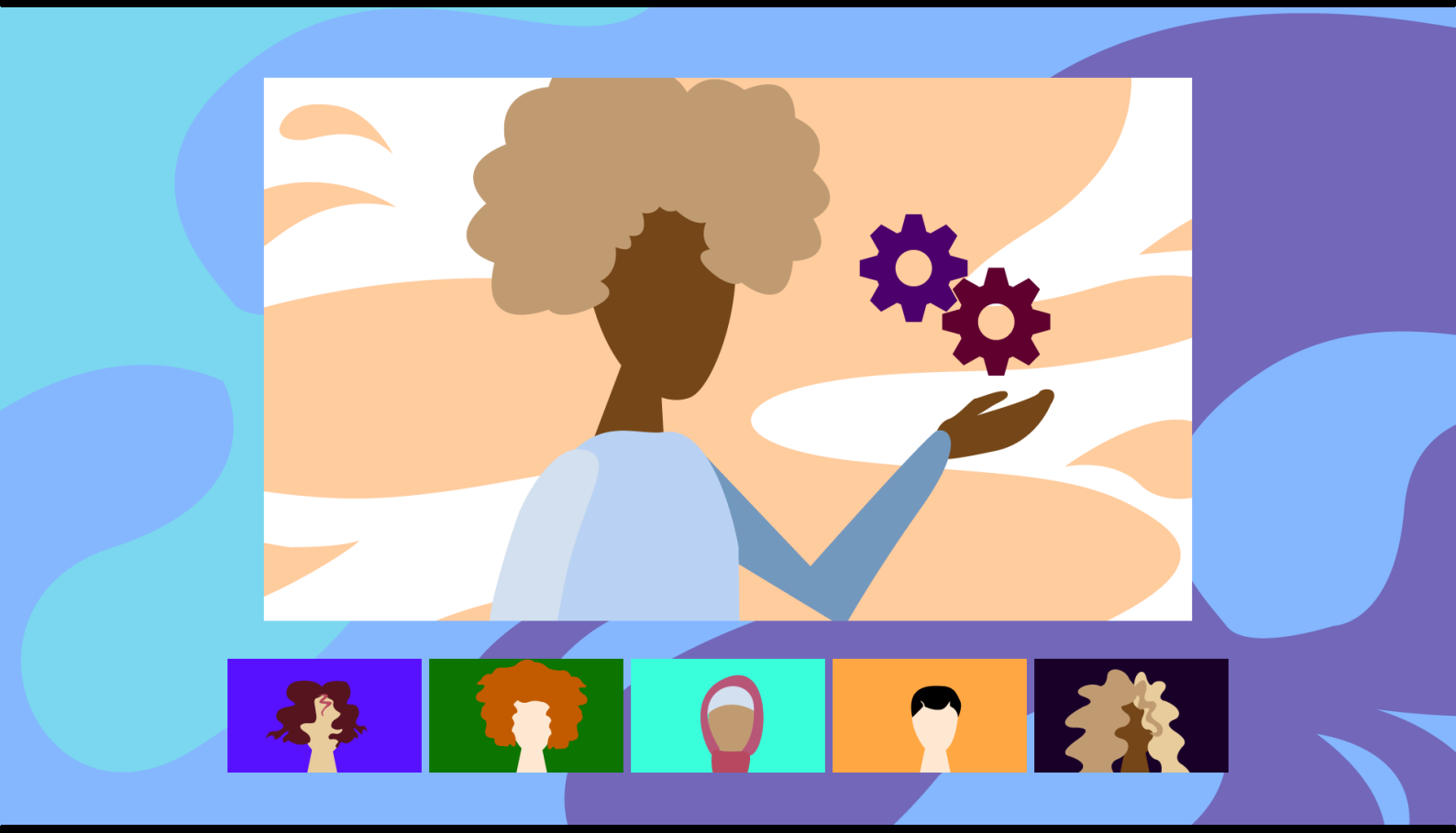
2020 WRAPPED

FOR EDUCATION

Sertifier



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Introduction

2020 was definitely an extraordinary year, if nothing else. For a generation of people around most of the world that lived prosperous years, we have faced an old truth there may be some illnesses that we cannot cure so easily and quickly. Of course, I am talking about the novel coronavirus and the outbreak that started late 2019 – early 2020 in China and then went on to take the world under its influence.

There have been quite a lot of studies and writings about how the pandemic had an impact on our lives. We have read reports about public health, vaccinations, how to prepare for such a natural disaster etc.

In this piece, however, we would like to examine its effect on education. Education is the backbone of our society, the single thing that allows us to even discuss vaccinations and all. The importance it bears was always crucially obvious and now more than ever, we realize that we should have given more of attention to it.

