CESS

Centre for Educational and Social Studies

Highlights of Global Education Monitoring Report 2023
Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms?

The Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report is an editorially independent report, hosted and published by UNESCO and is mandated to monitor progress on education in the SDGs, and on the implementation of national and international education strategies. The GEM Report 2023 addresses the use of technology in education around the world through the lenses of relevance, equity, scalability and sustainability. The report underscores the importance of learning with and without technology; and to let technology support, but never supplant the human connection on which teaching and learning are based.

Highlights from the Report -

Access for Disadvantaged Groups

Usage of multiple technologies for hard-to-reach learners

Inclusive Technology accessibility for students with disabilities

Depending less on non-state actors for education technology projects

Access to Content
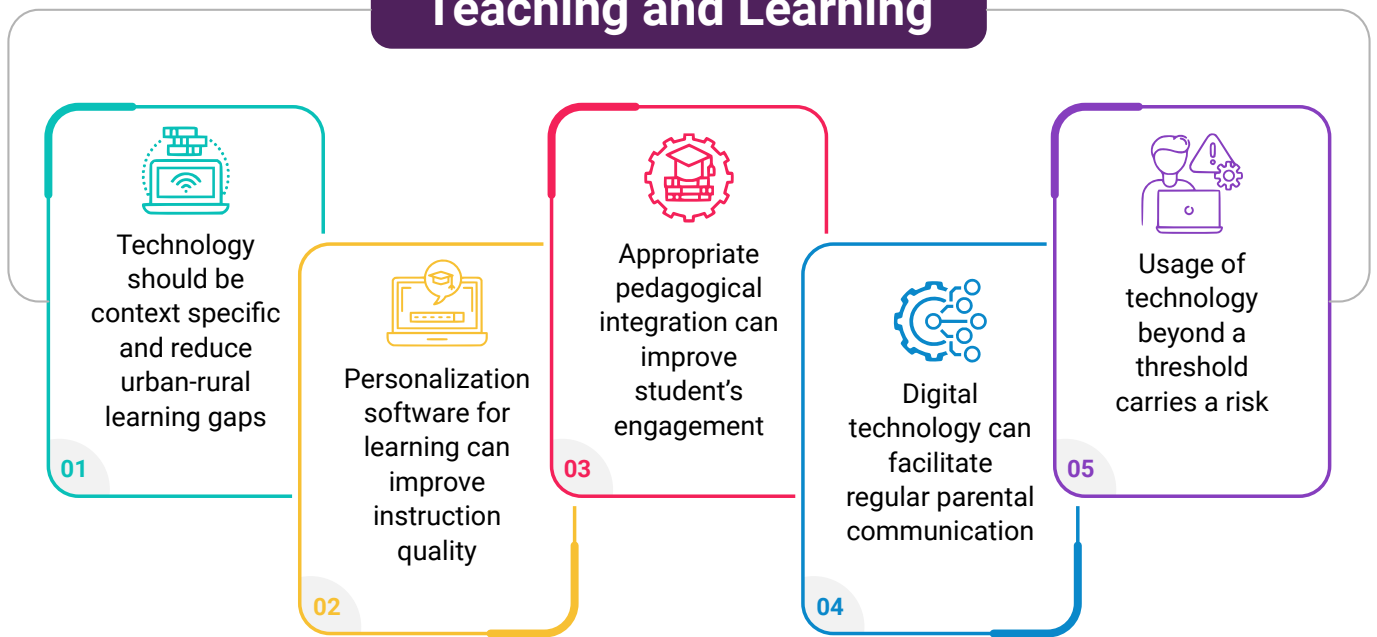
Technology facilitates content creation and adaptation

