

Forum : Citizen's forum of Labour

Theme : Empowering the youth to drive/ thrive/ embrace and match the requirements of the future labour market

Name of the citizen : Julia Pirchner

Family situation ○ Married / dating • Single ○ With kids, if so how many _____	Education level ○ Primary ○ Secondary • University
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1. How are you concerned by the topic?

My name is Julia Pirchner. I am a Mexican woman in my thirties and I work as a private online tutor for STEM subjects, mainly with university-level students. Through my work, I see how much young people depend on digital skills, science, mathematics and technology to prepare for the future labour market.

I am concerned by this topic because not all students in Mexico have the same opportunities. Some students have reliable internet, a personal computer, private support and a quiet place to study. Others are just as motivated, but they have weaker internet access, fewer resources, or less academic support. In my experience, talent is not the problem. Access to information/support is often the problem.

As an online tutor, I also see both the advantages and the risks of digital work. Online learning can help students who live far from good educational opportunities, and it can make support more flexible. However, online work can also be unstable, if workers do not have clear payment rules, social protection or basic rights. For me, the future labour market should use technology to create opportunities, not to increase inequality.

In summary: I am concerned by: inequality (there are huge inequalities, and internet can help overcome these), AI (opportunity and risk at the same moment), online work vs worker rights (clear rights are required to protect workers from exploitation).

2. What do you suggest on your scale ?

At my own level, I propose making STEM education and digital skills more accessible to young people. This could be done through affordable online courses, tutoring programmes, community learning spaces and partnerships between schools, universities and technology companies.

These programmes should especially support students from poorer areas or from places where access to good education is limited.

I also believe that students should be taught how to use artificial intelligence responsibly. AI can be useful for learning, for example by explaining exercises, helping students practise, or supporting revision. However, students should not use AI to do their homework for them or to replace their own effort. If they rely on AI too much, they may become dependent on it and fail to develop their own knowledge, creativity and problem-solving skills. Schools should therefore teach young people to use AI as a helpful tool, while making sure that it does not replace their own thinking and learning.

Finally, I think online and freelance workers need better protection. Flexible work is important, and many people depend on it, but flexibility should not mean insecurity. Workers should have clear contracts or written agreements, fair payment, protection against non-payment and easier access to social protection. In my opinion, a fair future labour market must combine innovation, education and basic worker rights.

In summary: 1) make STEM accessible (online, especially to support poorer areas -> inequality), 2) use AI responsibly (use the opportunity, avoid pitfalls/risks), 3) better protection for online and freelance workers (rights!).