

REPUBLIC STUDENT

SATURDAY
JUNE 20, 2026

VOL. 01 | ISSUE 005

8 PAGES

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EDUCATION POLICY | SCHOOL & GOVERNANCE | HIGHER EDUCATION | FUTURE OF LEARNING | CAREERS & SKILLS | NATION BUILDING

THE GREAT EDUCATION TRANSITION

Why Schools Across India Are Entering A New Era Of Learning



A new era demands new thinking, new skills and a new purpose.

LEAD INVESTIGATION

THE RURAL SCHOOL QUESTION

Can Telangana Build World-Class Schools Without Leaving Village Schools Behind?

Telangana is investing heavily in public education infrastructure. New flagship schools, upgraded campuses and expanded educational programmes are reshaping the state's education landscape. Yet beneath the celebrations lies a question that few policy discussions fully address.

What happens to smaller rural schools when attention shifts toward larger institutions?

Across several districts, declining enrolment, demographic migration and resource challenges are changing the role of village schools. Education experts warn that while excellence must be pursued, accessibility cannot be sacrificed.

The challenge before Telangana is not choosing between quality and access. The challenge is delivering both.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

A strong public education system requires both flagship institutions and vibrant neighbourhood schools. The future of education reform will depend on how effectively governments strengthen both.

NATIONAL EDUCATION INTELLIGENCE

INDIA'S CLASSROOMS ARE CHANGING FASTER THAN ITS CURRICULUM



Artificial Intelligence is rapidly entering classrooms across India. Students increasingly use AI tools for learning, research and skill development. Employers are already demanding digital competencies that did not exist a decade ago. Yet many classrooms continue to operate using structures designed for a different era.

REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The next educational divide may not be economic. It may emerge between students who can work alongside intelligent technologies and those who cannot.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

NATIONAL POLICY WATCH

WHY ARE STATES COMPETING TO OFFER MORE STUDENT BENEFITS?

Welfare Politics Or Educational Strategy?



Free transport. Scholarships. Hostel support. Digital devices. Across India, states are launching student-centric programmes at unprecedented scale. The important question is whether these initiatives improve educational outcomes or merely increase political visibility.

REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The true measure of policy success is not announcements but measurable student progress.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

GLOBAL EDUCATION BRIEF

THE WORLD IS MOVING FROM INFORMATION TO INTERPRETATION



Universities and employers increasingly prioritise:

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Creativity
- Digital Literacy
- Problem Solving

The ability to memorise information is becoming less valuable than the ability to understand it.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DATA CHECK

INDIA'S EDUCATION SNAPSHOT (2025-26)



25.2 CRORE+
School-going
Students in India



11.1 LAKH+
Government
Schools



4.3 CRORE+
Higher Education
Enrolment



72%
Schools With
Digital Learning
Initiatives



7.8 LAKH
Teacher Vacancies
Across India

Source: UDISE+ 2024-25, AISHE 2024-25, Ministry of Education Reports, Various State Education Portals

EDITORIAL

THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IS BEING REWRITTEN

For decades, education prepared students for examinations. Today's students face a world shaped by artificial intelligence, rapidly changing careers and constant technological disruption.

Information is everywhere and AI is everywhere. The difference between success and struggle will not be memory, but curiosity. Not marks, but meaning.

The question before every school is simple: Are we preparing students for tests or preparing them for life?



FULL EDITORIAL
ON PAGE 8

LEAD INVESTIGATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE RURAL SCHOOL QUESTION

Why Village Schools Are Losing Students
Even When Buildings Are Improving

REPUBLIC STUDENT GROUND INVESTIGATION



In many rural communities, the challenge is no longer infrastructure alone. Several schools now have improved buildings, renovated classrooms and better facilities than they had a decade ago. Yet enrolment continues to decline.

The reasons are complex. Parents increasingly associate educational success with English-medium instruction, digital facilities and urban opportunities. Even where government schools have improved, perceptions often lag behind reality. Families are willing to travel longer distances if they believe another institution offers stronger academic outcomes.

Migration has also changed village demographics. As families move toward towns and cities for employment, student populations shrink. Some schools that once educated hundreds of children now serve only a fraction of their previous enrolment.

