



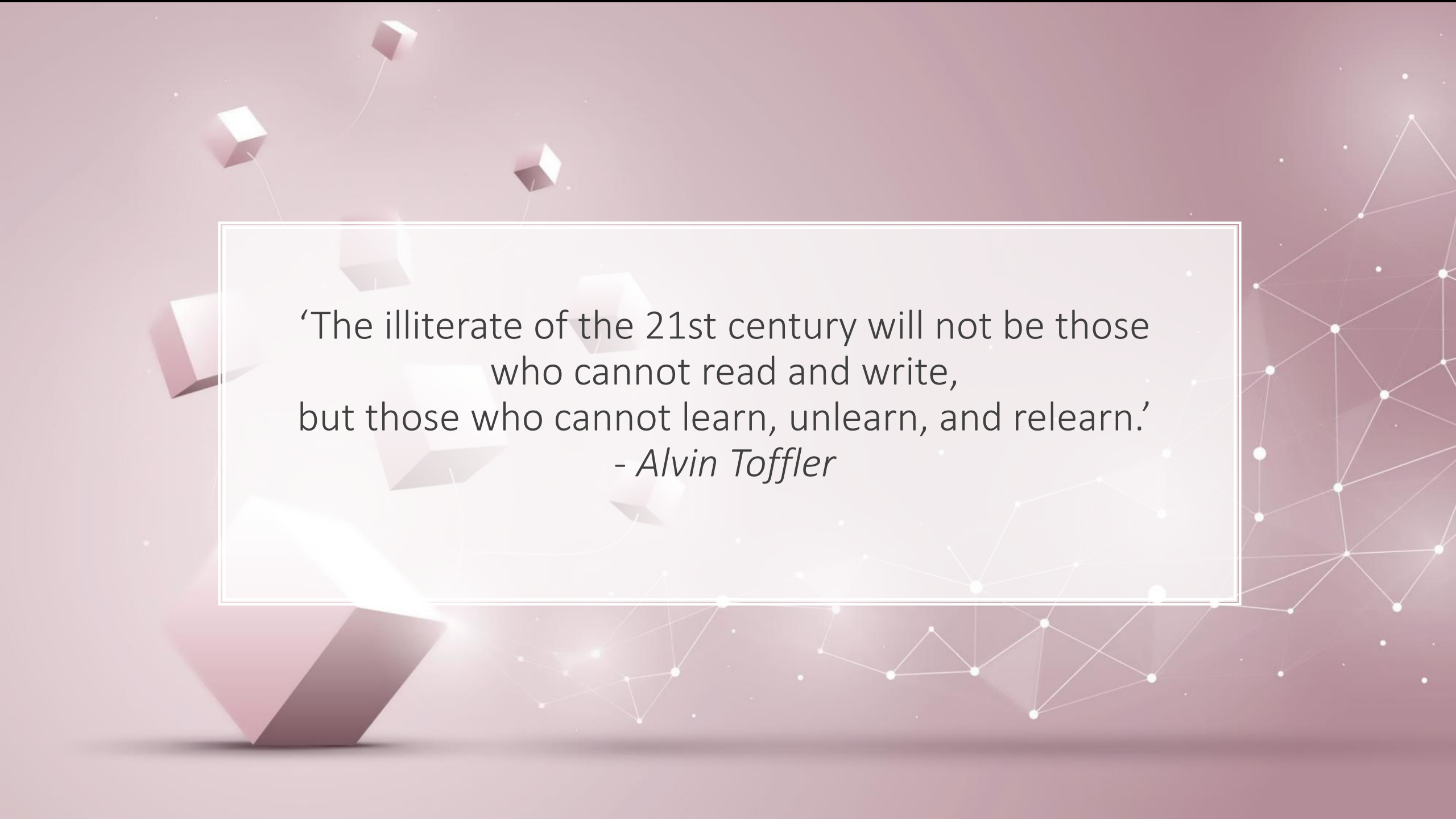
全球智慧教育大会  
Global Smart Education Conference



