



# *Pulling Together as the Commonwealth*

*Professor Asha Kanwar*

*President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL)*

# ***Commonwealth Charter: Values***

## **1. Democracy**

2. Human rights

3. International peace and security

4. Tolerance, respect and understanding

5. Freedom of Expression

6. Separation of Powers

7. Rule of Law

8. Good Governance

9. Sustainable Development

10. Protecting the Environment

11. Access to Health, **Education**, Food and Shelter

12. Gender Equality

13. Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth

14. Recognition of the Needs of Small States

15. Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States

16. The Role of **Civil Society**

# ***COL Priorities***

- Education
- Sustainable Development
- Youth
- Small States
- Gender Equality

# ***EPG Recommendations***

- 1. Promoting Development:** improving the lives of Commonwealth People
- 2. Building **capacity** and resilience in **small states****
- 3. Women:** confronting the challenges that remain

# ***EPG Recommendations***

- Integrating CW organisations and spreading the face of the CW
- Building Strategic **partnerships**
- Raising the **profile** of the Commonwealth

*What are we doing in this regard?*

# ***How do we build strategic partnerships with international organizations and private sector?***

- Based on Ethics of Partnership
- Relationships based on shared principles, specific common objectives and strategic linkages to particular fields
- Built on a Win-Win Framework

# ***COL's Partnerships***

- 1. With COMSEC & Commonwealth Foundation**
- 2. With UNESCO and UNICEF**
- 3. With private sector Financial Institutions  
and ICT companies**
- 4. With Universities and Educational  
Institutions**

# ***How do we raise the Commonwealth's Profile?***

***Commonwealth's credibility will be sustained only if the "have nots" believe you continue to work in their best interest***

**Don McKinnon in "In the Ring-A Commonwealth Memoir", page 298**





**Profile from 6000 women and men farmers: Survey from a random sample of 78 Respondents**

# ***COL, Commonwealth and “Have-nots”***

## **COL's project and Its significance for Livelihoods Year 2010**

	<b>Male (%)</b>	<b>Female (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
Significant Differences	36.0	45.0	42.3
Moderate Differences	36.0	24.5	28.3
No Answer	0	6.0	3.8
No Difference	28.0	24.5	25.6
Waste of Time	0	0	0
	100 (n=25)	100 (n=53)	100 (n=78)

# ***COL, Commonwealth and “Have-nots”***

## **Awareness about Commonwealth and COL Year 2010**

	<b>Male (%)</b>	<b>Female (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
Know more about Commonwealth & COL	32.0	35.8	34.6
Know Something about Commonwealth & COL	40.0	20.8	26.9
No Answer	0	0	0
Do Not Know about Commonwealth and COL	28.0	43.4	38.5
No need to know	0	0	0
	100	100	100

*Evolving to remain relevant to the  
needs of Member States*

*Collaborative rather than  
Competitive*

# *Thought-leadership*

*Respectful, Ethical, Professional*



*Skills, Speed, Scale*





# *What can be done?*

- Be Champions of the Commonwealth
- Promote the Commonwealth through Social Media
- Exemplify Commonwealth values

# *Finally*

- ‘Pulling together’ for what? Promoting Commonwealth values? Development?
- What are the biggest untapped opportunities to pull together?
- What are the practical and concrete steps to pull together?