

Schools2030 Global Forum

Session Learnings and Recommendations: Plenary 4

SESSION TITLE: *The Future of Design and Innovation in Education: How do we recognise and nurture the 'innovator' in ourselves and in our communities?*

SPEAKERS: Faraja Nyalandu, CEO, Shule Direct; Dr. Vongai Nyahunzvi, Chief Network Officer and Head of Africa, Teach for All; Mwasi Wilmore, CEO, Ubongo; Dr. Urmila Sakar, Global Head of Programmes, UNICEF Generation Unlimited; Dr. Christopher Thomas, Director of Partnerships, Yidan Prize Foundation; Dr. Asyia Kazmi, Global Education Policy Lead, Gates Foundation

FOCUS AREAS: Innovation, participatory design, communities

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- We have got to shift mindset; ask the right questions.
- Let the learners, schools come up with the innovations.
- Advance reforms and data collection and the need for digital connectivity.
- Think about who is hardest to reach when you think about innovation so that you leave no one behind.
- Need to engage the private sector.
- On good practices: Bring together diverse partners eg parents, private sector for apprenticeship and to make sustainable change.
- Monitor and measure results – data.
- Create systems to have lots of people engaged at school and district levels and a structure that gives them the space and confidence to lead innovations.
- On good practices: Put a face behind every data point.
- Create space for everyone to lead. It is not about lack of capacity but underutilisation of that capacity.
- Whatever innovation we come up with, it should be practical.
- Focus on sharing knowledge.
- On good practices: Data is foundation of innovation, data to drive strategy.
- Human-centred design great tool for innovating and creating sustainable, useful and usable practices.
- Leadership that unleashes leaders at all levels.
- On good practices: Work with the local community.

- Best practices: Have an outcome focus. What do we want to our children to be?
- We have got to have a spirit of excellence.
- Principles of innovations – not only having innovations but how do we get these innovations? How do we codify and share knowledge?

CONCLUSION:

- Data and evidence are key drivers for good innovation and must be shared widely to deepen our collective impact, but data needs to be human-focused, not reducing young people to mere numbers.
- We do not have education challenges; we have opportunities to innovate.
- We need to be visionary and create innovation ecosystems where diverse stakeholders can participate in the process.
- There is a need to address innovation with a sense of urgency.

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Processes and documentation: Show what didn't work, what works and what doesn't work – share evidence.
- Advance reforms and data collection, and the need for digital connectivity. Monitor and measure results – data is very important.
- Learn to learn. Learning how to ask the right questions is one of the effective ways of dealing with ambiguous situations.
- Be persistent in developing alternative ways to realise the change being sought.
- Give children agency.
- Put a face behind every data point.
- Effective, relevant teacher training. Celebrate what teachers do, support them.
- Foster an innovative system including mindset shift.
- Have an outcome focus. What do we want to our children to be?
- Create space for everyone to lead. Have leadership that unleashes leaders at all levels. It is not about lack of capacity but underutilisation of that capacity.
- Think about who is hardest to reach when you think about innovation so that you leave no one behind.