Presentation for QED 2017

Thematic Working Group 4: Digital agency to empower equity in education

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Digital Agency to Empower Equity in Education

- This topic is complex and deep

- Our definition of digital agency is: Digital Agency (DA) is the individual's ability to control and adapt to a digital world consisting of digital competence, digital confidence and digital accountability

Digital Agency: The Issue

- In an increasingly technological world there is a need to constantly reconsider and address the question of technological determinism and the interaction between new technologies and society

- The age-old question of whether technology controls us (technological determinism) or whether we as individuals shape new technologies (social shaping of technology) as we use and interact with them is central to the notion of Digital Agency

- Currently, given the pace at which technology is advancing, the individual can become not just overpowered but also disempowered

Why Digital Agency is so Important

- In the interests of social cohesion and individual well-being, we need to ensure that policies are in place to equip citizens with the tools that allow them to interact with confidence and competence with new technological tools and systems while at the same time understanding the implications new technologies embody

- In the absence of digital agency, there is a danger that individuals will feel less in control of their own lives and succumb to the belief that they have little or no say in how new technologies shape and control their lives

- Digital Agency, as we have defined it, is a way of empowering people to deal with new technologies so that they feel they have a role in how they adopt, adapt to and use them wisely and responsibly

Recommendations

- Digital agency must be guaranteed equitably for all citizens
- Policy makers and educators must adopt digital agency as a critical goal for social, civic, and economic well-being
- Leaders of society must provide tools and spaces to enable digital equity for all
- Foster engagement in producing rather than consuming
- Foster intercultural communication and learning
- Develop ways to include households in adopting and modeling digital agency
- Commission research to support digital agency development

Thank you