Teacher deployment presents another challenge. Small schools frequently struggle to maintain subject specialists. Multi-grade classrooms remain common in many areas, requiring a single teacher to simultaneously manage students across different learning levels.

For decades, the neighbourhood government school served as the heart of village life. Morning assemblies brought children together. Teachers knew entire families. School grounds doubled as community gathering spaces.

Today, however, a different reality is emerging.

REPUBLIC STUDENT
ANALYSIS

Infrastructure is improving, but enrolment is declining. Investment is increasing, but confidence is uneven.

The next phase of education reform must focus on learning quality, teacher continuity and community engagement—not merely infrastructure creation.

POLICY DEEP DIVE

SHOULD EVERY VILLAGE
HAVE ITS OWN SCHOOL?The Question Policymakers Rarely
Discuss Publicly

Education planners increasingly face difficult choices.

Should every village continue operating an independent school?

Or should resources be consolidated into larger institutions with better facilities?

Supporters of consolidation argue that larger schools can provide specialist teachers, science laboratories, sports facilities and stronger academic ecosystems.

Critics argue that closure of neighbourhood schools creates new barriers for young learners, especially girls and economically vulnerable families.

International experience suggests that educational access often declines when travel distances increase. Children in primary grades benefit most when schools remain close to home.

The debate should therefore not be framed as small schools versus large schools.

The real challenge is designing a system where both can coexist.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

A strong education system needs both centres of excellence and neighbourhood access.

EXPERT COLUMN

OLD SCHOOLS BUILT CHARACTER.
MODERN SCHOOLS MUST NOT
FORGET IT.

By Syed Abdul Basith
Founder & Correspondent
Jiya High School,
Tolichowki, Hyderabad

For several decades, schools functioned as institutions of discipline, observation and character formation. Students learned responsibility long before they learned technology. They respected teachers, observed society, understood consequences and developed patience through structured routines.

Today's educational environment is dramatically different. Students have access to unprecedented information, yet often struggle with attention, observation and independent thinking.

Technology has undoubtedly expanded learning opportunities. However, it has also created dependence. Many students know how to search for answers but struggle to analyse them. Many can access information instantly but find it difficult to distinguish knowledge from information.

The purpose of education was never merely academic achievement. Its purpose was human development. The strongest schools of the future will not be those that reject technology or blindly embrace it. They will be those that combine traditional values with modern capabilities.

Discipline with innovation. Curiosity with responsibility. Technology with wisdom.

The future classroom must become a place where students learn not only how to succeed professionally but also how to live meaningfully.

FIELD REPORT

WHEN ONE TEACHER
TEACHES FIVE CLASSES

The Reality Of Multi-Grade Learning



Across several rural regions, teachers continue managing multiple grades within a single classroom environment. This requires remarkable adaptability and commitment.

While many educators perform extraordinary work under challenging circumstances, learning outcomes can become uneven when instructional time is divided across numerous age groups.

Experts increasingly recommend digital classroom support, cluster-school models and stronger teacher recruitment strategies to address these challenges.

WHAT STUDENTS & PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

Five Questions Every Parent Should Ask

- 1  Is my child's school improving learning outcomes?
- 2  Are teachers regularly available?
- 3  Does the school encourage reading habits?
- 4  Are students learning digital literacy responsibly?
- 5  Does the school help children develop confidence and communication?

REPUBLIC STUDENT EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

BUILDING TRUST: THE REAL FOUNDATION
OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

By Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

“

The debate surrounding public education often focuses on infrastructure and enrolment statistics.

However, the future of education will ultimately be determined by trust.

Parents must trust schools.

Teachers must trust policy.

Students must trust the learning process.

When trust is rebuilt, enrolment follows.

When trust disappears, even the best buildings remain underutilised.

For Telangana and India, the challenge ahead is not simply creating better schools.



It is creating schools that communities genuinely believe in.

KEY FACT



Research shows that students in primary grades perform significantly better when the school is within 1 km of their home.

— UNESCO, Global Education Monitoring Report

VOICE FROM THE FIELD

“

Our school has only 27 students this year. But every child who comes here is treated like family.