# Smart Education for Transforming Lifelong Learning

Prof. Asha Kanwar  
President and CEO  
Commonwealth of Learning, Canada  
August 18, 2023. Beijing

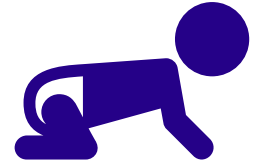




‘The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those  
who cannot read and write,  
but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.’  
- *Alvin Toffler*

# Plan

- Perspectives on Lifelong Learning
- Understanding SMART Education
- SMART Education for Transforming Lifelong Learning





# Perspectives on lifelong learning



# GOAL 4

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY  
EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

More at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal)



# Transforming Education Summit 2022

*Ensure the right to quality education throughout life....embrace the concept of lifelong learning with more **flexible** pathways and **financial policy incentives** to allow people to re-engage with education systems several times throughout their lives....calls for **qualifications** that recognize skills, work experiences and knowledge throughout life, and **beyond formal education**....*



Vision Statement of Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Transforming Education





*‘A lifelong learning system must reach large segments of the population, including people with **diverse learning needs**. It must be **competency driven** rather than age related....The lifelong learning model enables learners to acquire more of the **new skills demanded by the knowledge economy** as well as more of the traditional academic skills.*

LLL in the global Knowledge Economy, pp28-29





*...individual workers will have to **engage in life-long learning** if they are to achieve fulfilling and rewarding **careers**. For companies, **reskilling and upskilling** strategies will be critical...to contribute to socially responsible approaches to the future of work. For policy-makers, reskilling and retraining the existing workforce are essential levers to fuel future **economic growth....***

Towards a Reskilling Revolution (January 2018)

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/towards-a-reskilling-revolution>

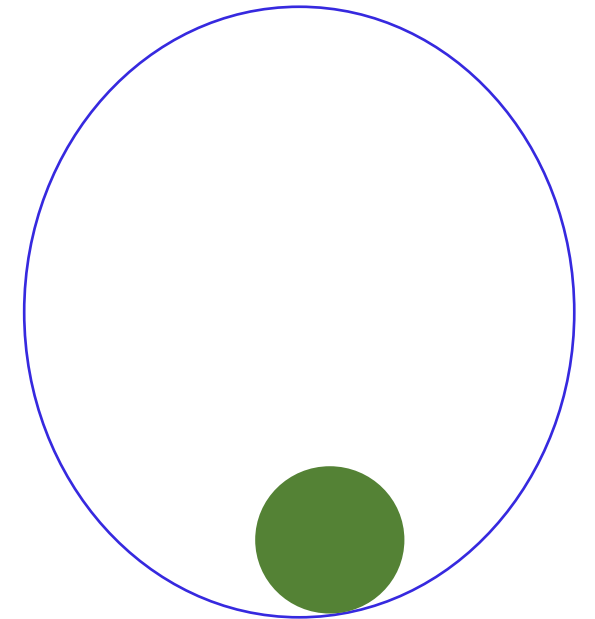




# Two competing versions of lifelong learning

*‘the one visionary and all-encompassing, the other driven by narrower interests related to training, competency and the world of work’.*

Aitchison (2004, p.2)





# Understanding Smart Education

# What is Smart Education?

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‘heightened learning experience, continuous learning content adaptation and teaching efficiency’. (Huang, 2014)

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‘...application of latest or smart technologies in collaboration with advanced pedagogical practices, tools and techniques’ (Gabriela et al, 2018)

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‘smart education goes beyond the use of new technologies and involves the adoption of new teaching and learning approaches, with students being autonomous...and teachers becoming facilitators’ (Maria Jose Sa et al, 2022)

# Smart Education is

- **enjoyable**, leading to the retention and transfer of knowledge to long-term memory;
- **engaging**, with innovative application of technologies;
- **efficient**, in terms of just-in-time learning and availability for right resources;
- **effective**, in leading to the earning livelihoods and development of responsible citizenship; and
- **ethical**, to address issues of privacy, cybersecurity and equity.

