Strategy 9. Integrate face-to-face and digital education

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the educational environment. For their 2020 spring sessions, many schools, including elementary and junior high schools, introduced online education, and many universities and other institutions are still offering online education. However, the shift online revealed that a "digital divide" exists, as well as other problems with access to education. Realizing a learning environment where no one is left behind has become an important issue even in developed countries.

Key points for achieving the SDGs

1. It is necessary to promote the digitalization of education in ways that avoid creating a digital divide.[14] Also, it is necessary to promote the use of electronic devices and the acquisition of skills for information and communications technologies at the individual level,[15] and to enhance their educational and auxiliary functions for learners at various levels.

2. Create a universal, online and offline hybrid educational environment: To accomplish this, it is necessary to create an environment where no one is left behind, through infrastructure development, including access to high-speed Internet.[16]

Key targets to help achieve the SDGs

4.1 (Access to free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education)

4.4 (Acquisition of technical and vocational skills)

4.a (Education facilities that are disability and gender sensitive)

8.6 (Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)

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[14] SDGs Promotion Roundtable (2020) "Recommendations by members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic with the SDGs and to create a sustainable society" (in Japanese).

[15] Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2020): Sustainable Development Report 2020, 9- 12pp.

[16] OECD (2020): OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19): Cities policy responses, 12pp.