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what is meant by 21st
century knowledge
and skill...

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21ST Century Skills The Asia society and U. S. Council of Chief Officers define 21st century skills as the capability and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance. From this definition, globally competent students do the following:

1. Investigate the world beyond their immediate environment
2. Recognize perspective, other's and their own
3. Communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences
4. Take action to improve conditions

Many groups have called for all students to learn "21st century skills." This is making many educational organizations to develop this as part of their curriculum. The definitions of the "21st century skills" are cross-disciplinary and relevant to many aspects of contemporary life in a complex world. It is not that the definitions contain skill by any means. They involve the aspects of skills and understanding, but many of them emphasize inclination, such as curiosity, creativity, and collaboration, that are not, strictly speaking skills. Because of the many definitions given to mean "21st century skills" it is important to understand the framework in which this term operates. The framework for "21st century skills" should have something in common. There is a compelling rationale as to why students should study "21st century skills," one is for economic and the other is for civic reason. Considering the economic rationale is that the computers and machines can cost-effectively do all the sorts of job that people with only routine knowledge can do, this implies that the workplace will only require fewer people who have basic skills set and more people with higher-order thinking skills. The global marketplace is flourishing in 21st century; the completion

will favor those with complex thinking and communication skills to new problems and environments.

The civic rationale also advocates that students should be taught “ 21st century skills.” The basic civic education that is taught in schools is not enough for the 21st century. “ 21st century skills” will enable the student to engage as citizens who think critically. This will make them analyze any political situation critically and rationally and in turn they can vote in an educated manner without bias. It will be crucial for them to communicate and write effectively if they are to be incorporated in the policy making board.

Globalization makes the third rationale as to why “ 21st century skills” should be taught to schools and incorporated in the school’s curriculum. There is massive global migration in this times, international wars such as Russia and Ukraine, the internet, long-haul flights, interdependent international market, climate instability, and other factors makes any individual and in this case student part of the globally interconnected economy, ecosystem, and political network and that students are part of the global community. This interconnectedness makes it even more urgent for students around the world to learn how to communicate, collaborate, and solve problems with people beyond national boundaries.

The other big question is how and what will entail the 21st century assessment. Credible 21st century assessments are the essential foundation of a 21st century education. It is for this reason that an authentic assessment that can aim at testing 21st century skills should have; learning and thinking skills, ICT literacy and life skills. The assessment can be

integrated with core subjects such as Mathematics, Chemistry or Biology.

Work cited

American Association of Colleges and Universities. College learning for the new global century. Washington, DC: AACU. 2007. Print.