



Dupont Summit 2014

..... Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy Issues

December 5, 2014 ♦ Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

The Policy Studies Organization

Panel

"MOOCS, Schmooks...Think POOCS: Personalizing the Educational Experience for Poor Schools and Poor Students with Limited or No Connectivity"

We'll discuss and demonstrate "low-tech" tech MOOC alternatives that we call POOCS, tailored both to individual students and learning styles, and to schools and students with limited connectivity, limited digital resources, and limited access to education resources.

Our alternatives are not limited in commitment to quality education. They emphasize basics with applications to everyday lives, develop creativity, provide advanced seminars to high school students, empower entrepreneurship, and adapt to native cultures/languages. We combine techniques and projects to create a true international educational experience.

We'll use these examples:

Apton (Lucknow, India) - a business solution for rural schools needing admin tools.

Tamale, Ghana - YouLIO and a consortium of semi-digital educational projects.

Rwanda - a national campaign/effort to make education at least 50% distance learning. Muzaffarpur,

India - Seven digital schools without a computer for so-called outcasts.

Batticaloa, Sri Lanka - The Science Panda - Science taught creatively and experimentally.

Xxxxx, China - Personalize online enrichment courses for advanced students

Example highlights:

The five-minute class by phone

The one-minute mentor motivators

Science taught creatively

Tweet courses

Volunteer mentors/assistants - YouLIO, Muzaffarpur

Overall principles to be highlighted:

Personalized learning

Self-directed learning

Free learning

Guidance to resources

Individual student assessments

Last year our presentation focused on the component of our online education activities center on SpaceSoc, a small but worldwide project to prepare for management of human settlements in space. This year we propose to discuss and demonstrate the educational concepts and "low-tech" digital means we use to connect worldwide with students, projects managers, community activists, and others in places with limited connectivity.



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Panel Biographies

"MOOCS, Schmooks...Think POOCS: Personalizing the Educational Experience for Poor Schools and Poor Students with Limited or No Connectivity"

Anmol Singh, only 17 years old, is cofounder (with Mohammad Youself) of Apton, a Lucknow, India-based software company marketing low-cost, simple-to-use educational administration technology. Ashish is also on the Lifeboat Foundation space settlement board; editor of EarthTeen, a new website to connect teen civic activity; and is active in other online activities, including SpaceSoc.

Tom Diffenbach, on the other end of the age spectrum at 71 years old, is cofounder of Seraph+Tom, an online partnership doing grassroots educational projects in China, India, the USA, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Rwanda, and other countries.

Others participating, in person or online, in our presentation will include:

Marcia Hajduk, USA professor
Mohammad Yousef, cofounder of Apton
Avinash Ranjan, attorney and international relations scholar in India
Divya Ranjan, psychologist/educator
Cici Wang, Chinese scientist
Bernard Nkuyubwatsi, Rwandan educator
Saravana Muthaly, Sri Lankan Science Panda educator
Yussif Abdul-Hafiz, Ghanaian educator
Mahree Khan, Pakistani university student
Sophie Bromand, USA college student from Denmark