OER Dynamic Coalition Launch Meeting

Building capacity of stakeholders

Gihan Osman

Assistant Professor for Instructional Design and Technology American University in Cairo

March 2, 2020

Challenges to implementation & scalability

- Lack of awareness, knowledge and skills at various levels.
- Quality assurance
- Conflict of interest between OER and existing systems and current business models
 - E.g., publishers, individual professors, non-open educational institutions
- Concerns about copyright, authorship and related rewards.
- Existing academic cultures ingrained in competitiveness and individualistic rewards for professional and intellectual efforts

Challenges to implementation & scalability

- Barriers of language, access, gender, skills, etc.
- Lack of institutionalization and integration with national systems, strategies, and policies.
- Lack of sufficient research to support the practical advantages of embracing open education beyond ideological rhetoric.
- Navigating, finding, curating the overwhelming number of OERs available online.
- Added value is not uniform across economies and sectors. (e.g. private vs. public, high income vs. low income, etc.

Possible solutions to overcoming challenges

- Mapping existing efforts and entities advocating open education and OER
- Encouraging cross institutional and transnational research on OERs and open education.
- Formulation of policy
- Harnessing AI and other emerging technologies in overcoming barriers related to curation, language, personalization, access as well as alignment and integration into various educational systems.

Possible solutions to overcoming challenges

- Working with governments and public entities in countries where open education would be of substantial added value.
- Massive capacity building through MOOCs and famous platforms
- Establishing frameworks for quality assurance.
- Establishing alternative business models and reward systems to address conflict of interest for current systems.
- Disrupting the existing systems ????