

## **Implementing Educational Technology in Mexico**

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## **Introduction**

A plan is only as good as the level of detail. Planning that includes considerations for political, social, and environmental factors are plans that have a higher likeliness of success. International environments are complex. Whether planning to visit a foreign country or planning a project, it is essential to understand that country and the similarities and differences that compares to yours. When planning international relations, the U.S. Military understands that success depends on understanding, planning, and implementing factors, including political, military, economic, social, information, infrastructure, physical environment, and Time (PMESII-PT). The business environment understands that a successful project or plan must include Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, and Environmental (PESTLE) factors and considerations (Contributor, 2011).

The successful implementation of education technology projects also requires careful planning and consideration of national, social, and cultural considerations, especially in international settings. This essay identifies critical factors and considerations that must be considered when implementing educational technology in Mexico. In doing so, this essay will analyze national considerations, social factors, and cultural differences between Mexico compared to the United States.

## **Key Factors and Considerations**

### **National**

According to the International Community Foundation (ICF), Mexico has several barriers affecting education. At the national level, Mexico continues to experience a shrinking budget for education. In 2014, compared to the OECD average, Mexico was well below in educational spending (International Community Foundation, 2019). Mexico has a shortage of textbooks in its schools, and due to its shrinking educational budget, its textbook budget has decreased by 33% (International Community Foundation, 2019). Further, combined with a weak and decreasing educational budget, Mexico is also faced with the challenge of internet and internet availability (Google.org, 2020) across the entire country.

Mexico has a large indigenous population living in rural and densely populated areas. Because of Mexico's sizeable geographical landscape, population locality, and indigenous people, poverty is a widespread and significant issue. According to the "Programme for International Student Assessment," the poorest children in Vietnam outperform the wealthiest children in Mexico in terms of education (International Community Foundation, 2019). Mexico suffers from widespread poverty. According to the OECD Better Life Index, the average resident in Mexico has a net-adjusted disposable income per capita of \$16,269 compared to the OECD average of & 30,490 (OECD, n.d.).

## **Social**

Indigenous children in Mexico are further disadvantaged than other children in the region. Mexico's Indigenous children experience illiteracy, lack of schools, language barriers, low graduation rates, and high dropout rates from school compared to others (The Borgen Project, 2019). Mexico is working towards implementing bilingual and bicultural education and has significantly improved but is still falling short of its goal. Because of the language barrier in indigenous communities, Mexico has a shortage of teachers that speak the native languages of the respective district. As such, Mexico's indigenous communities experience lower-quality teachers who are burnt out and achieve lower academic performance than the rest of the country (The Borgen Project, 2019).

## **Cultural**

Culture plays an insignificant role in education in Mexico, and Mexico suffers greatly from gender inequality. According to the ICF, "Mexican girls are more likely than boys to drop out of school by the age of 12" (International Community Foundation, 2019). As part of Mexican culture, girls have "domestic chores" that either prevent them from attending school or require them to quit. As a result, as Mexican girls get older, they are less likely to restart school and/or graduate high school (International Community Foundation, 2019).

## **Summary**

As this essay has demonstrated, Mexico has many national, social, and cultural barriers which affect education. When planning or considering the implementation or inclusion of educational technology into Mexican teaching, these factors must be considered to achieve success. These barriers are not all-inclusive and encompassing. When considering the implementation of educational technology in Mexico, a thorough analysis needs to be conducted and refined for each locality and area where the technology is getting implemented or considered. This essay focuses on national-level education in Mexico. It is the opinion of the author of the paper that implementing educational technology in Mexico has the greatest likeliness of success when creating an implementation plan that includes a phased roll-out by locality and region with appropriate national, social, and cultural analysis planning for each. For example, certain significant cities or populated areas might have little effect on the considerations noted above. As such, advancement should start in these areas for educational advances and the inclusion of educational technology to limit further education decline.

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