The Knowing-Doing Network (KDN)

The Knowing-Doing Network (KDN) is a global, interconnected community focused on transforming education systems to ensure all children and young people develop the skills they need to thrive.

Coordinated by the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at Brookings, the KDN brings together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, funders, and educators from around the world to promote shared learning, joint research, and sustained collaboration to drive systemic change.

Our Purpose

KDN members are working toward a world where all young people develop a range of cognitive, socioemotional, creative, and critical thinking skills to participate actively in the construction of a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Achieving this requires rethinking the purpose of education and rebuilding systems to support this vision, focusing on both tangible factors like policies and resources and intangible aspects like power dynamics, norms, and mindsets.

> Through collaborative efforts between education actors at both local and global levels, KDN aims to create lasting change in how education is delivered and experienced and the learning that comes from it.

Our Drivers of Transformation

Capacity

Greater understanding and availability of evidence, resources, and supportive structures to implement effective, contextually relevant education policies and practices.

Commitment

Increased collaboration among local and global actors to co-create, fund, implement, and evaluate solutions that are evidence-based and responsive to local needs.

Cohesion

A sustained vision and engagement across organizations, sectors, and geographies to align strategies and drive systemic, lasting change.

Our Approach

Expanding power, centering local priorities and building trust

Can a diverse group of committed education actors, dedicated to learning from and sharing with one another, truly influence how education systems foster skill development in children?

Our network approach rests on three pillars:

- **Connecting Actors**

  The KDN connects multiple networks of education actors focused on key elements of education systems such as gender equality, family engagement, pedagogical mindsets, and early childhood into a network of networks. This decentralized structure strengthens local and global partnerships across sectors and geographies, catalyzing collective learning and action.

- **Centering Collaboration & Mutual Learning**

  The KDN creates spaces for collaborative, participatory research and strengthens its members through workshops, peer learning, and tools that enable networks to achieve greater collective impact. Members are encouraged to bring their diverse expertise, solutions, and strategies from their regions to support others across the network, fostering a collaborative ecosystem for transformative learning.

- **Shaping the Global Conversation**

  The KDN fosters continuous engagement through research, events, and webinars, enabling in-depth dialogue on complex educational challenges. By bringing local perspectives, especially from marginalized contexts, into global discussions, KDN members expand global actors' understanding of education challenges and potential solutions, informing transformative change at the local and global.

Learn More & Get Involved

www.brookings.edu/knowing-doing-network/

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Our Networks

The core of KDN comprises existing and developing networks currently curated and coordinated by the Center for Universal Education at Brookings.

NETWORK FOR EDUCATION SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION (NEST)

Working to understand how education systems transformation occurs in local education ecosystems, with the goal of improving holistic learning for children and young people globally.

Members: 11 civil society organizations in 11 countries

GLOBAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION NETWORK (GLOBAL FEEN)

Building strong family, school, and community partnerships that support student learning and development and thriving schools and communities.

Members: 60 organizations across 20 countries

ECHIDNA GLOBAL SCHOLAR ALUMNI NETWORK (EGSAN)

Transforming systems to advance gender equality, inclusion, and empowerment in and through education.

Members: 44 researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in 23 countries

LEARNING AND ACTION ALLIANCE FOR GIRLS' AGENCY (LAAGA)

Working to co-create ideas and understandings regarding the development and exercise of girls' agency across diverse contexts by promoting evidence-based policy and practices

Members: 25 researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in 16 countries

STRENGTHENING PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES TO RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GLOBAL NETWORK (SPARKS-GN)

Exploring how culture, ecosystems, learning theories, and other intangible factors influence pedagogy in local contexts through collaborative research.

Members: 3 research policy collaboratives in Mexico, India, and Egypt

RESEARCH ON SCALING THE IMPACT OF INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION (ROSIE)

Bringing together dozens of researchers and practitioners to better understand the process of scaling the impact of quality education innovations and initiatives for all children and youth. Part of the Global Partnership for Education's Knowledge and Innovation Exchange.

Members: 43 applied research projects in 50 countries