

## Sixteen Trends...That Will Profoundly Impact Our Future

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(Note: The symbol → indicates a substantial trend leading from one condition to the next, while ↔ indicates a trend that can be expected to develop or continue based on evidence and the reality that certain existing conditions are very likely unsustainable. In some cases, a tug is evident between current and future conditions.)

- **In many developed nations, the old will substantially outnumber the young. In many developing or underdeveloped nations, the young will substantially outnumber the old.**  
Worldwide: (Developed World: Younger → Older. Underdeveloped World: Older → Younger)
- **Growing numbers of people and nations will discover that if they manage their diversity well, it will enrich them. If they don't manage their diversity well, it will divide them.**  
Worldwide: (Diversity = Division ↔ Diversity = Enrichment)
- **Social and intellectual capital will become economic drivers, intensifying competition for well educated people.**  
(Industrial Age → Global Knowledge/Information Age)
- **Standards and high stakes tests will fuel a demand for personalization in education systems that will be increasingly committed to lifelong human development.**  
(Standardization → Personalization)
- **The Millennial Generation will insist on solutions to accumulated problems and injustices, while an emerging Generation E will call for equilibrium.**  
(GIs, Silents, Boomers, Xers → Millennials, Generation E, with variations among nations and regions)
- **Continuous improvement and collaboration will replace quick fixes and defense of the status quo.**  
(Quick Fixes/Status Quo → Continuous Improvement)
- **Technology will increase the speed of communication and the pace of advancement or decline.**  
(Atoms → Bits) (Micro → Macro → Nano → Subatomic)
- **Release of human ingenuity will become a primary responsibility of education and society.**  
(Information Acquisition → Knowledge Creation and Breakthrough Thinking)
- **Pressure will grow for society to prepare people for jobs and careers that may not currently exist.**  
(Career Preparation ↔ Career Adaptability)
- **Competition will increase to attract and keep qualified educators.**  
(High Demand → Even Higher Demand)
- **Scientific discoveries and societal realities will force widespread ethical choices.**  
(Pragmatic/Expedient → Ethical)
- **Common opportunities and threats will intensify a worldwide demand for planetary security.**  
(Personal Security/Self Interest ↔ Planetary Security)  
(Common Threats ↔ Common Opportunities)
- **Understanding will grow that sustained poverty is expensive, debilitating, and unsettling.**  
(Sustained Poverty ↔ Opportunity and Hope)
- **Polarization and narrowness will bend toward reasoned discussion, evidence, and consideration of varying points of view.**  
(Narrowness ↔ Open Mindedness)
- **As nations vie for understanding and respect in an interdependent world, international learning, including diplomatic skills, will become basic.** (Sub-Trend: To earn respect in an interdependent world, nations will be expected to demonstrate their reliability and tolerance.)  
(Isolationist Independence ↔ Interdependence)
- **Greater numbers of people will seek personal meaning in their lives in response to an intense, high tech, always on, fast-moving society.**  
(Personal Accomplishment ↔ Personal Meaning)

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