



Seven actionable insights from the AI Observatory



1 Design intentionally for a better future. AI in global education is set to widen the learning divide

1. **The AI-Powered:** In tech-rich cities, students use AI to think critically, solve problems, and build skills, with expert guidance ensuring they learn, not just use.
2. **The AI-Dependent:** With good internet but little oversight, some students offload work to AI, gaining convenience but missing real learning.
3. **The AI-Excluded:** For many, AI remains out of reach. Limited resources and training leave teachers and students struggling with even basic connectivity.

Source: World Bank

② **Keep three horizons of change in view.** Taking action and being visionary about where it's all going.

FOMO is not a strategy

1. *Upgrade:* **AI for education**, integrating tools into existing systems to make what we already do work better.
2. *Disrupt:* **AI in education**, experimenting and scaling new ways of teaching, learning, and decision-making.
3. *Transform:* **Education in the age of AI**, reimagining learning systems for a world where AI is woven into life.

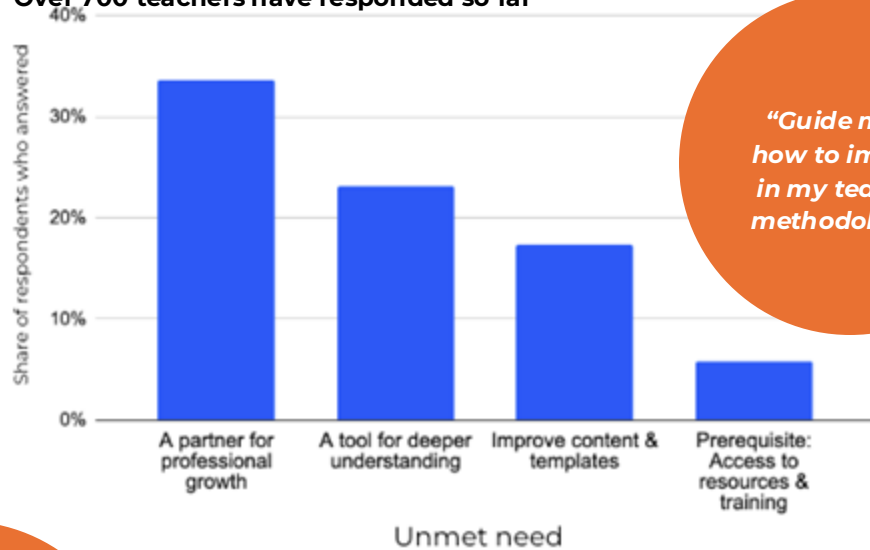


18 ideas to narrow the learning divide in the age of AI

	 Upgrade AI for education	 Disrupt AI in education	 Transform Education in the age of AI
Student 1. Enable learners	Shape AI as a tool for critical thinking and creativity, not just an 'answer machine'	Reform curricula to include AI literacy, learning not just how to use AI, but how to question, shape, and co-create with it	Reform curricula to help students adapt to new ways of working, ensuring they can collaborate, solve problems, and use AI in their lives and careers
Teacher 2. Empower teachers	Support teachers with training and guardrails to shift from uncertainty to confidence in identifying effective use cases and AI tools	Co-design tools with teachers, ensuring they are shaped by real teaching and learning needs	Help teachers build more engaging, adaptive learning experiences, ensuring no student is left behind
System 3. Streamline bureaucracy	Enhance education by using AI to make school management and processes more efficient	Optimise 'behind the scenes' tasks at every level of the education system	Connect and, automate government to overcome staff gaps and gain efficiency and learning
4. Align partnerships	Create policies and programmes that enable use of AI in education while protecting learners and national priorities	Move from one-off partnerships to structured, long-term alliances between governments, industry, and academia	Avoid dependence by establishing open, decentralised AI-powered networks for learning
5. Create context-driven solutions	Ensure embedded tech allows for alignment with local curriculum, assessment, and teacher needs	Co-design solutions that align with education priorities and ethics	Leapfrog the global status quo and create education models that are fit for the context
6. Renew the purpose of learning	Create practical ways to use AI to enhance learning outcomes, so that today's standards are achieved by more learners	Plan intentionally for AI to contribute to long-term improvements in student learning rather than short-term acceleration	Re-imagine the purpose and ways of learning in the age of AI with the foresight to do things differently from previous tech waves

③ Work with teachers to design AI tools that are genuinely useful in classrooms, instead of training them to use products built by tech companies.