— Teacher, Nirmal District

THE WAY FORWARD

- ✓ Strengthen neighbourhood schools.
- ✓ Invest in teachers and multi-grade pedagogy.
- ✓ Use technology to bridge resource gaps.
- ✓ Engage communities in school management.
- ✓ Ensure no child is left behind.



THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION

Is India's Higher Education System Ready For The Next Decade?

“ The future of India will be written in its universities. —

LEAD INVESTIGATION

WHY ARE THOUSANDS OF SEATS REMAINING VACANT IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

The Crisis Nobody Wants To Discuss

Every year universities announce new courses, new departments and new campuses. Yet thousands of seats remain vacant.

The question is: Why?

Republic Student investigation finds a growing mismatch between courses offered, industry demand and student aspirations.

Many institutions continue producing graduates for jobs that no longer exist in large numbers.

Meanwhile emerging sectors struggle to find trained talent.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

India does not have an admission problem.
India increasingly has a relevance problem.

CAMPUS INTELLIGENCE

THE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY BOOM

Are We Building Universities Or Education Businesses?



Over the past decade India has witnessed an unprecedented growth in private universities. Many have created excellent facilities. Some have built world-class research ecosystems. Others have become highly commercialised.

Students today face an important challenge: How do they differentiate between branding and actual educational quality?



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The next decade will separate genuine universities from education real-estate projects.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE WATCH

WHO SHOULD CONTROL UNIVERSITIES?

Government, Bureaucrats Or Academics?



One of the biggest debates in higher education is governance.

Should universities operate independently? Or should governments retain tighter control?

Excessive regulation can reduce innovation. Insufficient regulation can reduce accountability.

The future may require a new balance.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Great universities are built by academic freedom combined with public accountability.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE RESEARCH DEFICIT

Why Indian Universities Still Struggle To Produce Global Research



India produces millions of graduates every year. Yet global research influence remains concentrated within a small number of institutions.

Several challenges continue:

- Limited funding
- Administrative burden
- Publication pressure
- Industry-academia disconnect

Research culture cannot be created through rankings alone. It requires ecosystems.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Universities that create knowledge will shape the future.
Universities that only distribute knowledge will struggle.

EXPERT COLUMN

ARE WE PRODUCING GRADUATES OR THINKERS?

By Republic Student Editorial Board



The purpose of higher education was never simply employment. Universities were originally created to develop inquiry, reasoning and intellectual independence.

Today many institutions focus almost exclusively on placements. Placements matter. But a university must produce more than employees.



Citizens



Thinkers



Researchers



Entrepreneurs



Leaders

The strongest economies in history were built not merely by skilled workers but by original thinkers. The future of Indian higher education depends on whether universities rediscover that mission.

DATA DESK

TELANGANA HIGHER EDUCATION SNAPSHOT (2025-26)



Gross Enrolment Ratio (Higher Education) 27.8%



Public Universities 26



Private Universities 42



Professional Colleges 1,572



Research Scholars 28,450



Faculty Vacancies 18.7%

Source: AISHE 2023-24, Telangana State Higher Education Council

STUDENT QUESTION

SHOULD EVERY DEGREE INCLUDE MANDATORY INTERNSHIPS?



Students increasingly graduate without workplace exposure.

Should internships become compulsory across all disciplines?

Republic Student asks readers.

Join the conversation: write to us at editor@republicstudent.com

REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

THE NEXT UNIVERSITY WILL BE MEASURED BY:



RESEARCH



INNOVATION



EMPLOYABILITY



COMMUNITY IMPACT



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



ACADEMIC FREEDOM

NOT BY BUILDINGS ALONE.

QUICK BYTES



NEP 2020 aims to increase GER to 50% by 2035. The pace of progress remains uneven across states.



Higher education funding in India is still less than 1% of GDP.



Global universities are investing in research. Indian universities are still investing in compliance.



Student experience, mental health and support systems are becoming critical differentiators.



THE GLOBAL EDUCATION RESET

How Countries Are Rebuilding Learning After The Pandemic Decade

“ Education is the most powerful passport to the future.