This report is not designed so that it contains pure facts only. It is not also a scientific study that has a clear hypothesis that we somehow try to prove right. Mere reason that this is prepared is to give the reader a new perspective of what happened on education during this year, what have and should we learn from it to design the future better. We also expect to raise questions that we may not answer in this document, only in the hopes of kindling some discussion in the community. We would also like to say that for any contribution to the material below or some points you are not against, we hope to receive your messages and want to see your perspective, as well.

Without further ado, we'll get to it first, starting with a basic but mind-clearing comparison of traditional and modern education. This will be one of the focal points of the discussion, so we thought it would be best to start there.

What is traditional education and eLearning as we imagine?

We wanted to clarify what we mean by these terms. Traditional education means the every-day classroom learning that people receive in schools. For the purpose of it, we assume that it involves not so much digitalization, because even though some developed countries may have started to implement these solutions in face-to-face learning, it is not so possible for the rest of the world.

eLearning, however, is the learning achieved through electronic and multimedia devices. Term is accompanied with staying home and not attending school,

due to the pandemic However, it is notable to remember that this does not have to be the case and eLearning can go along with traditional education, when circumstances allow it. This is actually the eLearning as we imagine and as we hope to achieve because there are several big downsides that has been observed in this era that we would very much to like to discard. Since many of the schools are now closed, we have seen a fast adaptation of technological advances into the education world. We have begun to see more vide conferencing tools like Zoom, Meet, education management tools, online book and homework services etc. like Blackboard.

Interesting numbers and what they mean behind-the-scenes

Total number of people attending any sort of education in US alone: **56.4 million**

Even this number is unrepresentative, considering the fact that there are 1.5 billion children in the world that makes up the 83% of the whole population that gets educated. It is therefore really important to note that every decision made on education, whether it is to keep schools open/closed, change something in curricula, change in the methods of access to education may ultimately effect billions.

Of course, this just does not stop there. These people who are in some step of the education pathway of their lives are somehow dependent on some people. Some are children— they depend on their families no matter what, and some are not able to find work because either they do not have time or have yet to fulfill the skills for a job. So, anything that has an impact on their lives also create a ripple effect, which is significant.

How many of the students are at home? **Almost 1 billion**

According to UNESCO, at its peak and before some schools went into academic break **990,324,537** learners are affected.

130 country-wide closure were adapted.

This gives one a lot to think about. We have to be concerned about whether a generation gets properly educated, has the right means as well as their peers with whom they will compete in the job market, and so much more.

Concerns do not stop only on education but continues on whether we are

able to keep our children mentally stabled during such a hard time and not putting extra pressure on with misguided decisions.

Also, as discussed in the previous point, many families are also affected directly. Some had to quit their jobs in order to keep an eye on their children or at least got preoccupied with this situation at home. This will severely affect the economy in a macro scale, resulting in a serious productivity decrease, which is often the leading impactor of economic recessions.

Total Financing to Schools

United States spends 700$ billion on public education, let alone the private colleges who are mostly running with donations.

Annual global spending: US 4.7$ trillion!

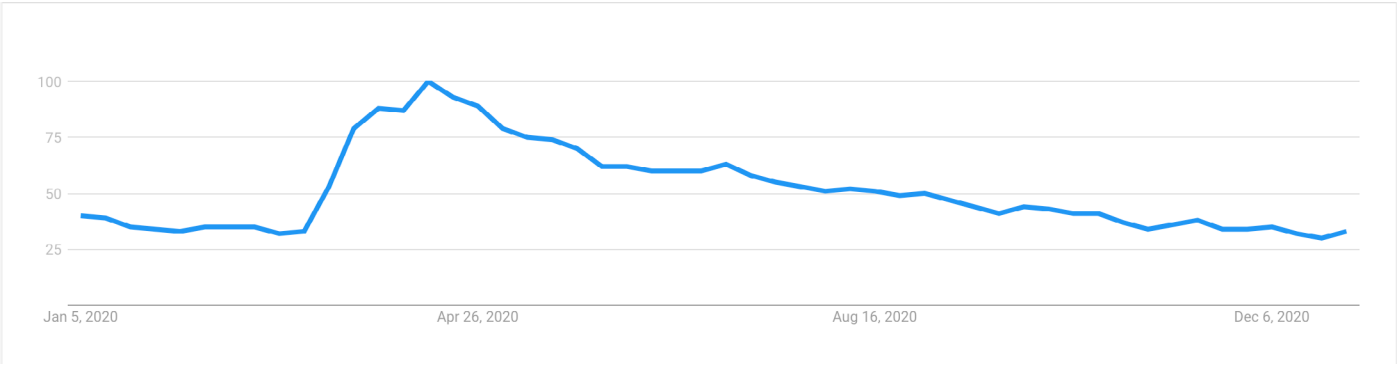
With all that money at play, we have to be careful how we spent it. Especially in such times of uncertainty, where any investment can prove itself to be worthless.
The risk here creates a two-sided problem. First one is obviously the failure of educating our children. Needless to say, this poses a big threat to the whole world, possible problems of such a generation long-skill gap may have create bump in the history of scientific and humanitarian progress, where getting specialized and more skillful is now more important than any other time.