Over 700 teachers have responded so far



"Guide me on how to improve in my teaching methodologies"

"Create images and videos for learning that learners can relate to according to their environment"

4 Think beyond classrooms and use AI not just for teachers and students, but to improve how government services are delivered inside ministries.



BD Bangladesh boost the National Assessment Platform to see where to send resources

PK Pakistan administer Foundational Learning Assessments nationwide

KE Kenya integrating AI into the Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS)

NG Nigeria improve data management and decision-making in education

PH Philippines improve delivery and exploring how to structure operations for greater impact

SL Sierra Leone tools to help the Delivery Team track progress, generate reports and share results

5 Work with the private sector, but make sure to align around safety, flexibility and learning outcomes.

We need the private sector at the table and policies that unlock AI's potential in education while protecting learners and national priorities.

How do we do this well?

- Use **frameworks like The EdTech for Good** to identify and scale tools that are safe, evidence-based, and adaptable.
- Build **long-term alliances** between government, industry, and academia, not just one-off projects.
- **Broker partnerships through neutral party** so they stay fair, focused, and built to last.

⑥ Be empirical, the future is being written in real time. We can't pause to study it from the sidelines, **we have to learn by doing, testing, and adapting as we go.**

"FOR THE THINGS
WE HAVE TO
LEARN BEFORE
WE CAN DO,
WE LEARN
BY DOING."

ARISTOTLE

Fund for learning, not perfection.

Design funding so teams can test, fail fast, and adapt. Back progress, not promises and make room for iteration before scale.

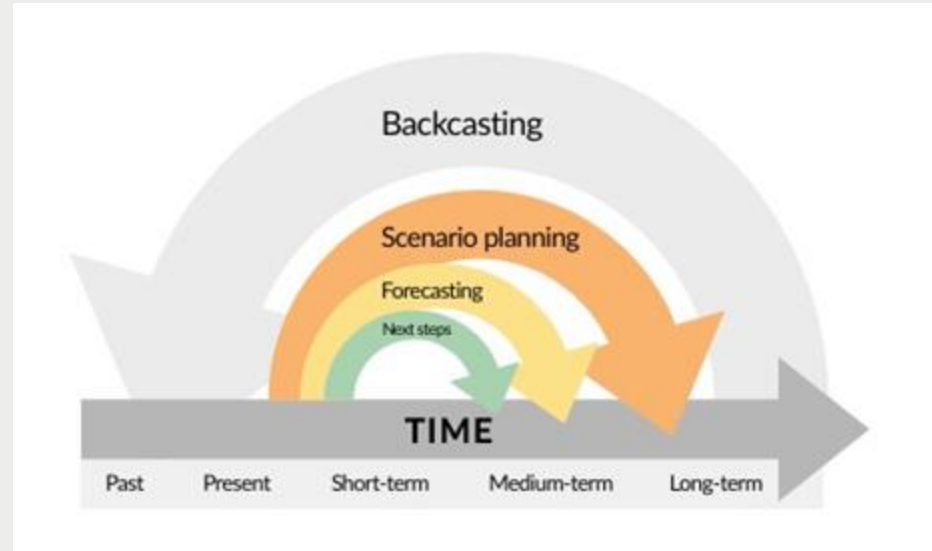
Build a culture of curiosity.

Reward reflection and honesty over flawless delivery. Ask what was learned, not just what was achieved. Treat learning as a sign of strength.

Use adaptive methods.

Work in short cycles of testing, evidence, and adjustment. Make decisions based on what's emerging in real time, not what was assumed at the start.

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Thank you ⁺

