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# ICT in non-formal and adult education: Final Perspectives?

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# Five questions

- Are we talking about the same thing?
  - What is the role of context and culture?
  - Do we share a concept of education?
  - How would we know “what works”?
  - Where are we in the change process?
  - Are these conclusions?
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# Are we talking about the same thing?

- School v “out of school”
  - The bottom quartile/ 5% most deprived schools/ 2/3 not made a phone call.....
  - OECD v developing countries – demand and motivation, economic implication
  - Learning literacy/ ICTs/ citizenship
  - Learning with ICTs
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# What is the role of context and culture?

- 20% of difference is qualifications
- Learning is embedded in culture and community
- Nature of divides are culturally rooted – democracy, scale, homogeneity
- Colonisation by technology and culture – will the colonised be content?
- Collective and individual purposes
- Interaction with economic and social development

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# Do we share a concept of education?

- Transmission and transformation
  - Constructivism and “content”
  - Blending and appropriateness
  - Not enough about assessment
  - Social contexts for learning are critical, especially for the disadvantaged
  - Digital fluency
  - Societal learning
  - [the ghosts of Illich, Freire, Schumacher...]
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# How would we recognise “what works”?

- Value for money – chalk v PC – Governments not convinced?
- Schools and out of school are different
- Better, more rigorous research is needed: need formative evaluation
- The economic cycle affects division
- How to measure social/human capital outcomes
- ICT deepens faster than it broadens
- Non-participation can be rational

# Where are we in the change process?

- Beyond infrastructure – towards content?
- Making the step change: who leads? who pays?
- Sustainability and stable resourcing
- Are institutions transformable?
- What are the roles of the players in the next stage?  
– state, community, institution, teachers, private sector....
- Technologies still crude: all technologies start unevenly – is ICT different?
- Can the developing world leap a step?

# Some conclusions?

- Need clearer focus
- Need better research – formative and evaluative
- Has ICT changed:
  - Understanding of learning
  - Access to learning
  - Relevance
  - Equity
- Context is dynamic
- We know what not to do
- What is needed for the most disadvantaged is not dramatically different?
- Will this give us the world we want?