UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

BULETIN APB

EDUCATION FOR BETTER FUTURE



EDISI 17

OKTOBER 2026

AKADEMI PENGAJIAN BAHASA
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN
KAMPUS SEREMBAN

e-ISSN : 2682-7948

Future-Proofing Society Through Education

FARAH ADILLA AB RAHMAN
UiTM CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN KAMPUS SEREMBAN

Introduction

Education is more than knowledge transmission; it transforms societies, drives innovation, and nurtures human dignity. As nations strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), education emerges as both a standalone priority and a catalyst for progress across all dimensions of development (UNESCO, 2026). A future built on education embeds equity, sustainability, and resilience in society's foundations.

Education as a Foundation for Social Equity

Education's promise lies in its ability to dismantle systemic inequalities. Access to quality education reduces disparities linked to gender, socioeconomic status, and geography. Inclusive education policies ensure that marginalized groups, including children with disabilities and rural communities, are not left behind (Henry & Kauppi, 2025). By embedding principles of fairness and justice into curricula, education becomes a tool for social transformation, empowering individuals to challenge discrimination and contribute meaningfully to civic life.



Education also plays a critical role in promoting social cohesion and democratic participation. When learners encounter diverse perspectives and inclusive practices, they are better equipped to engage in civic dialogue and advocate for equity.

UNESCO (2026) emphasizes that education fosters respect for human rights and strengthens communities by cultivating empathy and shared responsibility. In this way, education not only addresses immediate inequalities but also builds the foundation for a more just and resilient society.

Education and Economic Empowerment

Education is a proven driver of economic growth. Research consistently shows that each additional year of schooling increases individual earnings by nearly 10 percent, while simultaneously strengthening national productivity (Benveniste, 2025). In Malaysia, aligning education with labour market needs is critical to preparing youth for the challenges of globalization and technological disruption. Partnerships between educational institutions and the private sector can bridge skills gaps, ensuring that graduates are equipped for emerging industries such as digital technology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture (UNESCO, 2026).

Beyond economic growth, education also fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. By equipping learners with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, education enables them to create new opportunities and contribute to sustainable industries. UNESCO (2026) notes that education systems that integrate digital literacy and sustainability principles can empower individuals to participate in the green economy. This not only boosts employability but also aligns economic empowerment with long-term social and environmental goals.

Lifelong Learning and Global Challenges

The future demands adaptability, and lifelong learning equips individuals to reskill and upskill as circumstances evolve, from technological innovation to climate change.

e-ISSN : 2682-7948



UNESCO emphasizes that education builds resilience against crises, whether environmental, economic, or social (UNESCO, 2026). Embedding sustainability into teaching and learning prepares future generations to address ecological challenges and foster peace.

Lifelong learning also strengthens social cohesion by encouraging continuous engagement with knowledge and civic responsibility. Henry and Kauppi (2025) argue that education must extend beyond formal schooling to include community-based initiatives, vocational training, and digital platforms that promote inclusivity. These approaches help individuals remain active contributors to society, navigate global challenges, and uphold values of justice and sustainability.

Challenges and Strategic Directions

Despite progress, barriers remain. Globally, millions of children remain out of school, mostly in developing regions (UNESCO, 2026). In Malaysia, rural-urban divides, digital inequities, and socioeconomic disparities continue to hinder equitable access. Addressing these challenges requires:

- **Inclusive education policies** that prioritize vulnerable groups (Henry & Kauppi, 2025).
- **Investment in teacher training** to enhance quality and pedagogy (Benveniste, 2025).
- **Integrate digital literacy** to prepare learners for the future of work (UNESCO, 2026).
- **Public-private partnerships** to align education with industry needs (Benveniste, 2025).

Conclusion

Education for a better future is not an abstract vision but an urgent necessity. By embedding equity, sustainability, and lifelong learning into education systems, societies can ensure that no learner is excluded and that future generations inherit a world built on knowledge, justice, and resilience. The pathway to a better future begins in classrooms, but its impact extends far beyond into communities, economies, and the global stage.

References

Henry, S., & Kauppi, V. M. (2025). Education for a better future? Theory, practice, and social justice. Ethics and Education. Taylor & Francis. https://doi.org/10.1080/17449642.2025.2518607

UNESCO. (2026, February 24). Education: What you need to know and why it matters. UNESCO. https://www.unesco.org

Benveniste, L. (2025, August 26). Education is a key to jobs, growth, and lifelong learning. UNESCO Education 2030.