**Key Competencies of Future – UAE Case Study**

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*Abstract:*

Equipping the workforce with the appropriate competencies to harness the potential of disruptive technologies and leverage global trends is an immense task for any nation. The United Arab Emirates is an interesting case as the country has built its national strategy based on the Fourth Industrial Revolution that includes fascinating initiatives such as the world’s first Blockchain city, using 3D-printed to build the entire office building, and establishing the first ministry of Artificial Intelligence in the world. The country has invested heavily in human capital development and made Education one of the main pillars.

While the country published various reports on future industries, the required competencies to support these industries have not been identified. The main objective of this paper is to identify the future competencies for UAE. The research methodology deployed in this study begins with identifying future industries by scrutinizing the five most recent reports of the UAE federal government, shortlisting the UAE leading future industries, choosing a sample of futuristic jobs for each industry, using O\*NET Online (U.S. Department of Labor) to identify the required competencies. The research suggests the most in-demand technical skills, abilities, and work activities that are higher education sector should focus to support the UAE government plan.

The outcome of this study could be used by the higher education sector in UAE in particular by 144 universities in the country.  The future scope of the research includes conducting surveys and focus groups to solicit opinions of the stakeholders including university senior managers, public and private sectors decision-makers, and human resources senior managers.

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