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Roles and Opportunities of Community Champions in Promoting Digital Skills

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Scope of the Presentation

1. Who are Community Digital Champions

2. What are the roles of the Community Digital Champions

3. DTC-PNG, First International Intervention

4. DTC-PNG, Second International Intervention

5. DTC-PNG, National Trainings

6. Lessons Learned

7. Opportunities for Partnerships

8. Conclusion

Who are the Community Digital Champions

❖Community Digital Champions are passionate guides who can support other persons to learn digital skills, gain digital confidence and overcome barriers to getting digitally active.

❖To become a Digital Champion all you need is a basic understanding of how to do digital tasks and the willingness and patience to help people learn in the workplace

Roles of Community Digital Champions

❖ Basic digital skills training to enhance digital literacy and foster uptake of digital tools among those at the bottom of the social pyramid

❖ Intermediate digital skills training to provide users with job-ready skills, improve workplace efficiency and enhance chances of employability

❖ Train-the-trainer programmes on digital skills to ensure scalability and self-sustainability in digital skills capacity development

DTC-PNG First International Intervention

❖Our first Training was, a one month "Get Connected" ToT programme on basic digital competencies in August 2020, which was aimed at scaling up digital skills at the national level and help to bridge the digital divide across Papua New Guinea (PNG). Conducted in Partnership with Cisco Australia and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

❖ Participants included 23 coordinators of the Distance Learning Educational Centres across PNG. After the training, each participant has been overseeing and scaling this training course in various parts of PNG.

DTC-PNG, Second International Intervention

❖In partnership with the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT), we conducted a training programme dubbed *Leveraging ICT for Women in Entrepreneurship* (22 Oct to 3rd Nov 2020), 56 Women signed up for this training.

❖The training sought to increase, understand and appreciate the enabling role of digital technologies, the gaps and barriers that constrain women from using ICTs in their businesses, and the need for gender-responsive policies and programmes to support ICT-empowered women entrepreneurs

DTC-PNG, National Interventions

❖ We have partnered with other National partners to deliver a Digital awareness workshop to farmers that exposed them to an understanding of digital literacy, its benefits and the online tools available, and how to leverage their online presence. 44 Farmers attended

❖ We have also conducted similar trainings to Educators, exposing them to digital technologies and how they can be optimized to improve teaching learning experiences. 184 Teacher and lecturers have benefited

❖ In the 2nd week of December 2020, we have organized a week-long Digital awareness summit for youths in Morobe Province

Lessons Learnt in DTC Activities

❖It is vital that Digital Champions understand role boundaries when working with learners, so that the Champion is able to avoid 'role creep' in which they begin to provide support other than digital learning.

❖Partners need to commit resources (both human, material and financial) for the success of digital championship at community level.

❖With the covid19 restrictions, It has been a challenge to scale training activities since basic level ICT skills are best done on an in-person basis.

❖Coordinating DTC activities is more sustainable when the responsibility is embedded within the job roles of an officer.

❖Besides lack of access to cheap reliable internet, some communities are yet to have access to basic ICT gadgets such as cell phones.

Opportunities for Partnerships

Local and International partners can help by:

❖ Highlighting the value of digital skills to their local area, both

  for people and organizations

❖ Making sure the right support is in place and is easy to find and

  access, with the right information, advice and signposting

❖ Reaching out to those who are excluded from the digital world

1. We'd appreciate a joint venture that can allow us deliver capacity building opportunities such as the one we have had with Cisco and APCICT

2. Support; both material and in kind, would help DTCs realize their strategic aspirations

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Conclusion

❖ As the use of digital technology in the workplace and in our personal lives increases, it's important that everyone understands and is able to access digital technology

❖ As we seek to realize the sustainable development goals, Partner states should develop and adopt and operationalize - Essential Digital Skills Framework which defines the digital skills everyone needs to safely benefit from, participate in and contribute to the digital world

❖ We can't wait any longer because a digitally inclusive world awaits us out there!

Final key thought

"Digital Championship is more than a Board Room thing. It is everyone's business" – *Dr Tindi Seje Nuru.*

SOURCES

Besides the real life scenarios, the concepts and ideas discussed in this presentation have been based on my own experiences of applying the thoughts and concepts developed and articulated by the following Scholars and leaders.

1. Corporate Culture & Performance, John Kotter & James Haskett, 1992
2. The best of 60 Years – The Essential Drucker, - Peter Drucker, 2008
3. Winning – Jack Welsh & Susi Welsh, 2006
4. Communications Toolkit on Intranet www.hseland.ie
5. HSE Guide to Mentoring (quality conversations) available on www.hseland.ie
6. Collective campus; WWW.COLLECTIVECAMPUS.IO
7. Techbomers; Slide deck: www.slideshare.net/SteveBlack327/techsoup-digital-literacy
8. Hand book for Digital capabilities; Australian Agricultural Workshop

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Producing world-class technocrats for the real world"

Thank you and Reflections are welcomed

Digital Awareness Training for Farmers, conducted in partnership with GrowPNG in October 2020

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