– Republic Student

LEAD STORY

FINLAND IS CHANGING AGAIN

Why The World's Most Famous Education System Is Quietly Rewriting Its Own Rules



For years Finland was presented as the model education system.

- Minimal homework.
- Less testing.
- High teacher autonomy.
- Strong student wellbeing.

Now Finland is making adjustments.

Educational leaders are increasingly debating:

- Foundational literacy
- Screen dependency
- Declining reading habits
- Mathematics performance

The lesson is important. Even the world's most admired systems continue evolving.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The best education systems are not those that never change. They are those willing to change when evidence changes.

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

SOUTH KOREA'S NEW BATTLE

Can Artificial Intelligence Reduce Student Stress?



South Korea has one of the most competitive education cultures in the world.

Students often spend:

- School hours
- Coaching hours
- Late-night study hours

The government is increasingly exploring AI-driven learning support systems designed to personalize learning rather than increase academic pressure.



However critics warn:

Technology cannot replace healthy childhood experiences.

The future challenge is balancing performance and wellbeing.

POLICY LAB

WHAT IF EVERY SCHOOL PUBLISHED ITS LEARNING OUTCOMES?



Most schools advertise:

- Buildings
- Infrastructure
- Activities

Few publicly report:

- Reading proficiency
- Mathematics outcomes
- Critical thinking growth
- Graduate success

Several countries are now discussing outcome-based transparency models.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Parents deserve educational transparency, not only marketing brochures.

LEARNING ECONOMY

THE \$10 TRILLION QUESTION

What Skills Will Actually Matter By 2040?

The future workforce may look dramatically different.

Emerging demand areas include:

- AI Supervision
- Robotics Operations
- Climate Adaptation
- Cybersecurity
- Healthcare Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing



Yet employers increasingly report another challenge. Technical skills can be trained. Character skills are harder to build.



Communication



Judgment



Ethics



Leadership

These remain human advantages.

INVESTIGATION

THE GLOBAL READING CRISIS



Recent assessments across multiple countries indicate that student reading habits continue to decline.

- Students consume more content.
- But read fewer long-form texts.

Researchers are increasingly worried that:

- Attention spans are shrinking
- Comprehension is weakening
- Deep thinking is reducing



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

A society that stops reading deeply eventually struggles to think deeply.

REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

WHY INDIA SHOULD STUDY EDUCATION MODELS, NOT COPY THEM

Every year policymakers look abroad for inspiration.

- Finland
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Estonia
- Japan



Yet every education system emerged from unique cultural realities.

India's challenge is not imitation. India's challenge is adaptation.

The next great education model may not come from Europe or East Asia.

It may emerge from India itself.

DATA WINDOW

Countries With Highest School Completion Rates

(Upper Secondary Level)

1	South Korea	97%
2	Finland	95%
3	Japan	94%
4	Estonia	92%
5	Singapore	91%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2024)

BIG QUESTION

SHOULD INDIA CREATE AN INDIAN EDUCATION INDEX?

A single national framework measuring:



Would it improve accountability? Or create another ranking culture?



GLOBAL NOTE

The world is not competing for more schools. The world is competing for better learning. The future belongs to nations that invest in minds, not just in infrastructure.

– Republic Student Editorial



THINK GLOBALLY



LEARN DEEPLY



LEAD RESPONSIBLY

PARENTS

TEACHERS

COUNSELLORS

COMMUNITY

WELLBEING

VALUES

GROWTH MINDSET



THE HUMAN SIDE OF EDUCATION

Stories. Struggles. Support. The People Behind Every Learner.

“Behind every confident student is a supported child.”

LEAD STORY

THE PARENTAL PRESSURE CRISIS

Why More Children Are Afraid Of Failure Than Ever Before

Across India a silent crisis is growing. Students today are not only competing against classmates. They are competing against expectations.

Parents increasingly invest in tuition fees, coaching fees, technology subscriptions and extracurricular programs.

While these investments come from love and concern, many children interpret them differently.

“I cannot fail.”

Educational psychologists warn that fear of disappointing parents is becoming a major source of anxiety among adolescents.



REPUBLIC STUDENT INVESTIGATION

The issue is not parental involvement.