(Kanwar, 2021)



# SMART Education for Transformation



**S**ustainable



**M**eaningful



**A**ccessible



**R**esilient



**T**ransformative

# 1

## Sustainable: Impact of Education on Climate

### DIRECT

- Emissions from construction of schools/infrastructure
- Emissions from energy use in schools
- Learner emissions

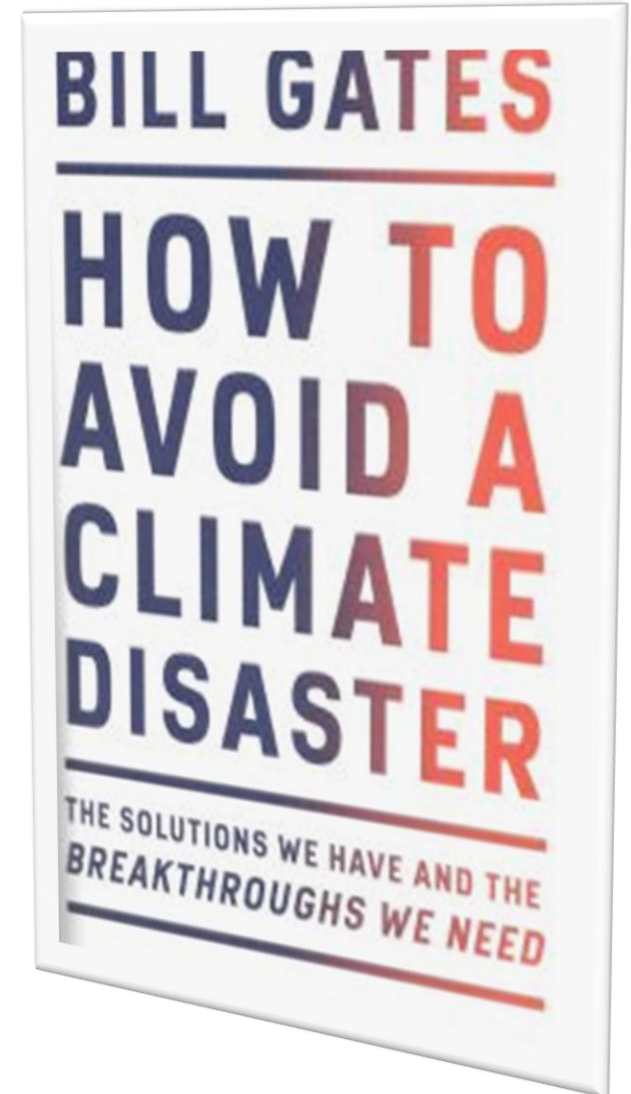
### INDIRECT

- Emissions from 'development' and economic growth associated with higher levels of education in a country



# Five biggest emitters of carbon

- **Construction: Cement, steel plastic: 31%**
- Electricity: 27%
- Farming: plants and animals. 19%
- Travel and transport: 16%
- Airconditioning: 7%



# Research on Emissions and ODL/ICT



3x less carbon emissions



Travel – greatest contributor



Mode of delivery - determinant





**Transforming  
Education  
for Climate  
Action:**

REPORT TO  
COMMONWEALTH  
MINISTERS OF  
EDUCATION

# Recommendations

- Resilient infrastructure
- Skills for the blue and green economies
- Promote climate justice

# 2 Meaningful: ICTs for poverty alleviation

- Targeted to 50,000 rural villagers
- Evidence of increase in income, enterprise profit, employment opportunities



**Practices of poverty alleviation by open and distance education: a case report from the Open University of China**

Chuanjin Ju, Songyan Hou, Dandan Shao, Zhijun Zhang and Zhangli Yu

Source: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/AAOUJ-09-2021-0110/full/html>

Every \$1 invested resulted in \$8 worth of income and assets



# 3 Accessible: Leaving no one behind

- For persons with disabilities
- Women and disadvantaged groups
- People in remote areas

POLICY



# ODL for Persons with Disabilities

## CONVENIENT

- Study at your own pace, place, time
- Don't require to travel to campus or accommodation

## FLEXIBLE


- Option to listen, watch or read lecture in different formats

## AFFORDABLE

- Costs less than F2F

## ANONYMOUS

- Engage with professors and classmates without feeling discriminated



# 4 Resilience: Parents as co-educators

- **Ghana:** Family and intergenerational learning
- **Liberia and Sierra Leone:** A hotline number for parental feedback
- **Rwanda:** Radio lessons supported by parents

# Social Emotional Learning

- Teachers social and emotional skills are key
- Years after students participated in SEL, their academic performance was an average of 13 percentile points higher than students who didn't participate.

