Promoting Learning for Sustainable Development

26 November 2015, Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

Professor Asha Kanwar
President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning
The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was established as an intergovernmental organisation by the Commonwealth Heads of Government.
What is it for?

To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for development.
Learning for Sustainable Development

Economic Growth

Social Inclusion

Environmental Conservation
4. Increasing food security

Every $1 invested in learning, facilitation and networking resulted in $9 worth of income and assets.
Learning for livelihoods

Eunice Maganga is a young woman from Voi, a rural community in East Kenya. Through COL work with INVEST Africa, she has gained skills to improve her livelihood.
Aptus

One of the new technologies to be used is Aptus. Aptus is an innovative, low-cost device developed by COL that allows learners in regions with poor or limited broadband connectivity to benefit from digital resources and learning networks by way of an off-grid, offline virtual classroom.
My father wants girls to get married as early as possible. He believes that only the boys should have an education, not the girls. So my father wants me to get married, but I did not want to destroy my life by getting married at an early age. I want to continue my study to become independent. Right now I am continuing my studies at the Open School in Dhaka with because I firmly believe that education can change my social position.”

Khadija Khatun, Grade 10 student in Bangladesh, 22 years old
“Enabling education across borders

The VUSSC Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture has given me the opportunity to follow a full diploma programme in Agriculture for educators at the National University of Samoa. I am proud to have a full qualification and a job plus the opportunity to undertake a full degree programme in Agriculture at the University of the South Pacific. I am ever so grateful. Thank you COL for the opportunity”.

Leafaitulagi Vaaelua, Teacher, Avele College, Samoa; Graduate VUSSC Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture
MOOC on Climate Change and Pacific Islands

Climate Change and Pacific Islands
28th August 2015 - 16th October 2015

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