The other risk, however, is that what if we somehow lose our will and determination to fund education. People may start to consider that since the education "is not what it's used to be" so they may be more against the taxes for education purposes. It is also an imminent danger that society may lose its faith and trust in educational authorities, if they fail to use that money, so the lenders – who are basically everyone – may then hesitate to lend any more.
It should therefore be in our utmost urgency to discuss and find the most optimal way of using the money in hand in order to prevent such terrible outcomes.

Google search trend graphics of words such as:

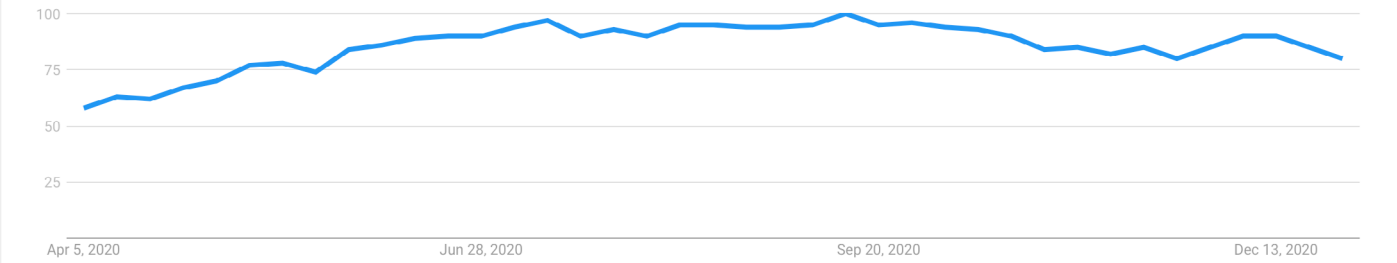
We have decided to include this here as well, because what better way is there to see how the world is reacting to the news, other than checking out their Google searches. Some graphs may come trivial to you, but it is always best to check and reassure ourselves, plus it's fun.

Online Courses



The subtle and normal movements of the first three months start to hike with a powerful acceleration at the middle of March, when of course pandemic measures were first started and lockdowns began. It peaks at the worst times of the pandemic and with the first signs of normalisation in some countries, the hype slows down compared to the beginning. However, it is import to note that this graph takes maximum as 100th point, so the other may still be relatively high.

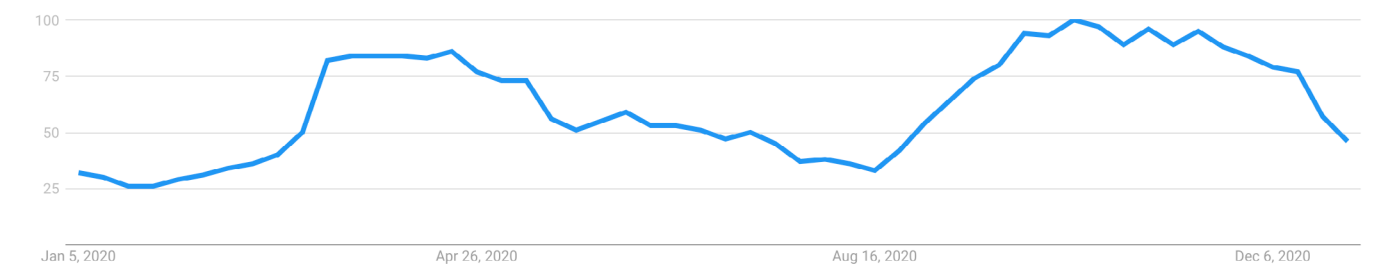
Certificates



Here we can see a clear rise in interest to certificates after April, which can be due to people staying at home and starting to find more time to upskill. A very important trend of "spending the quarantined time right" may have also had an impact.

The interest seems to be staying strong throughout the year.

E-learning



This one is a really important graph, in our humblest opinion. It shows to great fluctuations, one is after the end of March and the other is after the end of July. The first one is apparently due to closing-offs during March.