# 5 Transformative Learning

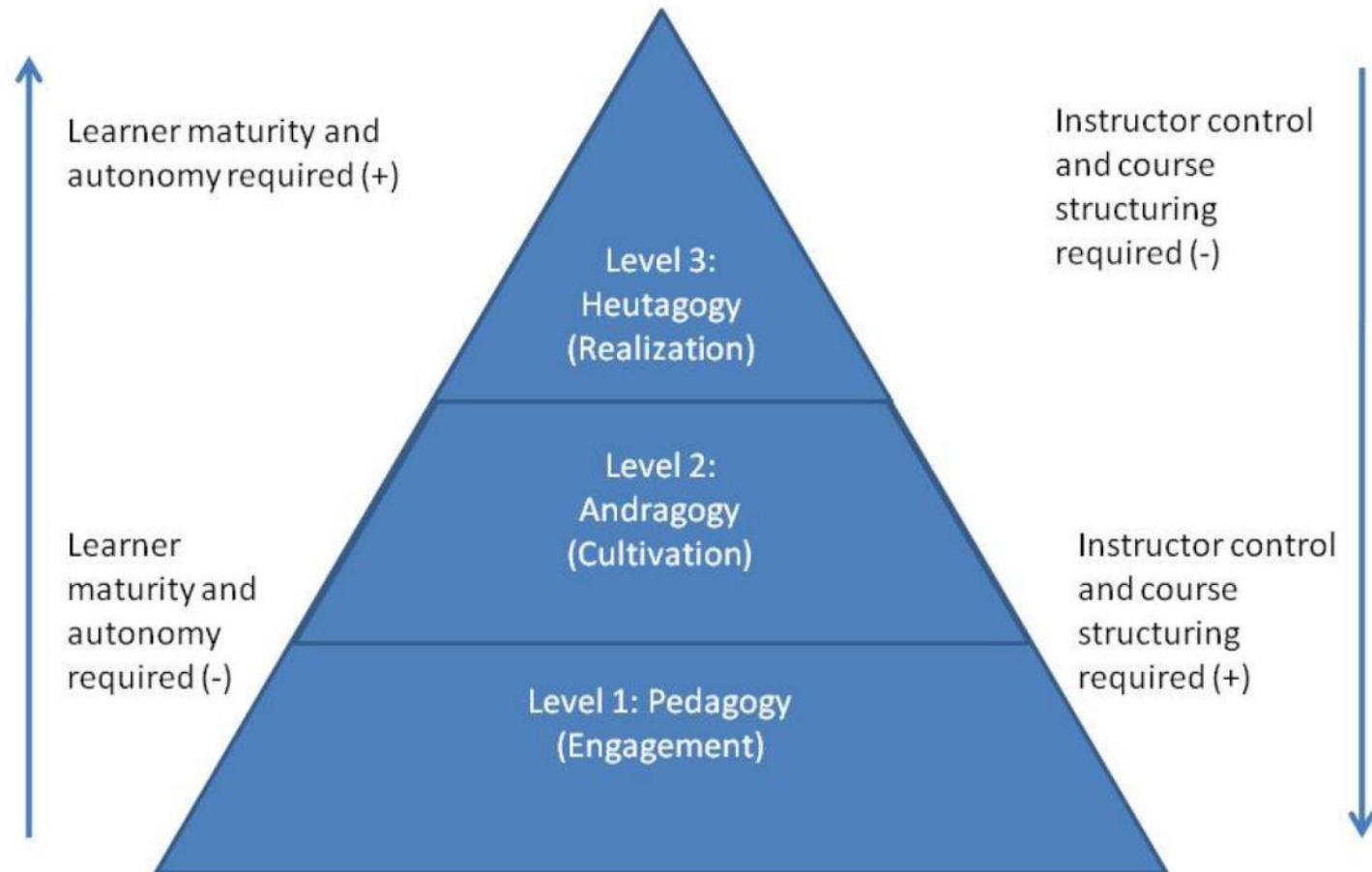
*“to make our own interpretations rather than act on the purposes, beliefs, judgements, and feelings of others. ... Transformative learning develops autonomous thinking.”*

Mezirow





# Integration of Three Approaches




# SMART education is

A broader concept than online learning

A comprehensive approach that integrates technology, data analytics, innovative teaching, social inclusion and environmental conservation for a more effective and engaging experience

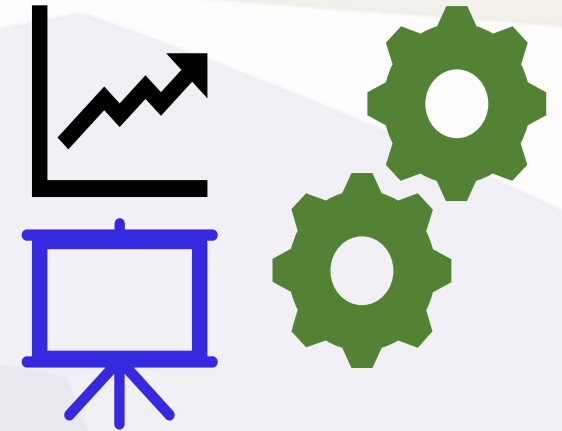
Goes beyond formal learning to include non-formal and informal learning



# SMART Education for Transforming Lifelong Learning

# Present Approach to Lifelong Learning

- Focused more on acquiring skills and competencies
- Helping to adapt to changing circumstances
- Emphasis on formal learning



# SMART Approach to Lifelong Learning

- Move beyond acquiring skills and competencies and focus on Transformative Learning
- Not just adapting to changing circumstances but acquiring ability to change circumstances



# Lifelong Learning

Should not be perceived as a mere course or a programme

It is a culture which needs to be integrated in every aspect of life

Lifelong learning means different things to different stakeholders

Policies and programmes should focus on promoting a 'learning culture'.

# 1. Sustainable: *Green learning agenda*

## Skills for green jobs

Skills aimed at fulfilling the requirements of green jobs and supporting the transition to a low-carbon green economy

## Green life skills

Cross-cutting skills that serve both technical, instrumental, and adaptive, transformative ends

## Skills for a green transformation

Adaptive skills aimed at transforming unjust social and economic structures



## 2. Meaningful: *Real, World- Improving Projects*

"Projects that produce actual...changes in our kids' local and global communities"

- Marc Prensky





# 3. Accessible: *MOOC4D*

Use technologies that are appropriate and affordable

Content designed for delivery in low bandwidth situations

Open Content in local languages ie. OER

Social media integration



## REACHING THE BOTTOM BILLION

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# 4. Resilient: *Strengthening capacity*



