ADULT POPULAR EDUCATION - A LOST BATTLE OR A NEW CHANCE?

Secretary General
International Council for Adult Education
Prof. Dr Katarina Popović
University of Belgrade, Serbia

HØJSKOLERNE
International Folk High School Summit
2019
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- 42 active armed conflicts around the globe
- The Number of forcibly displaced worldwide: 59.5 million (in 2013: more than in II WW!!)
- Number of refugees: 19.5 million, Number of slaves: 20 million
- Malaria is the 'killer' Nr.1 in the world. Prevention (mosquito net) costs 10 cents
- 785 million illiterate adults in the world (32 million in the USA), 3 billion functional illiterate
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- Biodiversity is reduced to 50% in the last 35 years
- 2/3 of the world’s stock of large fish has been fished already
- Great Pacific garbage patch: 700,000 km² (=Texas)
- Far more people in India have access to a cell phone than to a toilet and sanitation
- Obesity is now killing triple the number of people who die from malnutrition (Global Burden of Disease study)
AT THE SAME TIME...

- Officially recorded capital outflows from developing countries annually exceeded the money flowing to them (Africa! – for 1 $ sent, 3 $ come back!).

- Recent data: Donors give to Africa $30 billion annually, but the continent loses $192b which goes back to the very countries that give it.

- Up to 92% of Aid goes back to either their countries or their citizens

- Gate’s foundation + Gates trust (= donation of Gates and Buffets) have ca 65.000.000.000 USD
Global military expenditure stands at $1.7 trillion in 2018. The UN’s entire budget is just appr. 1.8% of the world’s military expenditure. (https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2018/global-military-spending-remains-high-17-trillion)

Eight million die each year for want of the funds spent by the rich countries on their pets;

In 32 days the world spends $ 28 million on cigarettes – the same amount needed to fund adult education in developing countries each year.

Oxfam research: 8 men possess the same wealth as 3.6 billion people

QUIZZ: THE REASONS FOR THESE PHENOMENA

- Lack of the skills?
- Too slow digitalisation?
- Slow technological progress?
- Stupidity of people?
- Slow introduction of AI into the work processes?
- OR....? ...(lack of values, solidarity, awareness....)
WHAT ARE THE („MODERN“) EDUCATIONAL „ANSWERS“ TO THESE CHALLENGES

1. Language
2. Employability
3. Digitalisation
4. Artificial intelligence
5. „Measurable“ educational outcomes
6....
1. LANGUAGE

- EDUCATION = LEARNING
- KNOWLEDGE = SKILLS
- LEARNING = UPSKILLING; RESKILLING
- PEOPLE = HUMAN RESOURCES
- VALUES and ETHICS = ATTITUDES
- OUTCOMES, EFFICIENCY, PERFORMANCE

*(terminology from the economic field)*

*(By adopting the language, we adopt the conception, paradigm, philosophy...)*
2. EMPLOYABILITY

(This shifts the whole responsibility to the individuals, as if the system is perfect)

"...employability is the most desirable result of the higher education system."
FORGET EDUCATION, ACQUIRE SKILLS!
The crises wasn’t caused by the lack of skills, but by the lack of values and greed supported by the system!
EDUCATION SECTOR SHOULD SOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS? ECONOMIC SECTOR HAS THE ONLY TASK 'TO GROWTH'?!

REACTION TO THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISSES: „WE NEED MORE SKILLS!“ WHAT ABOUT CAUSES OF THE CRISSES (THIS WAS THE GATE TO THE ’POST TRUTH’)

NAIVE APPROACH: SOLVING THE PROBLEM BY NOT TOUCHING THE CAUSE

PARADOX: RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL CRISES IS COLLECTIVE; LIFELONG LEARNING AS THE RESPONSE SHOULD BE VERY INDIVIDUAL

DEMAND FOR ‘FINANCIAL LITERACY’ AS REACTION TO THE FINANCIAL CRISSES IS CYNICISM
Populism is the true legacy of the global financial crisis.
3. DIGITALISATION AND ICT SKILLS

ICT and digitalisation as the magical solution!

