, skills, and knowledge.

What other reasons can you think of why people work?

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Why do people work?



Why do people work?

We all have our own reasons for why we work.

Move the slider below to rate how important each of these reasons for working are in your life.

Financial security - Earning income for independence



Personal meaning- Making a lasting difference to leave a legacy



Skill development- Continuous learning and facing challenges through creativity and innovation



Social interactions- Building healthy relationships and networks to grow professionally



Professional identity- Learning how to set personal and professional goals for your own development



Contribution to society - Actively addressing social issues in your community to create an impact



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Learning about the Future of Work



The importance of work



Why is work important to you and your community?

Provide an example of how people work in your community and why it is important.

Enter your thoughts here...

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Learning about the Future of Work



The importance of work



Why is work important to you and your community?

Provide an example of how people work in your community and why it is important.

Enter your thoughts here...

When you participate in dialogue about this topic, share about how work impacts you and your community. This will help others to understand your experiences.

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Learning about the Future of Work



Decent work and economic growth



Access to quality employment opportunities helps individuals support themselves financially while also contributing to the sustainable future of entire communities and countries, but this is not always fair. Read the infographic below to learn about the connection between decent work and economic growth.

Decent work and economic growth



What is Sustainable Development Goal 8?

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 is about making sure everyone has decent jobs and the economy keeps growing sustainably. Economic growth creates better jobs and fosters a fairer, more productive economy.

(United Nations, n.d.)



Numbers around the world

Wealth Inequality

1 billion people worldwide live on less than a dollar a day, and the richest 1% own nearly half the world's wealth.

(Global Citizen, 2023)



GDP Per Capita Comparison

The average GDP per capita in 19 Latin American countries is \$16,300 USD, whereas in 52 African countries, it is \$5,872.46 USD, compared to the European Union's average of \$48,000 USD.

(The Global Economy, 2022)



Youth Unemployment Rate

Around 22% of the world's population consists of young people aged 15-24, and a staggering 60% of them struggle to find employment.


(International Labour Organization, 2022)



Sources:

United Nations (n.d.) "Sustainable Development Goals". Available at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/>
 Global Citizen (2023) "The Richest 1% Own Almost Half the World's Wealth & 9 Other Mind-Blowing Facts on Wealth Inequality". Available at: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/wealth-inequality-oxfam-billionaires-elon-musk/>

The Global Economy (2022) "GDP per capita, PPP - Country rankings". Available at: https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/gdp_per_capita_ppp/
International Labour Organization (2022) "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022". Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_853321.pdf

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Decent work and economic growth



What questions would you ask in a dialogue with your peers?

Now that you understand the connection between decent work and economic growth, choose the questions that promote good dialogue and are free from passing judgement.

Shouldn't the government just give people jobs?

How would you describe decent work within your community?

What do you envision work would look like for you in your future?

Why don't poor people just work harder?

What influences and impacts economic growth in your community?

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Learning about the Future of Work



Factors shaping the future of work



Around the world, significant factors are reshaping work for people, with some countries experiencing them more than others.



Technological advancements

Rapid advancements in automation, artificial intelligence, and digital technology are reshaping work, creating new job opportunities, and requiring new skills.



Remote and flexible work

Remote and flexible work options provide employees with greater control over their work schedules and locations.



Health and mental well-being

Workplaces are increasingly prioritizing employee health, well-being, and work-life balance.



Equal opportunities and inclusion

Now more than ever people can thrive and contribute to their workplaces, irrespective of their background or circumstances.



Continuous learning

Lifelong learning has become essential for remaining employable. Self-education and access to a wealth of learning resources online make it easier than ever to acquire new skills.

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Factors shaping the future of work



How could you respectfully engage in a dialogue about the future of work?

Practise responding to this person's post.

"In my country Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become quite popular and will begin replacing humans very soon. This will cause major problems for our community, and we should just get rid of AI altogether."

Enter your thoughts here...

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Factors shaping the future of work



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Enter your thoughts here...

When engaging with your peers about the factors shaping the future of work be sure to share from your own experiences and ask questions that seek understanding, not judgement.

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Learning about the Future of Work



Skills for success



A new set of skills is needed to be successful in the future of work. Watch this video from the World Economic Forum to learn about five skills young people will need in the future.

These are 5 skills kids will need in the future

Source: World Economic Forum



These are 5 skills kids will need in the future

Hide transcript

These are 5 skills kids will need in the future

We asked some of the world's largest employers which skills will be key in years to come. Here's what they said:

Creativity: The ability to solve meaningful problems in new ways and to think imaginatively across disciplines.

Digital skills: The ability to master new forms of digital tech, especially algorithm design and data handling.

Collaboration: The ability to work with others to perform complex tasks and adjust your actions in relation to other people's needs.

Global citizenship: A universal respect for people from other cultures and the willingness to embrace diversity, equality and inclusion.

Environmental stewardship: Understanding the fragility and finiteness of natural ecosystems and how we can interact with them in sustainable ways.

Investing in childhood skills helps people develop into successful, well-rounded adults and could also contribute \$2.54 trillion to the global economy as well as help create strong, cohesive and sustainable communities.

But fewer than half of young people are on track to acquire the skills needed to prosper in work and life.

Which skills do you think will be essential in the future?

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Skills for success



What skills have you learned for the future of work by practising dialogue?

Please select all the skills from the list below that you have learned for your future by practising dialogue:

Global Citizenship: I can communicate with people through dialogue from different cultures and backgrounds.

Creativity: I think together with others in a dialogue to consider global issues and ideas for addressing problems.

Digital Skills: Through the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure, I use technology to research and talk about different topics.

Collaboration: I work with others to create a safe space and build a meaningful dialogue.

Environmental Stewardship: I practice dialogue so I can help my generation can come together to create peace and sustainability for the world.

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Well done!



You completed

Learning about the Future of Work

Congratulations on earning the Future of Work badge! You have analysed why people work, explored the impact of work on your own and others' lives, and constructed meaningful questions to understand what decent work is. You also reflected on which skills are important for your own future in the global work force.

You are now ready to join the dialogue space with your global peers to share your experiences about the future of work and ask them questions to understand their perspectives. Remember, the best way to find new ideas and learn from each other is to be openminded and curious!

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Learning: Future of Work

You've earned the badge for Future of Work!