

# Technology can increase learner engagement, say 95% of teachers

The results of HP's first education-focused survey in Africa sheds light on teachers' skill sets and how learning experiences for students can be improved in South Africa and Nigeria. The research supports HP's education programme in Africa, which aims to provide the right technology and skills to the education sector.



Image source: Katerina Holmes from [Pexels](#)

As the effects of the pandemic continue to be felt on the education system, schools must navigate the imperative to catch up with national curriculums whilst providing future-proof classrooms and learning environments.

“Teachers perform a pivotal function in our society, not only in shaping the minds of future leaders and preparing students to take on the jobs of the future, but also inspiring and enabling better learning outcomes,” says Brad Pulford, managing director of HP Africa.

Understanding the realities of 21st-century teaching, 10 skills were identified in the study as crucial to future-proofing learning. The majority (7 in 10) of teachers surveyed agreed that creative, innovative, critical, and entrepreneurial thinking, as well as digital literacy, are very important.

Crucially, one in three teachers say they could benefit from additional training to improve their skills in the above-mentioned areas, and that the development would have an enormous impact on the pedagogy.



Mancosa launches futuristic iTeach Lab for experiential teacher training

9 Dec 2020



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**Access to adequate resources and technology is key**

Educators face numerous challenges which can negatively affect teaching outcomes, such as a lack of basic materials. 82% of teachers surveyed noted access to instructional materials and supplies as a problem, and a further 89% said access to adequate technological resources is an issue – a crucial aspect of teaching that has been overlooked for over a decade but has been brought to the fore by the pandemic.

Still, an overwhelming majority, 95%, believes that technology can have a positive benefit in the teaching environment and can raise learners' engagement in lessons.

The Covid-19 pandemic thrust the importance of technology in classrooms into the spotlight, bringing new opportunities and pressures to teachers around the world. The shift has not been without difficulties, with 45% of teachers ranking ICT skills as a challenging facet of the role – outpacing other elements like active teaching, homework marking and lesson planning. At the same time, 85% of survey respondents confirmed new skills in this area would have the greatest influence in their ability to teach.

Beyond technology, at least 50% of teachers report having too many learners in their classrooms which impedes quality learning, and 71% say they require more time to assist individual learners. Luckily, despite these challenges, at least 95% of teachers are optimistic about their jobs and roles in shaping the future leaders of tomorrow.



## Training of teachers on the curriculum for coding and robotics in preparation for the 2022 piloting in schools

Africa Teen Geeks 1 Sep 2021



## Fit for purpose

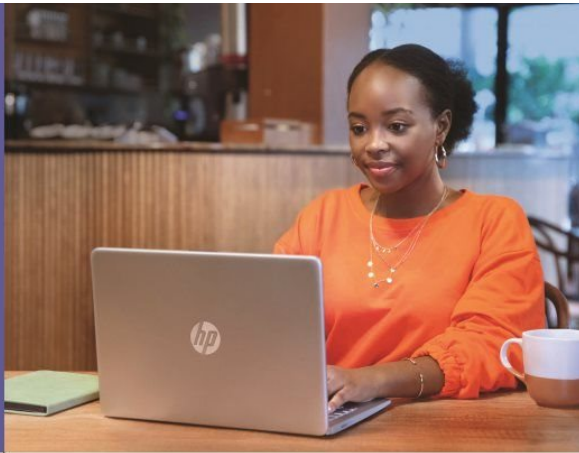
HP's Innovation and Digital Education Academy (HP Idea) programme plays a critical role to bridge the skills gap – in fact, it forms part of HP's goal to accelerate digital equity for 150 million people by 2030.

This immersive teacher development programme is designed to enable educators to develop and access new learning modalities in select schools in South Africa, Nigeria, and other 14 markets across Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

“Through the HP Idea programme, our aim is to ensure that educators are equipped with the latest tools and best practices in teaching and learning, and ensure they too are ‘future-fit’. Understanding the educational landscape and where we can provide support and expertise is key to its success,” Pulford adds.

Pulford concludes: “We aim to expand and evolve HP Idea through partnerships with local governments and complementary support for educators to ensure that drives results in the lives of pupils – collective action will make a real impact.”

# African teachers want to become more 'future fit' with skills training



## Challenges Standing in the Way



On average educators reported having too many students in their classes (50%).



Educators require more time to assist individual learners (71%).

Over **60%** of educators say they do not have enough teaching hours.

70%

of respondents say that educators do not have adequate technological resources.

67%

of respondents say that educators do not have adequate support for using technology.

## How we Begin to Overcome these Challenges...

**10** skills were identified as crucial to the future-proofing of learning:

- Critical Thinking
- Creative Thinking
- Innovative Thinking
- Entrepreneurial Thinking
- Digital Literacy
- Design Thinking
- Change Leadership
- Instructional Coaching
- Leadership
- Blended Learning Techniques



## Building Skills for the Future



Around a third of respondents feel that for the 10 skills presented, their level of competence was either 'unacceptable' or in need of 'improvement'.

Almost all teachers expressed an interest in learning more about every single one of these skills.

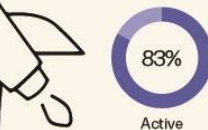
**95%**

of educators believe technology can have a positive benefit for both teachers and learners.

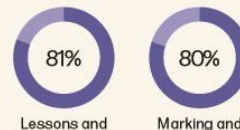
**90%**

of the educators believe that acquiring new skills will have a profound impact on their teaching career.

The new skills will particularly impact these dimensions of teaching:



Active teaching



Lessons and curriculum prep



Marking and assessment



Classroom management



ICT skills for teaching

The majority of teachers confirmed that new **ICT skills** would have the **greatest influence** in their ability to teach.

## More than a Profession



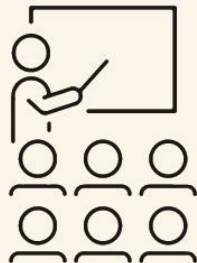
Most teachers will try and continue teaching for as long as they can



Find their work full of meaning and purpose



Inspired by their jobs



## HP IDEA is Fit for Purpose

HP IDEA (Innovation and Digital Education Academy) is a 12-months intensive training programme for a select group of innovative practitioners. The programme is already available in 16 countries across Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia.



Of the educators who took part in the programme were satisfied with their experience.

The skills taught in the **HP IDEA** programme are aligned to the skills that teachers deem the most important (see 'Skills for the Future' above), e.g. digital literacy, innovative, creative, and critical thinking.



The Infographic represents results from a quantitative research study conducted in April and May 2022 with 802 respondents in South Africa and Nigeria. The sample group in both countries comprised of public primary and high school educators, with the addition of private school educators in Nigeria. Individuals surveyed included educators who teach a wide range of subjects, including language, mathematics and other disciplines not limited strictly to technology instructors.

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