# OER as a tool for equity: lessons from the developing world



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## The Equity Promise

Remove licensing fees from costs of materials used in education

Enable adaptation (including translation) of educational materials without paying or asking written permission

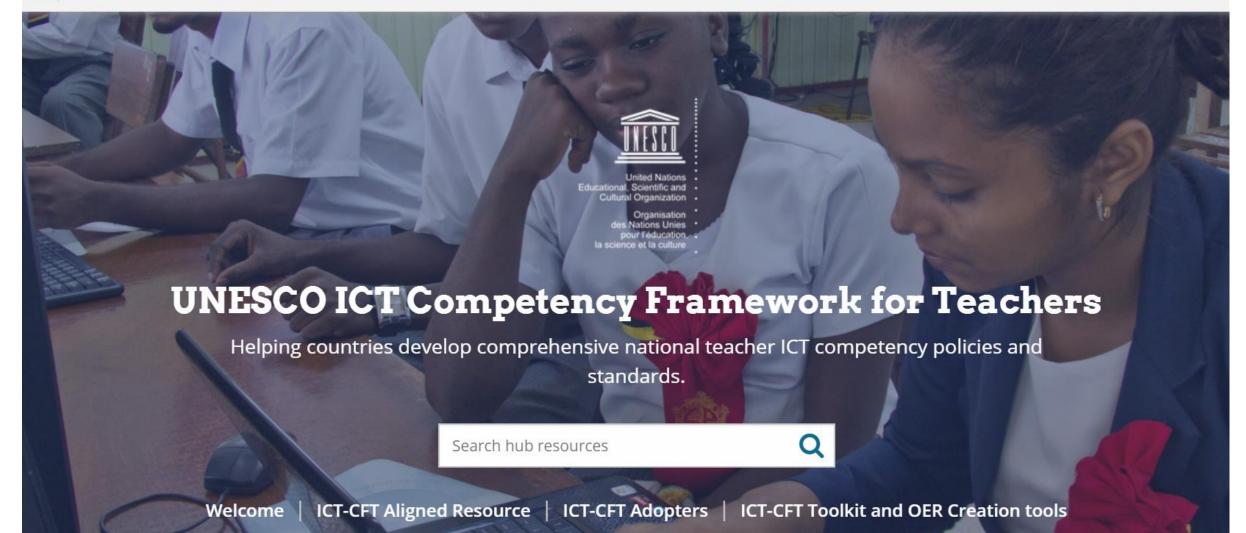
Engage educators and learners as co-creators, who produce materials as part of the educational process — rather than just consuming information

Facilitated by cheaper access to digital tools and broadband Internet

## https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/UNESCO



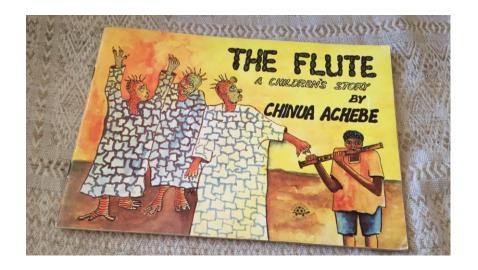
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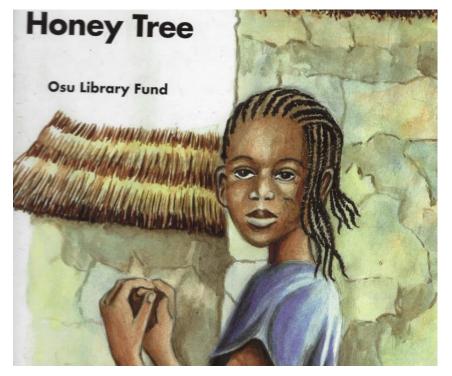


#### Early literacy

Use of open licensing and online translation tools to create reading materials in local languages

- Stories have been written, adapted, and translated to different languages throughout the world.
- Storyweaver in India and African Storybook are well-known for their Creative Commons picture books.





### The Challenges

- Although there is growth of OER in different languages, English materials remain dominant online
- Investments of OER show economic devaluation of skills of instructional design, content creation, graphic design, and proper translation – and growing flow towards specialized tech companies
- Old education publishing business models are not yet transforming into sustainable business models for educational content creation, so financial flows into content creation are at risk – at the expense of quality

## The Way Forward

- Encourage governments to fund educational content creation and to openly license publicly funded educational materials
- Facilitate online sharing of OER in formats and via platforms that make them easy to find, download, adapt, and re-use
- Develop the capacity of educators, learners, specialist content developers, and librarians to be able to find, use, develop, adapt, and re-mix OER, as well as to use and apply open licences correctly
- Support international collaboration between governments to minimize duplication in OER development and to develop a global pool of culturally diverse educational materials many languages