

January 24, 2020



WISE GLOBAL EDUCATION BAROMETER

Youth Perceptions on their Education and their Future



Study carried out by Ipsos for WISE

On the occasion of the International Day of Education, WISE has released an extensive study on the views of young people. Conducted by Ipsos, the survey was undertaken in 20 countries across the globe, in order to understand how the youth perceive their education and how prepared and confident they feel in their future. These results have been initially revealed at the "Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace" conference on January 24, 2020. Key findings will be included in the work conducted by UNESCO's Futures of Education and CRI's Learning Planet initiatives.

In an increasingly complex and rapidly-changing world, global institutions, states, and educators have started movements and launched reforms in an attempt to adapt education systems to new global challenges. In its mission to contribute to this global debate and reflection, WISE seeks to amplify the voices of the youth to ensure that their aspirations and concerns are taken into consideration.

9,500 people aged 16 to 25 were surveyed in 20 countries across the globe, including in the Middle East (Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey), Africa (Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa), Asia (China, India, Malaysia, South Korea), the Americas (Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the United States) and Europe (Finland, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Russia).

This executive summary highlights a few of the survey's findings; the full results are available upon demand.

Three major trends from the survey stand out:

1. Young people believe their generation has a responsibility to better the planet, yet only half feel ready to better the world around them. They don't necessarily expect school to make them more active and well-rounded citizens, but rather to be ready for the future on a personal level.
2. Young people value education and express an overall satisfaction with the education they've received. They trust the educational system and their teachers in their ability to provide them with useful skills and knowledge. However, they also expect more diversity in their learning experiences and they would like schooling to give more space to new technologies and creativity, curiosity or collaboration.
3. A major area for improvement in schools, according to the youth, is the need for equal opportunities for all, especially between boys and girls.

YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVE THEIR GENERATION HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO BETTER THE PLANET, BUT DO NOT FEEL READY

What do young people expect from school?

The 3 most important reasons for attending school according to young people are to: #1 expand their knowledge and be ready for the future (89% consider these as equally important reasons), and #2 be able to find a job and make money (87%). To learn about the world around them and to be able to positively impact their community are only positioned, respectively, at #6 and #9.



Does this mean that they are less concerned with the world around them than with their personal trajectories? Or that they don't expect school to teach them how to take care of their community and to better the world? Maybe this is because it has never been the primary mission that education has given itself, and perhaps now is the time to change.

Young people express feeling somewhat ready for the future on a personal level, but less prepared to participate positively in the world around them:

More than half feel sufficiently prepared for the following: taking care of themselves (64%); managing priorities (58%); taking care of others (58%); finding a career they love (54%, though only 37% in South Korea and 43% in Canada, despite being among the top performers in the PISA evaluation).

Only half say that they feel ready to participate in bettering the world around them. Less than half feel ready to understand the big societal issues (48%) and to take action and find solutions to these problems (43%).

However, 87% feel that their generation has a responsibility to change the world for the better.



*Young people are aware of the challenges that our world is facing and acknowledge that they have a responsibility as adults to address these challenges. At the same time, they are pragmatic both about their level of preparedness — they don't feel quite ready yet — and also about the need to be active participants in the economy. **It's now up to policymakers to create the conditions for young people to both prosper and develop the solutions that will move our world forward.***



Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE

87% of students feel that their generation has a responsibility to improve the world



Note: Study carried out by Ipsos for WISE in September and October 2019 among 9,509 young people aged 16-25 in 20 countries.



WISE Global Education Barometer, 2019

While they may not feel adequately prepared to contribute to the wider world around them, young adults are concerned about the future of our planet and about a number of different issues: 85% of young people surveyed express strong concerns about the state of our planet. Young people's biggest concerns are #1 poverty and social inequality (84%), #2 climate change and the environment (82%), and #3 access to employment.

Young people's biggest concerns:



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WISE Global Education Barometer, 2019

Even though a somewhat sizable proportion of young people - 24% - expressed that they would "for sure" make support for causes they care about their main criteria when choosing who to work for, their level of engagement remains somewhat limited. **Only a minority of youth are already actively engaged** around issues such as poverty and social inequality (17%), climate change and the environment (19%), or access to employment (20%)

24% of youth say they would 'for sure make' the causes they support their main criteria when choosing a job



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WISE Global Education Barometer, 2019

How can schools reconcile preparing students with the hard, technical skills to succeed professionally, while empowering them to be well-rounded citizens and leaders?



