Vibrant democratic societies need citizens that engage with new ideas, developments, debates, and discussions.

Faced with a world of environmental, social, and political crises, there appears to be a shift away from this ideal "ideas-informed" society.

Exploring an “Ideas-Informed” Society in the Modern World

In order to foster an ideas-informed society with up-to-date citizens and an engaging public discourse, we need improved dialogue between all members of society and higher levels of education for all.

The survey found that:

1. Many people keep up to date through news and newspapers, social media and blogs, but also through popular science and current affairs magazines, journals, or books.

2. Factors like education and occupation affect the importance that citizens attach to values like diversity and equality fundamental to democratic society.
   - In citizens with a lower level of education or professional skill:
     - Mentality of scarcity could lead to limited focus only to immediate needs.
   - Among citizens with a higher level of education or professional skill:
     - There is a larger likelihood of staying up to date.

3. Levels of education and occupation and network of friends influence staying up to date.
   - When less educated individuals get grouped together:
     - They become less likely to seek to stay up to date.
   - Individuals who discuss news and current affairs with friends:
     - Are more likely to value the importance of staying up to date.
   - Individuals with manual occupations but not low education levels:
     - Have a higher propensity to stay up to date.

How do we foster an “ideas-informed” society in the modern world?

How do individuals keep themselves up to date?

What is the impact of staying up to date on society?

Which factors contribute to citizens staying up to date?

Levels of education and occupation and network of friends influence staying up to date.

In order to foster an ideas-informed society with up-to-date citizens and an engaging public discourse, we need improved dialogue between all members of society and higher levels of education for all.

Achieving the ‘ideas-informed’ society: results from a Structural Equation Model using survey data from England

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