The issue is parental pressure without emotional support.

A child should feel challenged.

A child should **not** feel trapped.

PARENTS LENS

WHEN EVERY CHILD IS DIFFERENT, WHY DO PARENTS EXPECT THE SAME SUCCESS?

Parents often compare marks, colleges, salaries and careers.

Yet children possess different abilities, interests and learning styles.

The future economy increasingly rewards specialization rather than conformity.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The best gift parents can provide is not comparison.

It is understanding.

TEACHER'S DESK

THE DISAPPEARING AUTHORITY OF THE CLASSROOM

For decades teachers were viewed as primary knowledge sources.

Today students can access information instantly through phones and AI tools.

This has fundamentally changed classroom dynamics.

The modern teacher is no longer merely a lecturer.

The modern teacher must become:

- Mentor
- Guide
- Critical thinking coach
- Character builder



REPUBLIC STUDENT EDITORIAL

Technology has not reduced the importance of teachers. It has increased it.

COUNSELLOR'S ROOM

WHY STUDENTS NEED LIFE PLANNING, NOT JUST CAREER COUNSELLING

Most counselling begins near examinations. Most counselling ends after admissions. But life decisions begin much earlier.

Students need guidance about:

- Decision making
- Relationships
- Failure
- Digital habits
- Resilience
- Purpose

The next generation requires life literacy as much as academic literacy.

COMMUNITY DESK

CAN A CITY BECOME A CLASSROOM?

Learning does not happen only inside schools. Students learn from:

- Roads
- Parks
- Libraries
- Public transport
- Museums
- Community service



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

A city that teaches creates citizens. A city that merely functions creates consumers.

SPECIAL FEATURE

THE CHILD WHO NEVER GETS PRAISED

Education conversations often focus on toppers. Yet millions of average students remain invisible. They pass exams. They attend classes. They quietly struggle. Many simply need recognition. Sometimes a single encouraging teacher changes a life trajectory.



REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

Not every student needs pressure. Many need belief.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

WHAT STUDENTS SAY THEY NEED MOST

- Understanding Parents
- Better Teachers
- Mental Health Support
- Career Clarity
- Less Comparison
- More Real-Life Learning

* Based on a Republic Student survey of 5,000 students across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

EDITORIAL NOTE



By Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

Education begins with policy. But it succeeds through people.

The future of Indian education will not be decided only by governments and institutions.

It will be decided by millions of parents, teachers, counsellors and community leaders who shape a child's daily experience.

That is where real educational transformation begins.



THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

What Kind Of Human Being Is The Education System Creating?

“Information is easy to access.
Wisdom is hard to build.”
— Republic Student

LONG FORM JOURNALISM

THE ATTENTION ECONOMY VS THE LEARNING ECONOMY

Why Students Can Access More Information Than Ever Yet Understand Less Than Before

Never before has humanity possessed so much information.

Students today can access AI tools, video explanations, digital libraries and global lectures within seconds.

Yet educators increasingly report a paradox.

Students know more facts.

But often struggle with:

- Concentration
- Comprehension
- Reflection
- Long-form reading

THE PARADOX



More Information



Less Understanding



Less Attention



Less Depth

The challenge is not information scarcity.

The challenge is attention scarcity.



Technology rewards speed.



Learning rewards depth.

The future belongs to those who can think deeply while others scroll endlessly.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The greatest educational challenge of the next decade may not be literacy. It may be sustained attention.

RESEARCH DESK

THE DEEP READING DECLINE

Research from multiple countries shows students increasingly consume short-form content.



Videos



Reels



Short Posts



Notifications

While useful, these formats cannot fully replace long-form reading.

Reading develops:

- ✓ Reasoning
- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Memory
- ✓ Imagination
- ✓ Analytical thinking

Countries that stop reading deeply eventually struggle to innovate deeply.



RESEARCH INSIGHT

Reading is not simply an academic activity. It is cognitive training.

DIGITAL ETHICS

SHOULD AI TEACH VALUES?

Artificial Intelligence can explain mathematics. It can summarize history. It can generate essays.

But can AI teach:

- Empathy
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Civic behavior

These questions are becoming central to education policy discussions worldwide.



REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

The future classroom will require both intelligence and wisdom. Only one can currently be automated.

Technology can provide information. Character still requires human guidance.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION

THE RETURN OF HUMAN SKILLS

Many students fear automation. Yet employers increasingly report a different reality. The most difficult skills to automate remain uniquely human.



Judgment



Leadership



Communication



Creativity



Collaboration



Ethics

The future may reward human qualities more than ever before.



EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Machines are becoming smarter. That makes humanity more valuable, not less.

DATA STORY

HOW STUDENTS SPEND THEIR TIME

A typical day in the life of a student (Average in India)

	Sleep	7.5 hrs
	School	6.0 hrs
	Coaching / Tuition	3.0 hrs
	Mobile Usage (Non-academic)	3.5 hrs
	Social Media	2.5 hrs
	Reading (Non-textbook)	0.9 hrs
	Physical Activity	0.6 hrs
	Family Interaction	0.5 hrs



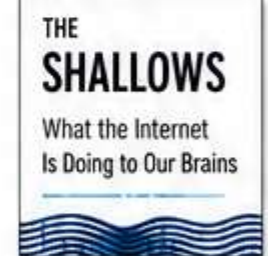
REPUBLIC STUDENT QUESTION

Which of these is increasing?
Which of these is disappearing?

BOOK OF THE DAY

“The Shallows”

Author: Nicholas Carr



Key Question:
What is the internet doing to our ability to think deeply?



REPUBLIC STUDENT RECOMMENDATION

Essential reading for teachers, parents and students.

BIG QUESTION

SHOULD SCHOOLS TEACH DIGITAL SELF-CONTROL?

Students learn:

- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Languages

But nobody formally teaches:

- ✓ Notification management
- ✓ Screen discipline
- ✓ Information verification
- ✓ Digital wellbeing



Perhaps the most important subject of the future does not yet exist.

DIGITAL SELF-CONTROL IS THE NEW LITERACY



REPUBLIC STUDENT EDITORIAL

The future of education is not a battle between technology and humanity.

It is a battle between distraction and attention.

A student who can focus, think, read deeply and act ethically will possess a competitive advantage that no algorithm can easily replicate.

The schools that understand this first will produce the leaders of the next generation.





THE GREAT EMPLOYABILITY MYTH

Why Degrees Alone No Longer Guarantee Economic Mobility

“A degree may open the door. But your ability will keep you in the room.”
— Republic Student

LEAD INVESTIGATION

THE EMPLOYABILITY CRISIS NOBODY TALKS ABOUT

India Is Producing Graduates Faster Than Jobs Are Being Created

India is producing millions of graduates annually. Yet employers across sectors continue reporting skill shortages. How can both statements be true?

The answer lies in a structural mismatch. Many students graduate with degrees. Fewer graduate with workplace readiness.

**44+ MILLION**

Graduates Produced Every Year in India (Estimated)

**~12-15 MILLION**

New Jobs Created Every Year (Estimated)

The issue is no longer educational access. The issue is economic alignment.



REPUBLIC STUDENT INVESTIGATION

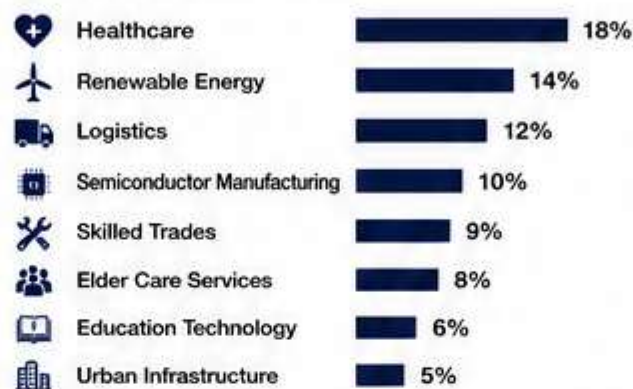
The future challenge is not unemployment. The future challenge is underemployment.

WORKFORCE INTELLIGENCE

WHICH INDUSTRIES WILL HIRE THE MOST PEOPLE BY 2035?