Students must learn how to use technology IN ORDER to better the world. Math and coding can be applied to carbon offsetting problems; bio-engineering to the creation of new food sources. Web design and social media skills to eradicating the problem of fake news and using social media for positive ends.



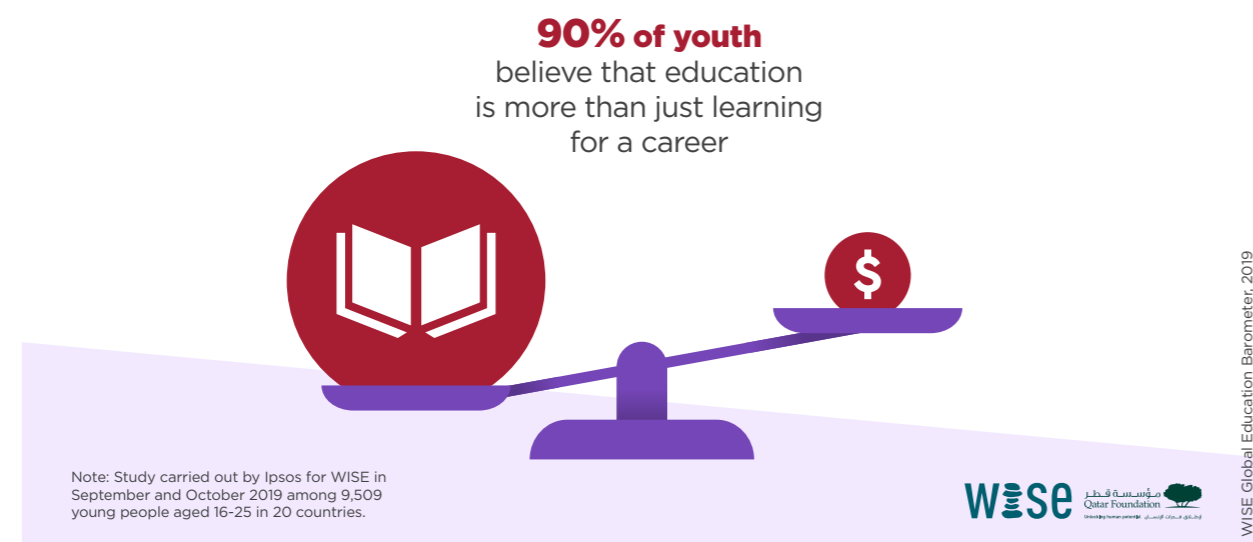
Larry Rosenstock, USA
 Founder and CEO of High Tech High
 and 2019 WISE Prize for Education Laureate

YOUNG PEOPLE VALUE EDUCATION AND EXPRESS AN OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THEIR EDUCATION

However, they want more diversity in their learning experiences, and would like schooling to give more space to new technologies and creativity, curiosity or collaboration.

Young people value education, whether it happens in schools or elsewhere.

90% of young people surveyed believe that "education is more important than learning for a career, it is valuable in itself".



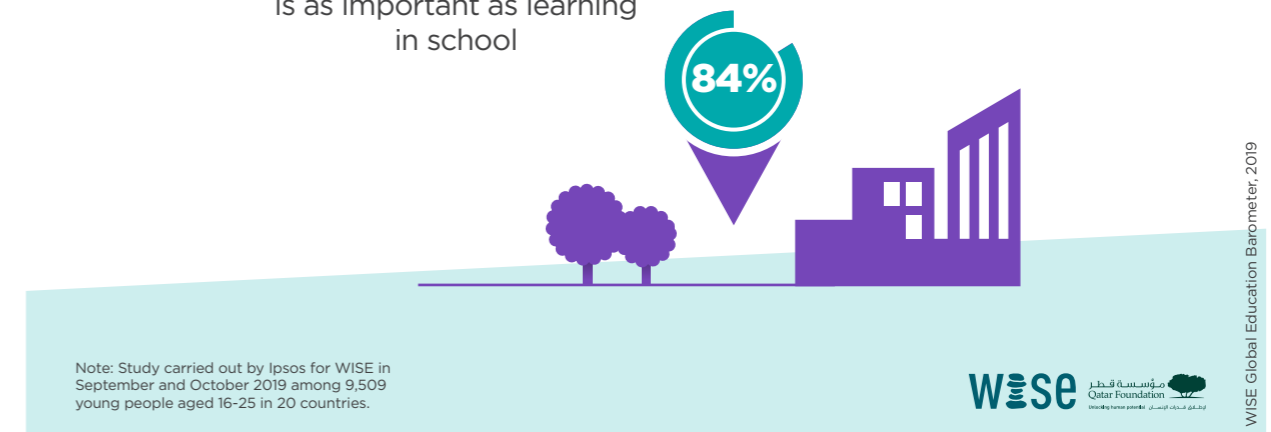
Young adults express overall satisfaction with their education.

