TWG 4: Addressing Gaps and Promoting Educational Equity

Research Plan

Group leaders
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Focus, Rational, and Scope
UNESCO and other organizations, as well as governments, are looking to minimize educational gaps. In their early stages of adoption, new technologies tend to exacerbate equity issues. In many developing countries in the world, investment in promoting educational equity is limited. At the last EDUsummit, the team promoted digital equity, and dealt with challenges to digital equity. This working group focuses on the ways to make technology use sustainable. In other words, many technology projects are successful but when the project ends whatever was gained is lost. Thus, this research paper will try to identify gaps and find ways to achieve sustainable equal status in all means of ICT literacy. To this end, special attention will be given to access and use of digital technology by teachers and students in ways that demonstrate teacher competence according to UNESCO’s (2011) framework: 1) technology skills; 2) knowledge deepening; 3) knowledge creation.

Pre EDusummit 2015 Activities
• To gather cases from co-writers (Bhowmik, Thailand; Saunand, India; Yuen, Hong Kong; Baguma, Uganda; Kouraogo, Burkina Faso; Bodj, Senegal; Thibault, Vietnam; Goerke, Kickett, Pelliccione, Wall, Hoffman & Pierce, Australia/New Zealand; Cranmer & Passey, UK; Yazbak & Shonfeld, Israel; Resta & Gross, USA; Laferrière, Canada) about technology integration projects initiated by various third-party organizations wanting to promote educational equity. Deadline: July 25th, 2015.
• To open a Google doc for all members to write their experiences and research.
• To analyze and cross-analyze cases for evidence of gaps in administrators’ policies and teacher competence in the use of digital technology.
• To write the Discussion paper by August 10th.

EDUsummIT Activities (September 14-15, 2015)
• First TWG4 meeting: Participants’ introductions.
• Paper presentation, including the presentation of cases by cowriters, and discussion.
• Second TWG4 meeting (in small groups or in the whole group): 1) identification of incentives and obstacles to sustainable use of ICT for teaching and learning; 2) policy guidelines for sustainability; 3) research needs for sustainability.
• In-between meetings: Drafting of a minimal set of guidelines for organizations engaging in ICT integration activities in technology-poor learning environments, and caring for sustainability and scalability of technology use.
• Third TWG4 meeting : Discussion of the guidelines in small groups, refinement in the whole group, identification of organizations to which the guidelines are to be sent, identification of implications and recommendations for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers.

Post EDUsummIT 2015 Activities
- To create an online community of practice devoted to the application of the guidelines and their revision.
- To find sponsors and other partners willing to adopt the set of guidelines, and provide feedback.
- To conduct a participative webinar to address the digital divide, gaps and sustainability-related issues.
- To link with UNESCO Resource teacher network (24 of the developing countries are involved)

End Result
• An improvable set of ethical principles for organizations that conduct ICT initiatives in technology-poor learning environments in developing and developed countries.
• A paper in the special issue that will come out of EDUsummIT 2015.
• Presentations of the results in conferences such as SITE 2016.

How Would Your Group’s Research be Related to Policy and Practice?
• In cooperation with UNESCO, diffusion of the set of guidelines to ministries of education.
• Invitation to organizations to empower one of their members for participation in the online community of practice.

Ways of Communication within TGW4, Division of Labour, and Timeline
• As the contact person, Therese Laferrière will send draft of the research plan by email to all members of the working group on June 26th, and invite them to write a one-pager case using a template developed by the co-leaders.
• Co-leaders will analyse and cross-analyse the cases (July 25th July 31st).
• Co-leaders will write the first draft of the discussion paper (First week of August), and circulate the draft.
• Co-leaders will revise the discussion paper, and publish it as a Word document and as a Google doc on August 15th.