Digital Strategies

Education: Evidence from the Field
Welcome
Presenters

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Poll #1 – Regions represented?

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East
- North America
- Oceania
Digital Technologies & Development
What is Development?

- Non-linear process
- Encompasses social, economic, political, cultural
- Economic growth and human development
USAID Metrics: Journey to Self Reliance

**Commitment**
- Open and accountable government
- Inclusive development (gender)
- Policies: trade, business environment, environmental protection

**Capacity**
- Government services: effectiveness, tax administration, security
- Civil society and media
- Citizens: education, health, poverty
- Economy: PPP, ICT usage, export diversity
USAID Journey to Self-Reliance
Education Sector Relevance and Relationship

- Education noted as key to human development (part of Human Development Index)
- Educating citizens touches upon all of the other sectors: capabilities to participate in government, in the economy
- Most critical to development and self-reliance?
Digital Technologies/ICT* – What are They?

A range of multimedia and communication tools:
• Media networks – fixed or wireless
• Hardware – computers, mobile phones, tablets, etc.
• Software – social media services, multi-media applications, mobile applications, etc.
• Interfaces with “old” media such as radio, television, and telephone

*ICT = Information and Communication Technology
Poll #2: Technologies in use?

Which technologies are in use for education in your country/region? (select all that apply)

- Fixed networks
- Computers/tablets
- Mobile phones/smart phones
- Software
- Interface with “old” media
Be Thinking About…

What digital technologies and systems are relevant for education in your country/region?

We’ll revisit this question during the Q & A.
Digital Technologies in Education
Digital Technologies in Education: Opportunities & Benefits

- Empowering learners
- Digital technologies as effective education tools
- Transcending geopolitical boundaries
- MOOCs
- Education management
- Beyond traditional classrooms
Poll #3 -
Digital Technologies in Education: Opportunities & Benefits

Which of these opportunities or benefits are related to your work? (select all that apply)

- Empowering learners
- Transcending geopolitical boundaries
- Beyond traditional classrooms
- Education management
- Digital technologies as effective tools
- Delivering education in times of crisis
Digital Technologies in Education: Challenges or Risks

- Absence of proper content
- Infrastructure
- Lack of teachers
- Discrimination against women, minorities, other groups
- Privacy and security issues
- Technological determinism: disconnected designs, applications, hardware-centered policies
Poll #4
Digital Technologies in Education: Challenges or Risks

Which of these risks have you encountered? (select all that apply)

- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of effective policies
- Lack of human resources
- Gender or minority inequity
- Compromised privacy or security
Field Evidence
SolarSPELL*: An Offline Digital Library

*R Solar Powered Educational Learning Library (SPELL)

- Ruggedized, portable, solar-powered, digital library over an off-line WiFi hotspot
- Mimics online experience so internet-ready skills can be taught offline
- Provides relevant, localized educational content to low resource locations around the world
SolarSPELL team members have carried out training with local teachers, health care workers, and Peace Corps volunteers to deploy the first 365 SPELL libraries.
SolarSPELL in Classrooms

East Africa

South Pacific
Informal Education in Ecuador - Dreambuilder
Formal Education in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh government is implementing a long term plan, integrating Digital Technologies and Education
- Primary focus on infrastructure and content development
- Increasing equity and inclusion in education
Formal Education in Bangladesh, continued

• Jaago Foundation, a voluntary organization has a network of Digital Schools
• Work with underprivileged children
• Provide education in remote areas using digital solutions
Emerging Technology Trends in Education

Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, and Virtual Reality

• Al is integrated to monitor student performance and to better facilitate learning
• Al supports hands-on learning at the elementary level
• Students' level of gaining knowledge increased, through higher levels of peer-interactions and hands-on learning
• Beijing National Day School has no head teachers and no set classrooms - students have different schedules, can choose from more than 400 classes
• Xiaoyi, a teaching aid program, to answer students’ questions
Online Education

• Online learning and teaching options through schools and universities
  o Online only education institutions from primary through higher education
  o Traditional universities with online offerings

• Education platforms, applications, hybrid offline-online services
  o Zoom, Google Hangout, Facebook Live
  o Khan Academy, Coursera, edX, Udemy, Lynda
  o Moodle, Google Classroom, Canvas
Delivering Education in Times of Crisis
Options for every learner, at any age.
Delivering Education in Times of Crisis – What Can Be Done?

**Hybrid Solutions**
- Multi-platform approach
- Offline-Online combination
- Old Digital/Analog solutions (Radio, Newspaper, TV)
- Use of popular, less conventional platforms (TikTok, Imo)

**Evolving Pedagogy**
- Ensuring interactions, feedback
- More learner-centered
- More focus on learning goals/outcomes
- Less focus on grades/numbers/GPAs
Poll #5
Digital Technologies in Education: Delivering Education in Times of Crisis

What are the most important factors to focus on for providing education using digital technologies in your country/region? (Select all that apply)

- ICT Infrastructure
- Teacher Training
- Appropriate Teaching/Learning Content
- Cost of ICT Access
- ICT Literacy
- Government Policy
What questions or comments do you have about the information presented?

Enter your questions and comments in the Chat box.
Conclusion

- Education is key to JSR
- Digital tools are key to education
- Digital tools, are constantly emerging, require effective use/adaptation
- Global pandemic illuminates the need for infrastructure/training
- Resources are available
Thank you for joining us today

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