



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

Responding to Major Global Trends and
Complex Development Challenges:
How Effectively is Education and Training
Systems Adapting?

**ICT FOR SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT -
BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

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THE PRESENTATION IDENTIFIES:

- A few global trends with respect to Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs)
- How countries and institutions could respond to ensure skills are developed to take advantage of these trends

The major trends identified and have an impact on education are:

- A 24/7 world
- Work, play learn and socialize whenever and wherever
- Internet is becoming a global mobile phone
- Technologies are cloud-based and delivered over utility networks
- Openness

- Real challenges of access, efficiency and scale
- Internet challenges us to rethink learning and education
- Rise in informal learning as individual needs are redefining schools, universities and training
- Business models across the education ecosystem are changing

The important questions to ask:

- How do these trends translate into reality?
- What are the implications for each of these trends in your institution and governments?
- What are you doing already or could do to accommodate these trends?

IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The World Bank's World Development Report 2013 notes:

- Jobs drive development; they should not be an afterthought of growth
- **It is not just the number of jobs; some have a bigger development payoff**
- **Jobs are created by the private sector; public action sets the stage**

- **Informal is normal; many jobs in developing countries are in farms and very small firms**
- Some work is unacceptable: rights matter
- **One size doesn't fit all: the nature of jobs challenges varies across countries**
- **Get the fundamentals right: they matter regardless of the jobs challenge**

- Labour policies matter less than assumed: the main constraints to job creation may lie elsewhere
- Realizing the development payoffs from jobs requires proactive policies
- A global agenda: more data and cooperation on investments and migration are needed

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)'s focus on Learning for Development

- Helps governments, institutions and communities to expand the scale, efficiency and quality of learning by using open, distance and technology-based approaches and pays special attention to technical vocational needs

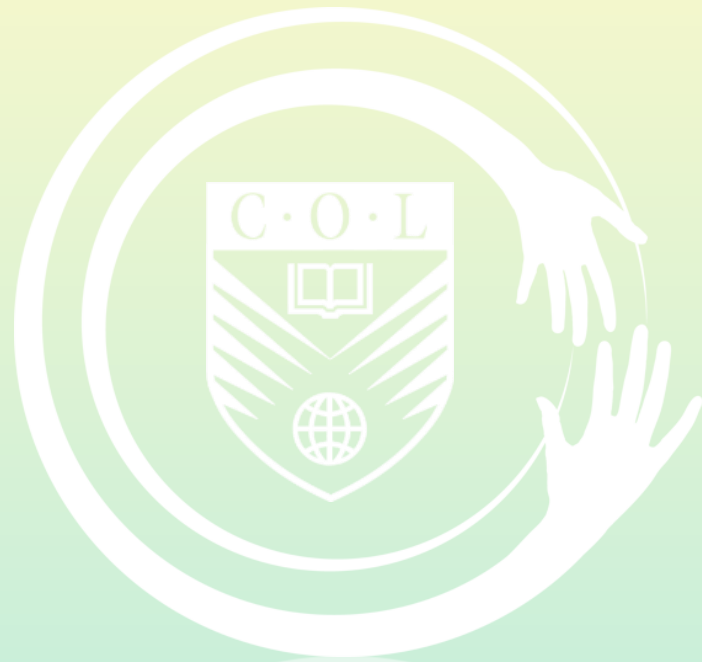
COL's focus on TVET in Africa, Asia, Pacific and the Caribbean

- Strategy and policy development for the use of open and distance learning (ODL) and technology
- Organizational structures that best enable the institution to use ODL and technology
- ICT infrastructure management to ensure there is quality support for TVET programs
- Flexible and blended approaches to teaching and learning within the institutions and NGOs

**WHAT SHOULD A SKILL
DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND
PROGRAMS FOCUS ON THAT
ADDRESS THE TRENDS
IN THE 21ST CENTURY?**

- Good communications skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- Ability to learn independently
- Social skills (ethics, positive attitude, responsibility)
- Teamwork skills, collaboration learning, networking

- Ability to adapt to changing circumstances
- Thinking skills (problem-solving; critical, logical, numerical skills)
- Knowledge navigation
- Entrepreneurship (taking initiative, seeing opportunities)
- Digital literacy



THANK YOU