8 out of 10 say they are satisfied, but among them, just over 1 in 4 say they are "fully satisfied" (27%), which leaves significant room for further improvement. Young people are most satisfied in Finland (44% "fully satisfied") and Mexico (44%). While Finland is among the top performers in the PISA rankings, Mexico is not a top performer, a reminder that **satisfaction with one's education does not necessarily reflect the objective performance of the school system**, but the perception of students, which also includes their well-being. Whereas South Korea performs well in PISA, levels of satisfaction among Korean students is among the lowest (only 6% are fully satisfied with their education).

84% think that learning outside of school is just as important as learning in school.

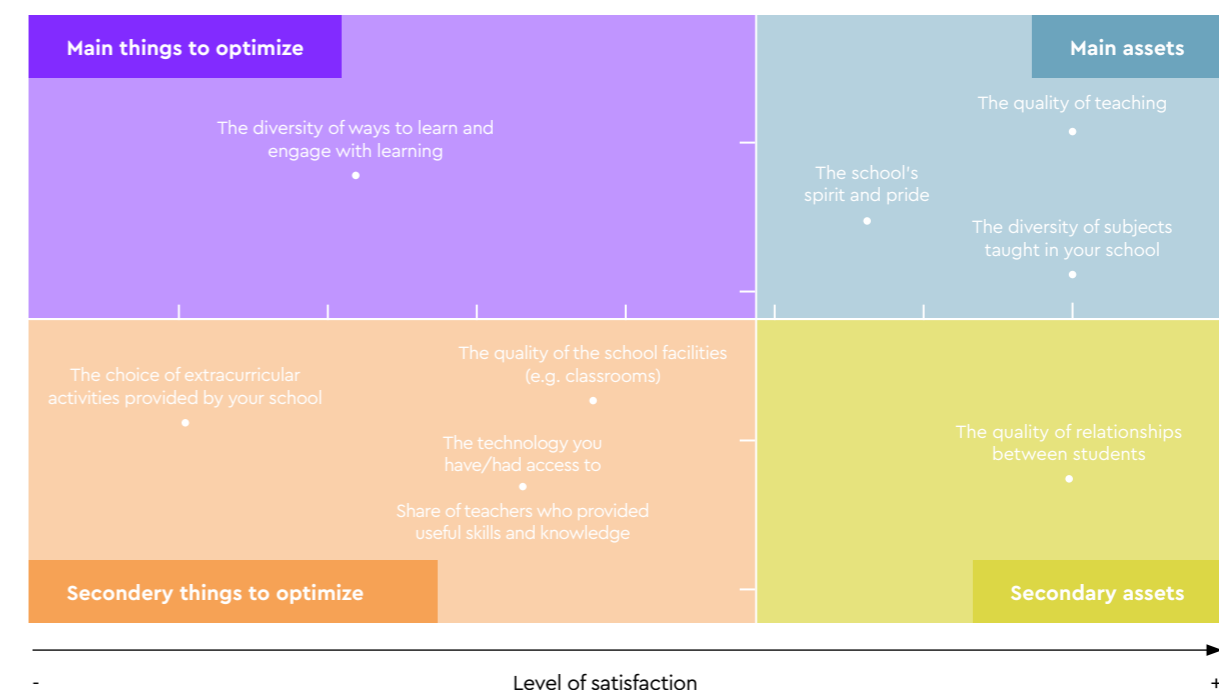
Out of school activities which have the most positive impact on learning according to young people are reading books (41%), browsing the internet (39%), followed by talking with their friends (28%), and watching TV shows, movies and documentaries (28%).

