The Briggs Report

Towards

a

Commonwealth of Learning

1987
The Briggs Report

University of the Commonwealth for Cooperation in Distance Learning

1987
The Briggs Report

University of the Commonwealth for Cooperation in Distance Learning

1987
The Briggs Report

University of the Commonwealth for Cooperation in Distance Learning

1987
Planning Committee
DEVELOPMENT

Not:
Giving people fish

But:
Teaching them to fish
Commonwealth of Learning
Learning: Our Common Wealth

Sir John Daniel
President
Commonwealth of Learning
PLAN
- A common universe of thought?
- Learning for development (MDGs)
- Why open and distance learning?
- COL and the MDGs
Learning: Our Common Wealth

Sir John Daniel
President
Commonwealth of Learning
The Geography of Thought
Richard E. Nisbett
China

West
“The Chinese believe in constant change, but with things always moving back to some prior state. They pay attention to a wide range of events; they search for relationships between things; and they think that you can’t understand the part without understanding the whole. Westerners live in a simpler, more deterministic world; they focus on salient objects or people instead of the larger picture; and they think they can control events because they know the rules that govern the behaviour of objects.”
GREECE:
- Nature (universe minus people)
- Subjectivity leading to objectivity

CHINA:
- The group
- Relationships and interdependence
EAST ASIA:
- Context

WEST:
- Individual personalities
CIVILISATIONS

converging

or

diverging

?
Open and distance learning and development
Open and distance learning and development

DEVELOPMENT is the enhancement of FREEDOM
Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership
The Iron Triangle of Education

ACCESS

QUALITY

COST
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY (UK) (1969)

High ambitions:
- for scale
- for quality
- for cost-effectiveness
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY (UK)

Access

1963:
130,000 in all UK universities

1994:
150,000 in UKOU alone
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY (UK)

Cost

Total degree cost = 60-80% of conventional
BRITAIN’S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2003

(Sunday Times University Guide 2003)

1. CAMBRIDGE 96%
2. LOUGHBOROUGH 95%
3. LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS 88%
3. YORK 88%
5. THE OPEN UNIVERSITY 87%
6. OXFORD 86%
7. IMPERIAL COLLEGE 82%
8. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON 77%
9. ESSEX 77%
Independence and interaction
(getting the mixture right)

- Learning materials
  (economies of scale)

- People contact
  (quality of scale)
How can open and distance learning contribute to the Millennium Development Goals?
Poverty and hunger

Target (2015):

Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

Fighting hunger and sustaining a liveable environment means empowering millions of farmers and smallholders and giving rural people more control over their lives.
With:
- Tamil Nadu Open University
- Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
- Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University
- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Lifelong learning for farmers
Primary education

Target (2015)

Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school
Teacher Training
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

The bottleneck to achieving primary education and gender parity is the training and retraining of millions of teachers. Success at primary level will create huge pressure at secondary level.
Gender equality

Target (2005)

Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education
Gender equality

Target (2015)

Eliminate gender disparities at all levels of education
Women and ICTs
Gender Resources

www.colfinder.org/dev
Health

- Reduce child mortality
  By 2015: reduce by 2/3 the mortality rate for under fives

- Improve maternal health
  By 2015: Reduce by ¾ the ratio of women dying in childbirth

- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
  By 2015: Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

To improve the health of mothers and children and arrest the spread of disease, ordinary people want information that connects with their lives.
Partnership with the WHO
Environment

- Environmental sustainability

Integrate principles of SD into policy

By 2015:
Reduce by $\frac{1}{2}$ those without safe water
Improve lives of $> 100$ million in slums
COL focuses on Education for Sustainable Development
Partnership

- Various targets:
- Good governance and poverty reduction
- Small islands and landlocked states
- Decent and productive work for youth
- Spreading benefits of ICTs
LEARNING is our COMMON WEALTH
Learning & Living with Technology

THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS