

Session 1 – Study Material

What is STEAM Learning?

STEAM is an acronym of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. STEM/STEAM focuses on how to use knowledge in math, science, arts and design, engineering, and technology to solve real-world problems through learning activities and creativity. For example, Minecraft, Kerbal Space Program, Sokobond, and Portal are STEAM-based games. Kerbal Space Program is learning about physical forces and their effect on mass, while Sokobond helps players create chemical compounds by simply attaching molecules with their correct bonds. In most cases, games are a combination of expertise in technology, design, science, and entrepreneurship. In fact, the future of work would require people who have knowledge and experience in STEAM. Such people would find it easier to adapt and grow in challenging work environments where knowledge and experience in only one particular skill may not be enough.

Gig Economies

A gig economy is based on flexible, temporary, or freelance jobs, often involving connecting with clients or customers through an online platform. Such an economy can benefit workers, businesses, and consumers by making work more adaptable to the needs of the moment and demand for flexible lifestyles.

How do Uber, Airbnb rentals, food on DoorDash, or GrubHub work?

Uber doesn't own a single car that it rents out, Airbnb doesn't own a single home or hotel that it offers on a lease, and DoorDash doesn't make any of the food that it brings to you. How is this possible? There are thousands of people who offer their services on these platforms. They don't have to launch their own companies to offer their services. All they need is their own goods and services that they can sell via established platforms such as Amazon, Etsy, Uber, Airbnb, Fiverr, and others. This is what is known as a gig economy.

Temporary and flexible jobs are now more common than ever and companies are moving toward hiring independent contractors and freelancers instead of full-time employees. To understand the concept, log in to www.fiverr.com and see thousands of people offering their services on the platform. There are website creators, doodlers, video editors, filmmakers, voiceover artists, influencers, and others here. Similarly, Etsy offers thousands of interesting products that people have created themselves. In the same way, people can buy products from around the world from thousands of brands and small scale manufacturers on Amazon.

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Nobody needs to set shop or take up a full-time job to sell their products and services anymore. It is a free market system where you can create a platform that invites other people and companies to sell their goods and services or you can join such a platform to sell your own products and services. This global trend is known as the gig economy. The world is rapidly moving towards a future where contracting will be the primary mode of work in the already evolving gig economies. In the era of small and powerful ideas turning into business giants within a span of months to years, it is already predicted that within a few decades, more than half of the world's entire workforce would be made up of freelancers and contractors. Some of the leading companies that make up for gig economies are Uber, Amazon, Airbnb, Fiverr, Etsy, DoorDash, and others.