84% of young people believe that learning **outside of school** is as important as learning in school



In order to increase students' satisfaction with their education, increasing the diversity of ways to learn and engage with learning is key. Indeed these seem to have the most potential impact for improving young people's satisfaction with their education. Those who expressed high levels of satisfaction with their overall education were even more pleased with the diverse learning experiences offered to them. Moreover, among the dimensions tested (see below), **one of the most lacking categories, and thus with the most potential for improvement, is the diversity of ways to learn and engage with learning.** The choice of extracurricular activities, the technology students have access to, the share of teachers providing useful skills and knowledge all have significant space for improvement. But comparatively, they seem to have less weight on the overall satisfaction young people express in their education.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SATISFACTION TOWARDS THE EDUCATION RECEIVED



One way to provide young people with more diverse ways of learning would be to give more space to 21st century skills and tools in the classroom, which students are asking for:

Half of young people consider that their schooling gives too little space for new technologies (artificial intelligence, coding, etc.), and too little space for creativity (44%), curiosity (44%), soft skills like communication and organizational skills (41%) and collaboration between pupils (34%).

To be noted also: only 24% of youth expressed strong concerns about the rise of artificial intelligence, with the least worried being Chinese youth (with just 13% expressing strong concerns).

60% of young people would like more video formats to be used in their learning experiences, whether documentary films (54%), movies (53%), MOOCs (42%) or TED talks (40%).



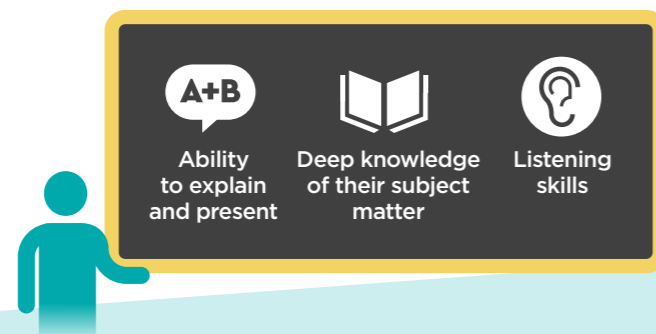
We have many models of schools in many countries that integrate technology, inquiry, creativity, and students' interests and needs. We must shine a light on those schools and learn from them. A first step to making these changes is to move away from standardized tests which dominate the curriculum in the US and many other countries. The relentless quest for higher scores on these tests does not leave room in the curriculum for new technologies or inquiry or creativity.



Larry Rosenstock, USA
 Founder and CEO of High Tech High
 and 2019 WISE Prize for Education Laureate

Young people generally appreciate their teachers, and value their subject expertise above all else: 66% of youth feel that many to all of their teachers have provided them with useful skills and knowledge.

The top 3 skills young people believe teachers should have:



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The top 3 skills students believe are most essential for teachers to have are: 1) ability to explain and present their subject (59% find it essential), 2) deep knowledge of their subject matter (57% essential) and 3) listening skills (52%).

When asked what qualities their favorite teachers exhibited, the top 5 qualities reported were 1) subject expertise, 2) ability to listen and understand, 3) friendliness, 4) passion, and 5) open-mindedness.

However, students would like their teachers to further personalize their teaching:

Only 53% of young people say that their teachers often ask them to give their point of view and share what they think, and 55% would like them to do it more.

Only 34% of students reported that their professors often helped them with their personal issues, and 42% would have appreciated for their teachers to help them more. They would also have liked their teachers to give them more personal advice on their career path and orientation (61%), on how to learn and study (60%), and on what books to read, movies to watch etc. (54%).

45% of young people say that too little space is given to students' specific learning needs.



A teacher should be multifaceted; a counselor, surrogate parent, psychologist and all that a child needs to pass through school successfully.

