Digitalisation of education - panacea or anathema?

Dr Katarina Popović, ICAE Secretary General; University of Belgrade, Serbia
Potentials of ICT for education

- IT helped to bridge the gap caused by COVID-19 disruption
- It supported continuation of learning
- It strengthened non-formal education and learning
- It can help to reach ‘hard-to-reach’ and excluded groups
- It can increase access, participation and inclusion
- Gives more autonomy to individual learners
- It democratise the access to information
Things to be considered

• Digital gap (1/2 of the world is not online)
• PC and an application is far from enough!
• There are no good and cheap solutions, quality education requires serious investment in technology and infrastructure
• Privacy, data protection, security... (esp. among the vulnerable groups)
• The danger of technology being used to control people!
Questions that remain

• Is learner-centered education still valid? Matchings the needs of learners, reflecting their experience?

• Isn’t embodied learning still valid?
• Social-emotional learning is still extremely important. How can it be best addressed?
• The role of a teacher is still crucial for both children and adult education!
Questions that remain

• The biggest problems of our time are not technological, but ethical and pedagogical. How can we best address them with the help of digitalisation?

• Reducing education to the skills acquisition leaves space for 'learning' pseudo-science, conspiracy theories, fake-news, alternative facts, hate, close-mindedness...

• Therefore, values, content and goal are still central in education!
• Education should address global inequality, power architecture, structural and systemic social, political, economic issues
Where can digitalisation really help?

Can blockchain transform the lives of youth in Rio de Janeiro’s favelas?

MARCUS HOLMLUND & ASTRID ZWAGER | JUNE 19, 2019

This page in: English
International literacy day 2018 and literacy skills
Digital and online learning, artificial intelligence...
Learning through... WhatsApp
**NANO ENGAGEMENTS**

**CHATBOTS**

With a Personality

Build Relationships

Include Recap, Reflections, Videos, GIF, URLs

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**It was smooth. Not sure if all customers are so pleasant.**

Thanks for your sharing.

Let’s recap what you have learned.

1. Select Type of Air Ticket
2. Booking and Payment

Write your feedback on this learning experience.

I like the experiential approach

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Thank you for joining us. Have a great day ahead. Bye!

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**NANO LEARNING LOOPS**

Choy, Ong, Allangan, & Lui, 2021

M-size Loops for Rapid Learning, Feedback and Application

- **Scenario:**
  - Sets the context for theory & application
  - Enriches decision making
  - Motivates learners

- **Content:**
  - Presents theory in video, infographic or textual format as chat-size nuggets

- **Dialogic:**
  - Involves decision making through branching
  - Clarifies issues
  - Shows emotives
  - Applies concepts

- **Feedback:**
  - Provides answers
  - Analyses results
  - Compliments & encourages
  - Closes the loop
Not reforming, but transforming education!

Transforming education Summit, NYC; September 2022
We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein
Areas that require FTF learning or a combination:

**Adult literacy**

...literacy is more than a skill; it’s “reading the world”; needs empowerment...
Climate education

more than information, more than awareness; action!
Intercultural, antiracist, human rights... education

art-based education (such as ‘theater of the oppressed’)
Peace education

• changing a mindset
• support critical reflection
• challenging learners
• transformative learning
• taking people 'out of the comfort zone'

...more than information and skills acquisition... emotions... agency...
Re-imagining our future together – between dystopian and utopian scenario: What can education do? What can be the role of digitalisation?
Education doesn’t need a technological patch and digital glue!
Education needs technology and digitalisation as a partner!
Thank you!