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CONCEPT NOTE

MOBILE LEARNING WEEK 2015



Monday, 23 February	Tuesday & Wednesday, 24–25 February	Thursday, 26 February	Friday, 27 February
Workshops	SYMPOSIUM	Policy Forum	Research Seminar

Symposium: Tuesday & Wednesday, 24–25 February

The two-day Symposium is the centerpiece of Mobile Learning Week 2015 (MLW 2015). The theme of the Symposium, like the Week itself, is leveraging technology to empower women and girls.

With appropriate implementation and training, mobile technology can open doors of opportunity to women and girls who are often underserved educationally. In many developing countries female illiteracy is far higher than male illiteracy, and in developed countries women regularly lag behind men in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These gaps, far from fleeting irregularities, have existed for decades and, alarmingly, in some countries they are growing.

The question that will anchor the MLW Symposium is: How can mobile technology help? The Symposium will explore how newly affordable and increasingly ubiquitous mobile devices can improve access to education, strengthen learning outcomes and, ultimately, nudge the world closer to true gender equality, both in education and beyond.

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The stakes for such an effort are high. As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated recently: 'Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support. The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all.'

To understand how mobile learning can contribute to equality for women and progress for all, the Symposium will look closely at four areas:

- 1. Equitable Access:** How can access to technology be expanded to ensure women participate equally in mobile learning?
- 2. Gender-Sensitive Content and Pedagogy:** What gender-sensitive mobile content and instructional approaches have worked well to encourage the equitable engagement of women and girls in education and combat negative attitudes and stereotypes?
- 3. Literacy:** How can mobile learning interventions break through barriers and promote literacy for women and girls in ways that are sustainable and scalable?
- 4. Skills Development:** How can mobile technology help women develop twenty-first century skills and promote gender equality in society at large?

UNESCO and UN Women will organize plenary panel discussions dedicated to each thematic area. The programme will also feature keynote addresses and a rich offering of breakout presentations. Cumulatively, the breakout presentations constitute the core of the Symposium. They allow participants to learn from mobile learning experts working on innovative projects throughout the world. The breakout presenters will share findings, updates, perspectives and advice that will help participants understand how mobile learning can advance development goals, particularly those related to gender.

An exhibition will complement the Symposium, providing an attractive venue for companies, governments, NGOs and individuals to showcase mobile learning initiatives, content and technology.

Registration for the MLW 2015 Symposium is open to the public, and breakout presentation and exhibition proposals will be accepted until late November 2014.