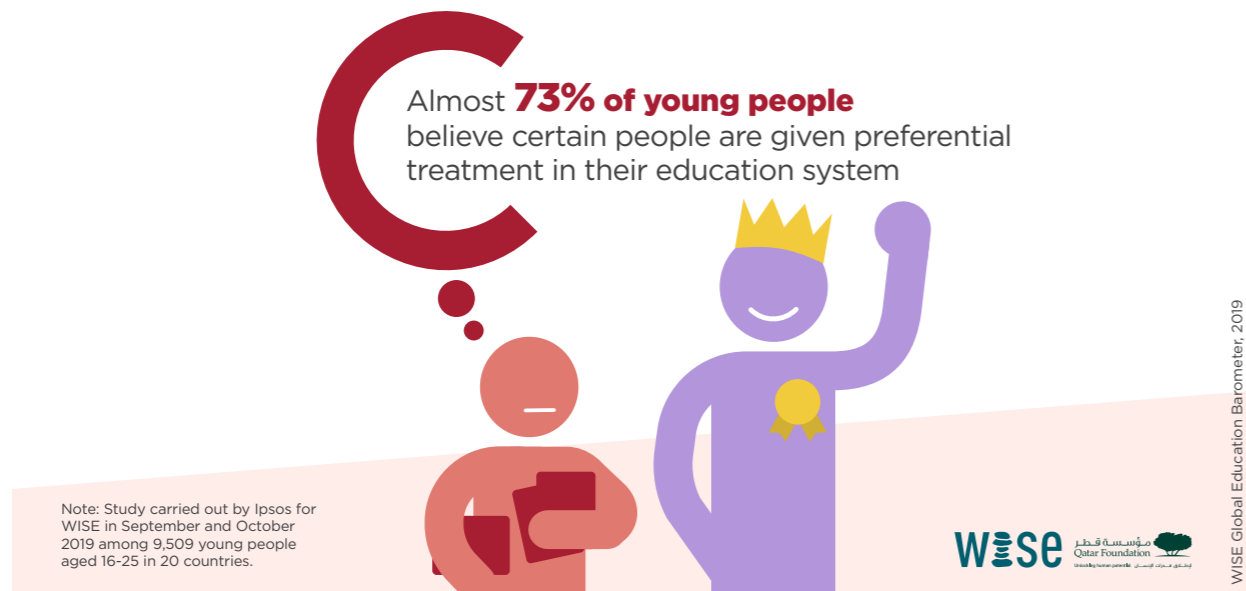


Blessing Akpan, Nigeria
 Young social entrepreneur
 and a member of the WISE Learners' Voice program

YOUNG PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR WISH FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM, BUT REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

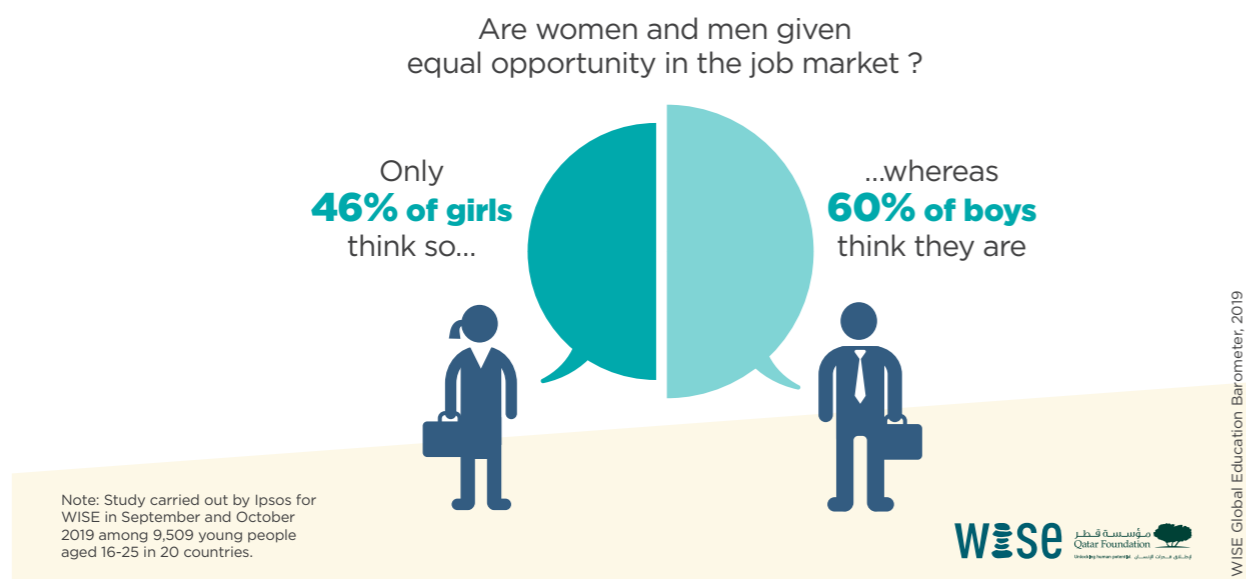
In most places, young people see their education system as somewhat unfair and failing to provide them with equal opportunities.