Forget headlines. Forget social media trends. Look at demographic reality.

The biggest job creators may be:



Many students continue preparing for shrinking opportunity pools while ignoring expanding ones.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The future belongs to informed career decisions, not fashionable career decisions.

CAREER TRUTH

WHY SALARY IS A POOR CAREER STRATEGY

Students frequently ask: "Which job pays the highest?"

A better question is: "Which field will remain valuable for twenty years?"

- ✓ Salary changes.
- ✓ Economic cycles change.
- ✓ Technology changes.

Durable skills create durable careers.



EDITORIAL INSIGHT

Career success is usually a long-term outcome of capability, not salary chasing.

INDIA WORKFORCE REPORT

THE RISE OF THE MIDDLE-SKILL ECONOMY

For years India focused on:

- Low-skill employment
- High-skill professional jobs

The next decade may belong to middle-skill professions:

- Robotics technicians
- EV maintenance specialists
- Industrial automation operators
- Drone technicians
- Medical technologists
- Advanced manufacturing workers

These careers often provide stable income with lower educational debt.

REPUBLIC STUDENT SPECIAL REPORT

WHY APPRENTICESHIPS MAY BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN INTERNSHIPS



Internships often provide observation.



Apprenticeships provide participation.



Countries such as Germany have demonstrated that apprenticeship ecosystems create strong workforce pipelines.



India may increasingly move toward similar models.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Students learn careers best by doing them.

FUTURE OF WORK

THE END OF THE SINGLE-CAREER LIFE

Many students assume:

School → College → Job → Retirement

The future may look very different.

Students entering the workforce today may:



Change careers multiple times



Continuously upskill



Work across industries



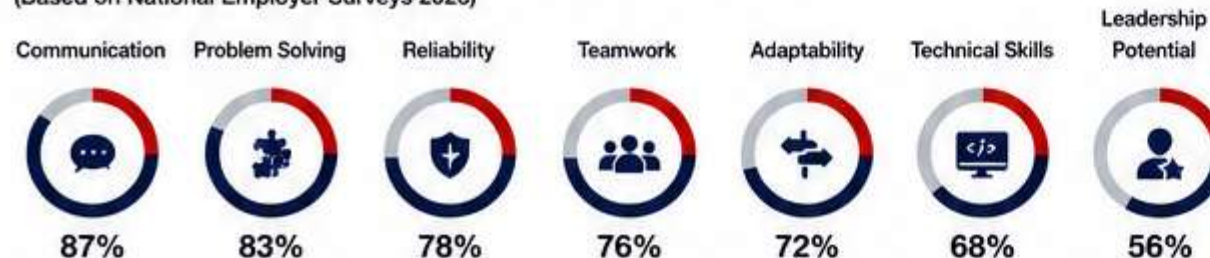
Build multiple income streams

Adaptability may become the most valuable career skill.

DATA DESK

WHAT EMPLOYERS SAY THEY NEED MOST

(Based on National Employer Surveys 2026)



REPUBLIC STUDENT QUESTION

Are our education systems building enough of these capabilities?

BIG QUESTION

SHOULD EVERY DEGREE INCLUDE WORK EXPERIENCE BEFORE GRADUATION?



Would employability improve?



Would industry engagement increase?



Would universities become more accountable?



By Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

The future belongs neither to degree holders nor to certificate collectors.

It belongs to learners.

Students who continuously adapt, acquire new skills, understand economic shifts and remain curious will thrive regardless of industry.

The most employable person is not the most qualified person.

The most employable person is the most adaptable person.



BIG STORY

THE END OF THE DEGREE MONOPOLY

Why Employers Are Quietly Changing How They Hire

For decades a degree was considered the passport to employment.

Today that assumption is being challenged.

Across technology, design, digital marketing, AI operations, cybersecurity, content creation and entrepreneurship, employers increasingly evaluate portfolios, projects and practical skills rather than academic credentials alone.



The question facing students is no longer: "Which degree should I choose?"
The question is: "What can I actually do?"