More digital skills will save the world?!
HOW IS WORLD PROGRESSING WITH THE NEW PARADIGMS?
DIGITALISATION – ’SILVER BULLIT’

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: „digitalisation is key to sustainable growth“

INDIA: „Digitalisation of Education Is the Solution to Our Archaic Learning Models“

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: „Digitalisation acts as an accelerator and enabler of many, perhaps all of the SDGs.“
UTØYA, island where Anders Breivik killed 69 young people. He was very 'skilled' in ICT, digitally 'clever' and active in social networks.
What is the meaning of life?

I don't know. The computers are down.
4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – another ‘magical solution’

UNESCO’s Mobile Learning Week

‘opsession’ with AI has great potential to replace teachers!
IS IT REALLY A SOLUTION FOR EDUCATION PROBLEMS?
5. 'MEASURABLE' EDUCATION

- "IF YOU CAN'T MEASURE IT, YOU CAN'T MANAGE IT."
- "WHAT GET'S MEASURED GET'S DONE."
- "ANYTHING THAT CAN BE MEASURED CAN BE IMPROVED"
- "ONLY THE MEASURABLE THINGS COUNT"

Very reductive understanding of human beings and of education, missing the most important aspects and effects of education and ignoring the processes...
PISA and PIAAC (OECD) – ranking, competitiveness...
focus on skills, no art, culture and humanities...
forcing testing...
5. MEASURABLE EDUCATION

An example how this approach should 'help' teachers:

**OXFAM – EDUCATION PERFORMANCE INDEX**

\[
EPI = \left\{ \frac{1}{3} \left[ (100 - NER)^3 + \left( 100 - \frac{NERforgirls}{NERforboys} \right) + (100 - \text{CompletionRate})^3 \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{3}}
\]

(Watkins, 2000: 347)
5. MEASURABLE EDUCATION

SO, THIS KIND OF EDUCATION SHOULD HELP WORLD TO SOLVE PROBLEMS LIKE THIS:
BREXIT (lies, data manipulations, fake news...)
Rationale for the Iraq War
Illegal immigrants are using our resources, taking our jobs, filling our schools, our hospitals and our prisons, and we are paying for it all.

(Dan Benishek)
Faked research as rationale for the anti-vaccination hysteria
ADULT EDUCATION, POPULAR ADULT EDUCATION, FOLKBILDNING...

...CAN TACKLE THE PROBLEMS AT THE ROOTS

...CAN COMBINE GENERAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND CIVIC EDUCATION

...CAN COMBINE EDUCATION, ART AND CULTURE

...HAS THE HOLISTIC APPROACH TO PERSON, COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

... IS THE ONLY TRULLY SUSTAINABLE WAY
Thank you
There is a significant finance gap for education

For every child in low and lower middle income countries to benefit from an expanded basic education of good quality by 2030, there is an annual external funding gap of **US$ 22 billion**

This is equivalent to just 4.5 days of military spending
...or half the money spent on the Sochi Olympics!
ARE THERE REALLY QUICK AND EASY SOLUTIONS FOR EDUCATION PROBLEMS?
Keep Your Body

Amazing Diet – lose 8kg in 7 Days – Guaranteed

You Might Also Like

Sponsored Links
Look 10 years younger in 2 minutes on Facebook. To connect with a user named Look 10 years younger in 2 minutes, register with Facebook.

Join

or

Login

Look 10 years younger in 2 minutes
Health/beauty

Buy now

Like

Share
DOCTORS IN SHOCK: THIS KILLS 93% OF COLON CANCER IN ONLY 2 DAYS!

www.lovethispic.com
Drink this!! Cure Diabetes in 5 Days
In education, for example, the problem is:

According to UNESCO: 758 million illiterate adults in the world, estimation: 3 billion functional illiterate ??

And the solutions are:
1. Digital tools and ICT

CELL-ED

closing the skills gap in just 3 minutes

Jessica Rothenberg-Aalami, PhD
CEO, Founder

www.cell-ed.com @Cell_Ed @CellEdLearnOntheGo +1 650 444-4069