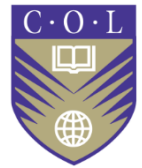


Smart Education Policies and Strategies



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Policy plays a very important role in providing an enabling framework for implementing smart education. The Smart Learning Institute led a research project to develop a model for smart education policy.

This multi-stakeholder project brought together BNU, UNESCO IITE, and the Commonwealth of Learning.

The study focused on ten countries, from both the global north and south. But the drivers of policy common to all were: the challenges following the pandemic, growing inequalities, the rise of the EdTech market, phenomenal developments in technology, and resulting ethical issues.

Let me briefly share examples from four Asian countries.

In China, the government of Minhang District formulated and implemented the Plan of Creating a National Smart Education Pilot, for the comprehensive development of teachers and students and to address issues of equity and quality in education.

India's #AIforAll strategy aims to build competencies and human values leading to economic and social development in the country, with a focus on safety, security and privacy.

Singapore's AI Strategy aims to position the country as a global hub for developing, deploying and scaling AI solutions for improving lives and livelihoods.

The South Korean strategy introduces students to the basics of AI from the earliest stages in school. More flexible learning opportunities are provided so that the system is prepared for any future disasters.

From these studies we find that while different countries have a different understanding of what smart education is, they all agree on the critical role of technologies and aspire to harness their potential to transform education and training. The focus is on providing AI literacy at all levels, building the capacity of teachers, promoting innovations, and leaving no one behind.

A smart learning policy framework emerged from this study.

Policy makers must consider six themes relating to infrastructure, curriculum and pedagogy, digital educational resources, competencies, governance and management.

While considering infrastructure for smart learning, policy makers must harness AI, AR/VR while at the same time focus on providing affordable connectivity and sustainable power sources.

Curriculum and pedagogy must be transformed to include competency-development, personalised learning, appropriate assessments and a culture of learning throughout life.

Open Educational Resources, including in local languages, open practices and accessible learning management systems must feature as central to this policy process.

Digital skills for both teachers and learners are essential, including bringing more girls into STEM subjects. One of the biggest challenges of smart education is to prepare learners for future jobs that do not yet exist.

With huge amounts of data now available, smart education policy needs to pay adequate attention to ethical governance, address issues of cybersecurity, data protection and environmental sustainability.

Planning, implementing, and monitoring smart education policies is equally important as management would harvest big data for decision-making and assuring quality.

This gives you a quick overview of the research study which has resulted in a policy development template for smart education. But as we know, policies must be implemented, and the results tracked. This study also provides a framework for monitoring and evaluation that will help us gauge the impact of our interventions. The full report is available at the link provided.