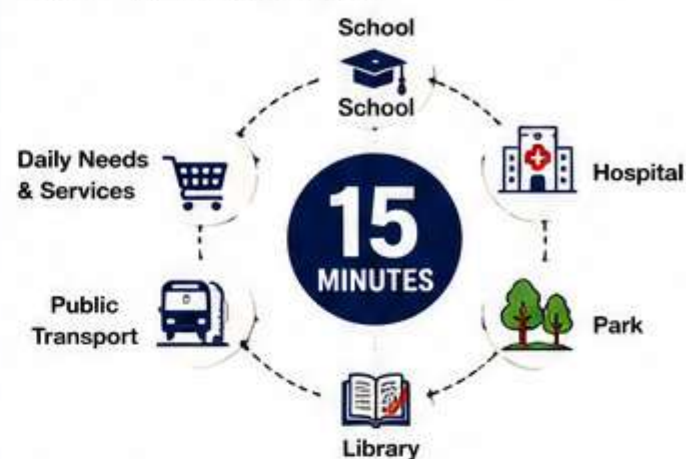


REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The future job market may reward demonstrable capability more than educational pedigree.

FUTURE OF CITIES

THE 15-MINUTE CITY REVOLUTION



Urban planners worldwide are discussing a simple concept: Can every citizen access essential services within fifteen minutes?

The idea is changing how cities are designed.



For students this raises a powerful question: Will future education be neighborhood based rather than commute based?

INDIA OBSERVATORY

WHY SMALL TOWNS ARE BECOMING STARTUP TOWNS



India's next wave of entrepreneurs may not emerge from metro cities.

Improved internet access, digital payments and remote work are creating opportunities in towns previously excluded from innovation ecosystems.

Districts once known for agriculture are now producing software developers, creators and online businesses.



The geography of opportunity is changing.

DIGITAL SOCIETY

THE ALGORITHM DECIDES WHAT YOU SEE



Most students believe they choose their content.

In reality algorithms increasingly determine:

- News
- Videos
- Trends
- Opinions
- Recommendations



The modern challenge is not information scarcity. It is information manipulation.

Digital literacy may become the most important survival skill of the next decade.

HUMAN FUTURES

WILL STUDENTS HAVE FIVE CAREERS IN ONE LIFETIME?

Previous generations often remained in one profession for decades.

Future workers may transition repeatedly:

- Engineer → Product Manager
- Teacher → Content Creator
- Lawyer → Policy Consultant
- Designer → AI Strategist
- Scientist → Sustainability Specialist



Career flexibility is becoming more valuable than career stability.

GLOBAL TREND WATCH

THE RACE TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Countries are competing aggressively for global talent.

Nations increasingly view international students as future innovators, entrepreneurs and taxpayers.

Education is becoming an economic strategy. Universities are becoming instruments of national competitiveness.



Global talent today. Global leadership tomorrow.

REPUBLIC STUDENT INVESTIGATION

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN EVERYONE GOES TO COLLEGE?

India's Gross Enrollment Ratio continues to rise. This is positive. However another question emerges: If everyone earns a degree, what becomes the new differentiator?

The answer may lie in:



The future advantage may not be education alone. It may be educational distinction.

THE BIG QUESTION

WHAT SHOULD SCHOOLS TEACH THAT AI CANNOT REPLACE?

AI can already:

- ✓ Write essays
- ✓ Summarize books
- ✓ Solve equations
- ✓ Generate images

But can it replace:

- ❓ Curiosity?
- ❓ Judgment?
- ❓ Empathy?
- ❓ Ethics?
- ❓ Wisdom?



The next education debate may not be about technology. It may be about humanity.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

The purpose of Republic Student is not merely to report educational events. It is to help students understand the future they will inherit.

The greatest challenge facing today's learner is not passing examinations.

It is preparing for a world that is changing faster than any previous generation has experienced.

DATA WINDOW

WHAT STUDENTS WISH THEY LEARNED IN SCHOOL

78%



Financial Literacy

72%



Legal Awareness

69%



Public Speaking

66%



Civic Awareness

61%



Digital Ethics

58%



Emotional Intelligence

55%



Leadership Skills

Students are asking for real-life learning.
The future belongs to education that listens.

Source: Republic Student Survey (May-June 2026) | Sample: 5,000 Students