Half of young people do not believe their country's education system provides everyone with equal opportunities. This rises to 59% among those who self-identify as belonging to a lower-income class. There are, however, strong differences between countries: 78% of the youth in Finland believe that their education system provides equal opportunities, compared to only 27% in Turkey, 29% in Morocco and 30% in Brazil.



43% of the surveyed youth feel that access to education in their country diverges depending on one's background.

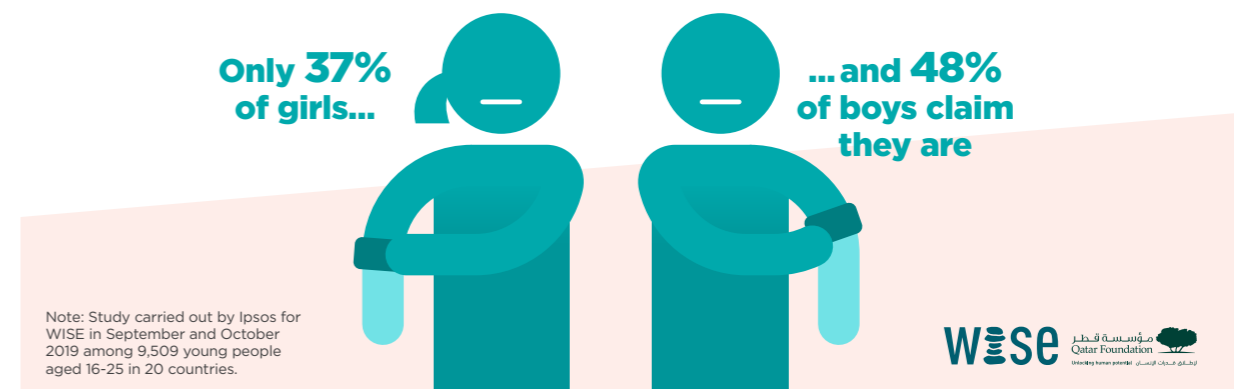
31% of girls think that girls and boys are not treated equally at school (compared to 26% of boys) and only 46% of girls believe that women and men are given equal opportunities in the job market, as opposed to 60% of boys.



Less than half feel ready to take action and find solutions to the problems of the planet. Girls are more pessimistic when it comes to their abilities in this regard: only 37% feel ready (compared to 48% of boys).

74% globally think that school has taught them to behave ethically, with disparities among different countries (56% in Russia vs 93% in China and only 66% in France and 62% in Germany).

Do young people feel prepared to **take action and find solutions to big societal issues?**



Young generations express a high-level of optimism about their future opportunities:

82% say they are optimistic about their future, including 54% who are "somewhat optimistic" and 28% "very optimistic". Youth from lower and middle-income countries generally express more optimism than youth in higher-income countries. The most optimistic youth are in Nigeria with 66% saying they are very optimistic about their future. By contrast, the least optimistic are in South Korea, with only 7% responding that they feel very optimistic about their future. 68% of people who self-identify as belonging to a lower-income class are optimistic about their future opportunities, compared to 84% for the middle-income, and 91% for higher-income class, which shows that **socio-economic backgrounds weigh heavily on young people's optimism, more so even than completing higher education** (83% of people with higher education degrees are optimistic about their future opportunities, compared to 80% of those without).

METHODOLOGY NOTE

Study carried out by Ipsos for WISE in September and October 2019 among 9,509 young people aged 16-25 y.o. in 20 countries in:

- The Middle East (Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey);
- Africa (Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa);
- Asia (China, India, Malaysia, South Korea);
- The Americas (Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the United States of America);
- Europe (Finland, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Russia).

In each country, a representative sample (quota method) of the national population aged 16-25 was interviewed online.



ABOUT WISE

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education.

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