Digitization simplifies content distribution channels

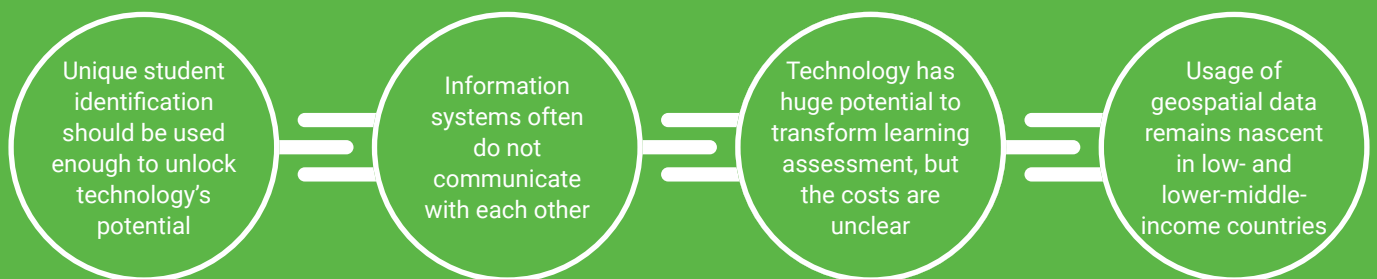Open educational sources without due planning may lead to challenges
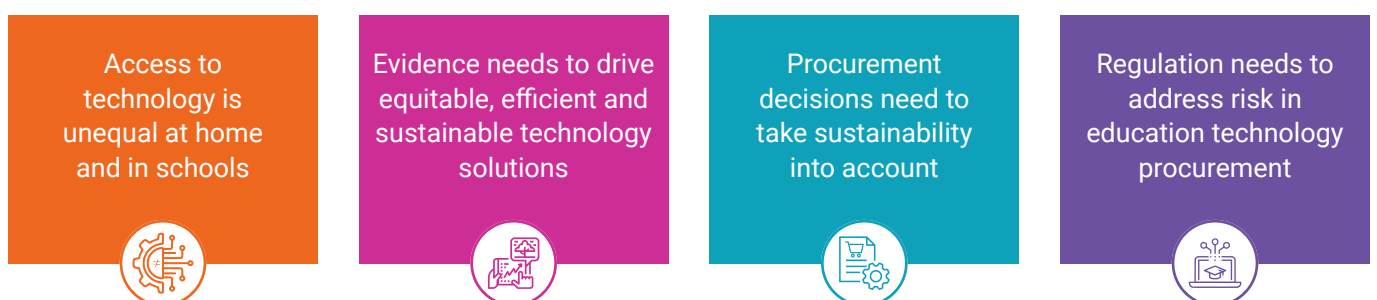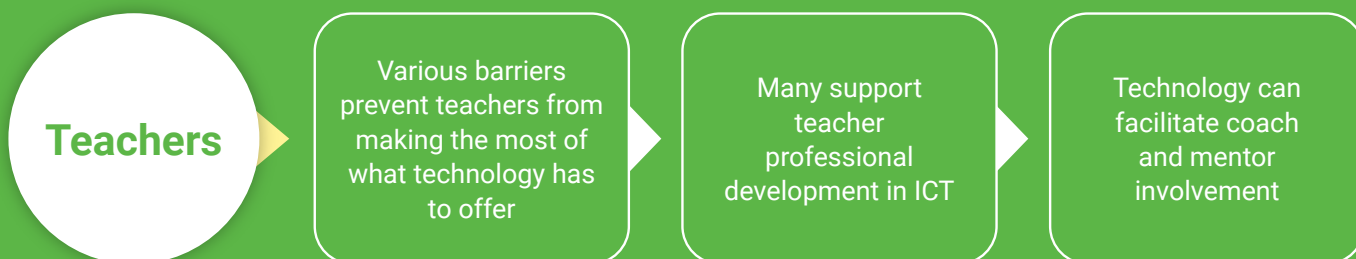
Teaching and Learning

01 Technology should be context specific and reduce urban-rural learning gaps

02 Personalization software for learning can improve instruction quality

03 Appropriate pedagogical integration can improve student's engagement

04 Digital technology can facilitate regular parental communication

05 Usage of technology beyond a threshold carries a risk

Digital Skills

01 Emerging of National Digital Skills

02 Assessment of digital skills should address multidimensionality, comparability and fairness

03 Current measures suggest low digital skills levels and wide gaps

04 Digital skills are often obtained outside the formal education

Education Management

Unique student identification should be used enough to unlock technology's potential

Information systems often do not communicate with each other

Technology has huge potential to transform learning assessment, but the costs are unclear

Usage of geospatial data remains nascent in low- and lower-middle-income countries

Access to technology: Equity, efficiency and sustainability

Access to technology is unequal at home and in schools

Evidence needs to drive equitable, efficient and sustainable technology solutions

Procurement decisions need to take sustainability into account

Regulation needs to address risk in education technology procurement

Governance and Regulation

- **Public authorities struggle to govern private actors**
- **Privacy, safety and well-being risks need to be regulated**
- **Exposure to screens and technology affects children's well-being**

Teachers

- Various barriers prevent teachers from making the most of what technology has to offer
- Many support teacher professional development in ICT
- Technology can facilitate coach and mentor involvement

Some of the Recommendations from the Report

01 Reform curricula to teach basic skills that imparts improved learning and underpinned by theories

02 Design, monitor and evaluate education technology policies with the participation of teachers and learners

03 Resources with respect to technology should be available in multiple languages, culturally acceptable and easily accessible to the learners

04 Digital resources and devices should comply with global accessibility standards

05 Set national targets on meaningful school internet connectivity, as part of the SDG 4 benchmarking process

06 Reform curricula to teach basic skills that imparts improved learning and underpinned by theories

07 Establish bodies to evaluate education technology, engaging with all actors that can carry out independent and impartial research

08 Undertake pilot projects in contexts that accurately reflect the total cost of ownership and implementation of digital technology

09 Ensure transparency on public spending and terms of agreements with private companies to strengthen accountability

10 Evaluate performance to learn from mistakes, including on matters ranging from maintenance to subscription costs, and promote interoperability standards to increase efficiency