Building capacities  
of policy-makers



Developing capacity  
of teachers



Preparing learners



# 5. Transformative pedagogy

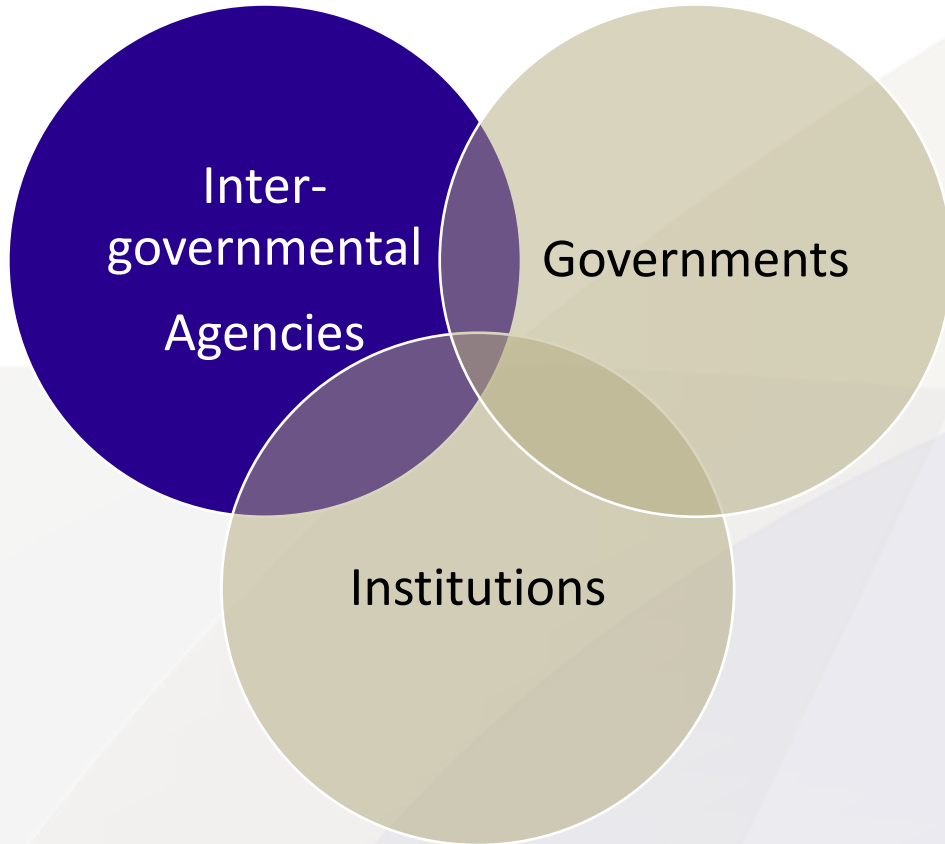
## Typical Approach:

- Skills /Competencies 
- Employability and Entrepreneurship 
- Achievement 

## Transformative Approach:

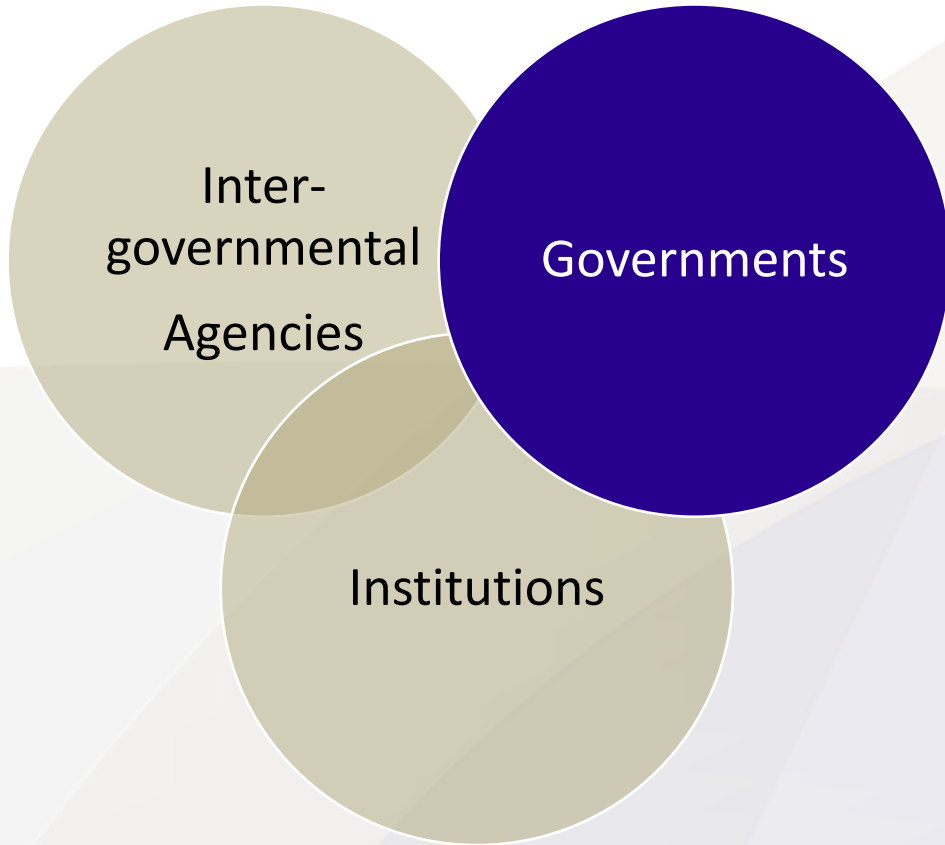
- Empowerment for Change
- Environmental Conservation and Global Citizenship
- Accomplishment

