

NEWSLETTER

Digital Literacy in Education
The Importance of Equity to Access to a Digital Economy



“ Dear Educator,

As CEO of the Digital Skills Foundation (DSF), I'm all too aware of the urgent need for gender equity and digital transformation. Therefore, this month's newsletter highlights how digitalization can play a significant role in promoting equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity. By providing better access to training, connectivity, and devices, digital transformation can eliminate some of the existing inequalities and enable people to participate in the digital economy from anywhere.

It is crucial to acknowledge that gender equity goes beyond ensuring equal opportunities for men and women. It also includes recognizing and valuing diversity in gender identities. Embracing diversity and differences can lead to new perspectives, creativity, and innovative approaches that can benefit society as a whole.

At DSF, our goal is to empower, inspire, and enable everyone to reach their full potential for a sustainable future. We believe that digital transformation can be a catalyst for gender equity, and we strive to create an inclusive environment where all individuals have equal opportunities to succeed.

In this newsletter, you will find some ideas to start the conversation at schools and home. ”

Annemijn PERRIN, CEO Digital Skills Foundation

Join our DSF Community on Padlet! Tell us where you're from and meet other digital initiates and experts from around the world!



INSIGHTS FROM GEORGE K. WERNER,
Senior Education Advisor at Digital Skills Foundation and former Minister of Education in Liberia

“ Gender equity is a critical issue in Africa's digital transformation.

Despite the significant strides made in the continent's digital space, women remain underrepresented in the sector. This imbalance has implications for the digital divide, economic growth, and social development. To achieve gender equity, African nations need to address the root causes of the gender gap in the digital sector, such as cultural biases and limited access to education and training. Governments and private sector players must collaborate to create an enabling environment that supports women's participation in the digital economy. By promoting gender equity, Africa can harness the full potential of its digital transformation for sustainable development. Educational establishments are a big part of this process. Teachers are at the helm to teach the new generations ways to advocate for themselves, to ensure they have the tools and knowledge necessary to recognize their own value, and to give them the courage and support necessary to go forth and face the path that the world will try and force upon them and choose their own. ”



MEET THE CHANGE MAKERS IN EDUCATION

JOHANNA-MARÉ STRAUSS

Natural Science and Home Ecology Teacher Grades 4 – 7
Ariamsvlei Primary School in the Kharas Region, Namibia



As you get older, you become less confident in your abilities, and this is especially true when it comes to using technology. If you did not grow up during the technological boom, it might be difficult to keep up with all the latest apps and ways of using technology. DSF eliminated the uncertainty surrounding technology in the classroom. You won't need to ponder any longer what a term means or how to use it. With the knowledge of what to anticipate and how to address it, I could now start a blended classroom

with ease. Because the students in our remote schools do not have access to the internet, Wi-Fi, computers, or cellphones, integrating the remaining technology proved more difficult.

But because I learned how to do it through DSF, I could give them the resources they needed for their research. DSF has made it easier and pleasurable for me to integrate technology into my classroom, use movies and slides, respond to inquiries, and set up an opinion poll.



Do you want to share your story with the world?
Send us an email via:
communication@dsf.global

Think about the following questions and tell us about your experience:

1. Have you used any digital strategies in your classroom? If so, what were they?
2. What were your students' reactions to this new pedagogical approach?
3. Has your teaching style changed since taking our courses?
4. Do you think that improving your (and others') digital literacy is important? Why, or why not?

We look forward to hearing from you!



An Activity for Educators

Let us look into the differences between Equality and Equity. Some assume these terms are synonymous, some think one is more important than the other. It is important for the younger generation to try and figure out where they fit into the world. They must learn how to carve out their own place in it. One way is by first discerning where they stand on certain issues. Part of this development needs to come from them, but they need a safe space in which to confront these (oftentimes difficult) truths about society and the world. It is your role as educators to help guide them to build these foundations for themselves.

The Rules of the Game:

Split your students up into groups. Ideally each group could use a computer, but reference books and brainstorming will do the trick. They must research the differences between the terms "Equity" and "Equality". Give them some time to do some research and come up with their own definitions for each of these terms based upon their findings. Then have each group come present their results to the class as a whole. Perhaps also have them come up with a practical example of how each term could be applied to a real-world example.



Helpful hint - The goal is to teach them how to: tell fact from opinion, research things online, collaborate with their peers, and present their opinions and reasoning in a comprehensive and convincing manner