Then, we can observe a decline, which can be attributed to both reopening the countries especially in Europe but also people's high expectations of things getting back to normal all together. We then see the rise again in interest towards eLearning, where a second wave unfortunately started to hit many countries.

The last decline may be due to the holidays.

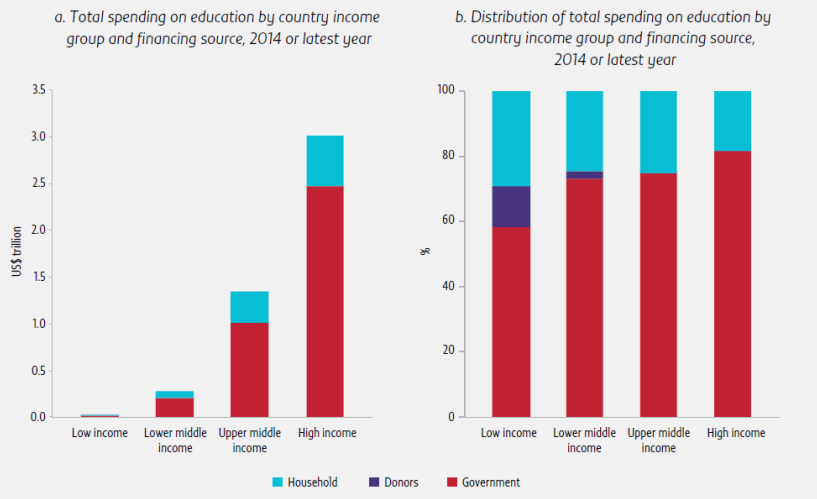
Questions that arise after the crisis

One often forgotten aspect: Teachers

Teachers are seriously affected from the pandemic too, but we often forget about them during a discussion. Some of the problems they face:

- Trying to communicate to students without the benefits on school environment
- Threat or fear of unemployment
- Adapting to technological changes and tools often without proper time and preparation
- Having difficulties in reaching out to students who are more in need of help
- Not getting paid or pay-check cuts

How is this affecting the inequality between different wealth groups?



GEM StatLink: http://bit.ly/fig19_1
Note: The analysis rests on three assumptions: (a) for countries without public expenditure data, amounts were imputed from GDP, public expenditure as share of GDP and average share of public expenditure allocated to education in the respective country income group; (b) 60% of aid expenditure is considered reflected in public budgets (therefore subtracted from government expenditure), with the remaining 40% allocated through other channels; and (c) the household share in total education expenditure is estimated at 18% in high income countries, 25% in middle income countries and 33% in low income countries.
Source: GEM Report team analysis based on the UIS (government and household) and CRS (donor) databases.

This pandemic has hit us all but unfortunately, it hit the disadvantaged groups more: the women, the children, the poor...

- Out of all the investment done to education, only 0.5% is spent on low income countries, which are now more than ever in need of more.

- Women are forced to stay out of the workforce than men in most countries, creating more inequality. This impact is higher on lower income countries due to the fact that women are seen the primary caregivers.
- People who did not have direct access to Internet, WiFi, telecommunication, computers or such electronic devices were severely hit, since they cut of from the world and education altogether. Although some progress have been made in order to meet those needs, it is only a small percentage

More:

- International students are affected worse due to no exposure to the foreign culture and job market. Their legal status have become a problem in many cases.
- Health issues may arise, because more children are sitting in front of a computer almost all day without a proper set-up.

What about positive things?

The purpose of this writing was not to depress you into thinking that we have gone through a terrible year with only just severe consequences that are irreversible. In fact, it is the quite opposite: we hope to give you hope and provoke thought in order to use the positive things in between with the human imagination to overcome every bad outcome.

We have to accept everything that comes with the remote learning; however, there were advantages too:

- Asynchronous education allowed many people to gain more skills.
- Time flexibility allowed some students to pursue internships and other job opportunities better.
- We had to act quick, so we took our best efforts to adopt technological advances. We have accelerated the process more than anyone ever could imagine of hope for.
- This process fired the innovation education scene up and many creative solutions that may very well be used after the pandemic has come to life.

Apart from those things, we have proven that humanity will do almost anything to go on. We have poured our resources to make it happen and we have managed to do at least somethings.

That is quite hopeful and inspiring.

Conclusion

This will be very short, so bear with us.

We have seen the bad things and the good things. We have seen the problems that arise but we see the benefits too.

What most important and crucial is that we learn from this. We have to learn both the negatives and positives to implement best solutions in the future, whether such a crisis occurs or not.

We know how to be prepared now and how to act, so let's use it.

Let's act.

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