# Intergovernmental Agencies



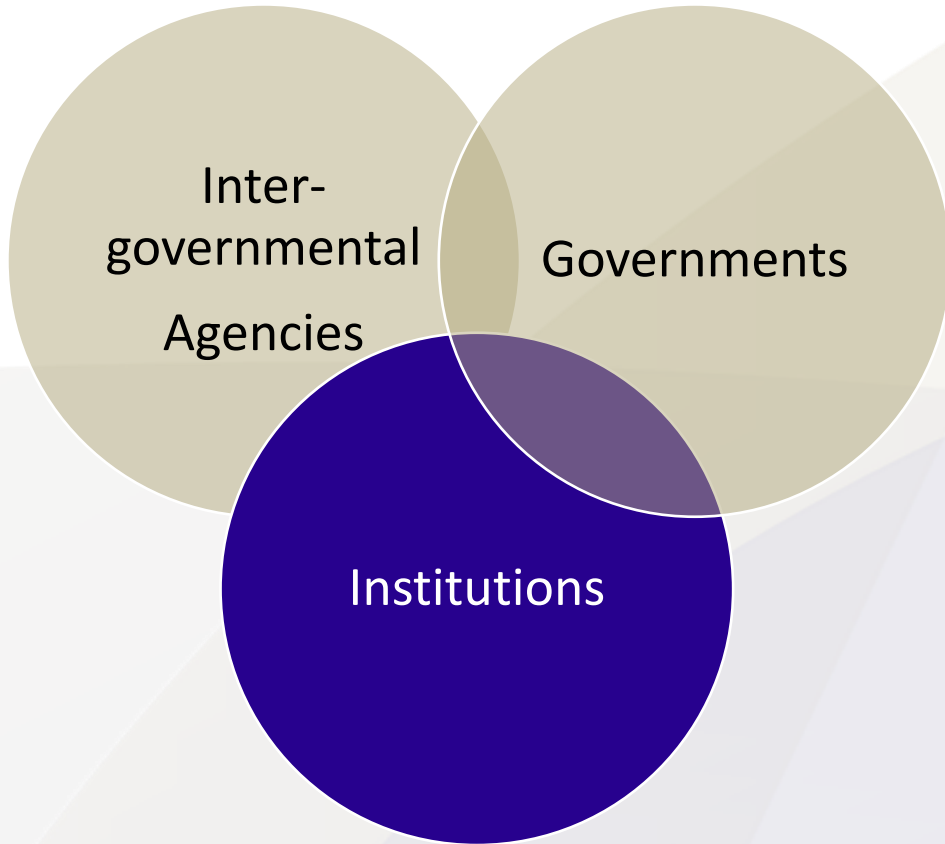
- Advocacy for integrating Smart Education into LLL policies
- Frameworks for implementing and monitoring progress
- Share best practices
- Promote regional and global partnerships

# Governments



- Implement and monitor lifelong learning policies with a focus on transformative learning
- Accreditation mechanisms for recognition and mobility
- ICT infrastructure and governance for SMART Education

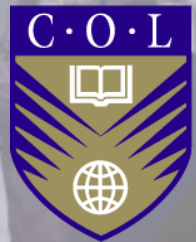
# Educational Institutions



- Provide seamless pathways between formal, non-formal, informal learning
- Adopt SMART Education framework
- Innovations for recognition and credentialing
- Use ODL, OER and TEL



# Thank you



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

[www.col.org](http://www.col.org)

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