

Education and job security go together

Rana Foroohar, writing about unemployment and poverty in a recent issue of Time magazine, made the following observation:

"The average weekly earnings of a typical blue collar worker are lower today than in 1964."

But it's not just blue collar workers who should be concerned. The fundamental nature of work is changing, and unless Americans embrace this reality, our prospects will continue to be in jeopardy.

Foroohar continues: "There's no doubt that investment in education, which creates jobs and improves worker competitiveness, is a long-run solution."

Does that mean everyone needs to go to college?

No, but it is becoming obvious that education must be a central tenet of any viable strategy for sustainable job creation and economic growth.

Unfortunately, far too many Americans still have antediluvian notions about education's evolving role in their lives.

"School" used to be something most of us did during the first couple of decades of our lives. For centuries, this was the case. Once you acquired basic knowledge and employable skills, you were pretty much set for life.

Today, however, education is more of a cradle to grave proposition.

At the same time, pursuing the wrong credential can make your economic situation significantly worse.

Charlatans, opportunists and fear mongers are already cashing in on the naïve who believe any job in health services or information technology will precipitate a higher standard of living.

All work is increasingly information driven. Constant training and retraining are the new norm; today's proficiency is tomorrow's obsolescence.

The chief culprits are technology and globalization, which make it possible to do practically anything anywhere in the world.

In a fast-paced, knowledge-driven global economy, everything can – and often does – change overnight. You either keep up or are left in the dust.

Education is becoming the only path to job security.

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The Daily News
(Bowling Green, KY)
Thursday, October 6, 2011
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