

## **EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE XXI CENTURY: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

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### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the key challenges faced by the education system in the 21st century, including the impact of digital technologies, changes in the structure of knowledge and socio-economic transformations. It also considers current solutions aimed at modernizing educational practices, improving the quality of graduate training and ensuring the availability of education in the context of global changes.

**Keywords:** Digital technologies, globalization, gamification, project-based learning, blended learning, online courses.

### **Introduction**

The education system is the foundation of any society, ensuring sustainable development, the formation of human resources and cultural identity. However, with the advent of the XXI century, its stability has been seriously tested. Globalization, the digital revolution, demographic shifts, and environmental challenges require not just an adjustment of old approaches, but a radical rethinking of the principles of education.

Today, educational institutions perform not only the function of transferring knowledge, but also become centers for the formation of new types of thinking, flexibility and social responsibility. Education is no longer a linear process and is turning into a continuous accompaniment of a person throughout life – a concept known as "lifelong learning".

## **The main problems of the modern education system**

### **1. The Gap Between Theory and Practice**

One of the most acute problems is the discrepancy between the content of educational programs and the real needs of the labor market. According to the World Economic Forum (2023), more than 50% of workers around the world need retraining or upskilling by 2025. University graduates often face the fact that their knowledge is outdated or not in demand.

Examples:– In the field of IT, technologies are updated every 6-12 months, while curricula are revised at best once every 5 years.– In engineering specialties, students rarely get practical experience before graduation, which reduces their competitiveness.

### **2. Digital Divide and Technological Backwardness**

Despite active digitalization, there is still strong inequality between regions, schools and even individual families. There is also a problem of the "technological lag" of teachers: not all teachers have the necessary digital competencies, which makes it difficult to introduce new formats of education.

### **3. Outdated teaching methods**

Many educational institutions continue to use traditional forms of presentation—lectures, oral surveys, written exams—while ignoring the possibilities of interactive and game-based formats that can increase student engagement.

### **4. Lack of attention to the development of soft skills**

The modern labor market requires employees not only to have professional knowledge, but also so-called **soft skills** — communication, leadership, creative, and emotional skills. However, in most schools and universities, such skills are not included in the mandatory program and are not systematically assessed.

## **5. Psychological pressure and emotional burnout**

### **Solutions and promising areas of development**

#### **1. Personalized Learning**

The use of AI and adaptive platforms allows you to take into account the individual style and pace of learning of students. Personalized trajectories allow students to focus on weak points, skipping familiar material.

#### **2. Modernization of pedagogical training**

It is necessary to rethink the role of the teacher. Today, a teacher is not just a carrier of information, but a facilitator, mentor, curator of the educational process. Advanced training programs focused on modern methods are required: gamification, project-based learning, flipped classroom, etc.

#### **3. Development of flexible learning formats**

Modular programs, distance courses, blended learning are becoming an integral part of the educational process. This is especially important for working students and those in remote regions.

#### **4. Internationalization of education**

Modern education is increasingly based on international standards. Students participate in exchanges, international internships, and take online courses from the world's leading universities. This requires adapting curricula to the requirements of the global economy.

#### **5. Integration of practice into the educational process**

It is necessary to strengthen the interaction of universities with employers: the opening of educational laboratories on the basis of enterprises, the involvement of practitioners in teaching, mandatory internships for students.

#### **6. Mental health support**

In many countries, psychological support programs for students are already being implemented: school and university psychologists, stress management trainings, "quiet rooms" for recovery. Such initiatives should become the norm.

## Conclusion

The education system of the XXI century is at a crossroads. The future of not only individual countries, but also of humanity as a whole depends on how effectively it adapts to new conditions. Innovations, flexibility, a personality-oriented approach, international integration and sustainability are the key principles of the new educational paradigm. The need for reforms is obvious, but it is important that these reforms do not come from the top down, but with the participation of all stakeholders – teachers, students, parents, employers and government agencies.

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