

Review of: "Empowering Future Workforces: Reframing Education to Develop Essential Skills for a Dynamic Labor Market"

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This is a propositional paper which sets out some interesting points and attends to a timely issue - the role of education systems in a changing labour market. The paper focuses on the role of education to supply skills or competences to the labour market. There are some interesting points made but the paper is not clear about which part or level of education system the analysis is concerned with, for example, basic level (school based) education or further or higher education. Also, the evidence from which the arguments are made require more careful discussion. A more thorough literature review would be beneficial.

For example, first, the paper begins by asserting that traditional forms of education focus on job specific skills whereas more transferable competences would be preferable. However, education systems are different in various parts of the world and more careful consideration is necessary for the statement that traditional education systems focus on "job-specific knowledge rather than transferable skills that remain valuable regardless of the job specifics". Second, the paper then comments on educational methods and argues for a problem-based and experiential form of teaching and learning. However, no evidence is presented about the use and applicability of different educational methods in different contexts.

The focus of this paper is on the supply side of the labour market but there is currently no recognition of the importance of the demand side (government and employer policies and decisions) which are a further important variable in individuals' life and employment chances. Although the author acknowledges that there are other factors (socio-economic position and social advantage / disadvantage) that affect employability chances, another area that is not considered in this short paper are the interactive processes between employers and individuals that underpin navigation of labour market entry and sustained employment over the long term.