

The Case for Transformation, Not Reform

Let's give young people a chance to shape our world. That's why this transformation is needed.

VISHAL TALREJA, DREAM A DREAM, 2020

At this moment, when education leaders, policymakers, and funders in every context are making decisions about how to restore learning and education, we want to offer a provocation. To set up every young person to thrive - to prepare them well for their futures - we need transformation, a shift in the dominant logic of a system, rather than reform.

A New Education Story is an invitation to step back, to ask big questions, and to think differently about both what we are aiming for, and how to get there.

Three Drivers for Transformation

Together the following three drivers begin to indicate a theory of action, directing leaders, funders and decision makers to the places to intervene in education systems at sufficient depth to bring about fundamental and lasting changes. Through the conversations Big Change had with global partners who share a commitment to reimagining education with and for young people, and through the learnings of this group, the three drivers emerged as being not linear and individual but very much interconnected. And you need all three working together in order to really support transformation. ESSIE NORTH, BIG CHANGE, 2022

Purpose

Redefine the goals and outcomes for the education system to reflect the challenges and opportunities of the future and the values and priorities of stakeholders

Power

Expand who has voice and agency by investing in stakeholders so they can make confident decisions about learning and education

Practice

Unlock innovation by enabling those working in education to create and share learning innovations with the greatest potential to transform the system



Partners & Contributors





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Beyond Theory to Action Start the Conversation in Your Community

We need to remember that the system is us. In the words of the late Sir Ken Robinson, you don't need to change the system, you just need to change yourself.

SAKU TUOMINEN, HUNDRED, 2021

What does transformation look like in your community?

Whether you're a policy maker, educator, funder, parent, civic leader, or student - we need to have conversations about the three drivers for transforming education systems in every community across the world, with diverse stakeholders.

This document serves as a stepping stone to reflect on questions that can shape a new education story in your context.

Purpose

Engage stakeholders in defining the purpose of education Reveal and challenge the shared assumptions blocking transformation Discover, connect and amplify new alliances

- What is the purpose of education in your context? Is it clearly defined? Who determines the purpose of education?
- What myths and assumptions might create barriers to transforming education in your context? How could these be revealed and challenged in order to make transforming education possible?
- What connections might be made and alliances forged to agree to a new purpose for learning and to drive change in education systems?

Power

Liberate agency and co - agency of educators and learners Enable a wide range of stakeholders to take part in decision making Make data and information more accessible, useful and interesting to stakeholders

- Who might need to share or relinquish power to enable more inclusive decision making in your education system?
- What opportunities exist for educators and learners to influence the education system? How do learners shape their own learning and how are educators supported to innovate?
- What could be done in your context to make data and information necessary for decision making available to a wider group of stakeholders?

Practice

Make learning more learner centred Integrate new ways to assess and recognise learning Strengthen the link between learning science and teaching practice

- What would change in your context if learning was truly organised around the needs of learners? In your community, what does/could learner centredness look like?
- How well is assessment integrated into learning to empower learners and educators?
- What opportunities exist for educators, learners and families to learn about the latest developments in learning science? To what extent does evidence from learning science inform education policy and practice?

Share learnings from your community #neweducationstory





Read the full report

Get in touch

https://big-change.org/ new-education-story/

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