The Internet Generation and its implication on Higher Education

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Internet Generation
or Generation Z

Who are they?

"the children of *Generation X* parents, and are *digital natives* — the <u>first</u> generation born into an already-digital world".

Gasser Urs, and Palfrey, John, *Born Digital: Understanding the First Generation of Digital natives,* New York, Basic Books, 2008.

20 truths and trends to help you get to know the post-Millennial generation.

What makes them different?

1 - Highly trained to process a huge amount of images:

Technological resources

- Didactic digital games

- Multimedia gadgets are slowly replacing the old schoolbooks

2 - Since information is now on the tips of the fingers, **typing** became faster than **handwriting**

3 - For the first time in History, a generation was brought up in the belief that

more important than knowing something is *knowing how to find it*

that is to say

researching efficiently,
selecting information
managing big amounts of data

Impact on learning

- The <u>first letters</u> are now read in a tablet or laptop

- The learning process is done specially through <u>motion visual stimuli</u> (hard to read a book B&W)

- <u>Short narratives</u> are preferred since the text became fragmented and hypertext and hyperlinks turned the process of reading into a non-linear exercise

The ability to focus on still images became extremely hard to this generation as **abstract thinking** and **memorization** are no longer practiced since early age as it happened in former generations

Google It!

it is easier to just *google it* (the impact the browser has in our culture today is quite representative of a world in change as it entered the linguistic system and became a verb used worldwide)

Plagiarism issues (copy/paste)

Internet Generation has a different mode of activity and interaction that is not in sync with the traditional educational system

In an academic environment they prefer

- according to Marc Prensky, "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants". On the Horizon 9 (5): 1–6. , October 2001.

informal, **small-group** discussion, often through **text messaging or e-mail**, as a means of gaining understanding of curriculum content rather than large lecture halls;

They feel better in a learning space in which they can **get to know one another**, participate in dialogue, **work on projects individually** or in groups, **get or provide feedback;**

They pursue a **collaborative environment** that encourages understanding and learning = **Computer room & Internet.**

The world is in constant change, and this change affects us all.

Laurentius de Voltolina, Henricus de Alemannia *Con I Suoi Studenti* *(*Italian painter second half of 14th century)
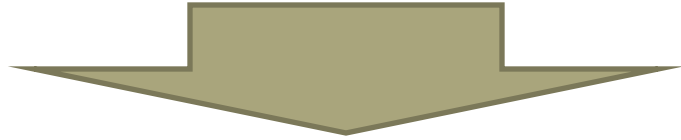
Information Technology (IT) became an essential dimension of any modern Institution and **the impact of the Internet on learning process is enormous**.

Not only the amount of information available is unprecedented, but also the possibility of accessing information and learning electronically **anywhere** and **at any time** revolutionises the entire concept.

The student doesn't need to go to a "place" to learn, the place is now omnipresent by means of the **World Wide Web**.

Successful utilization of technology

- Provides opportunities for more **interactive** learning and teaching

- It is a challenge for teachers' professional development and **teacher training** (our responsibility as High Education providers)
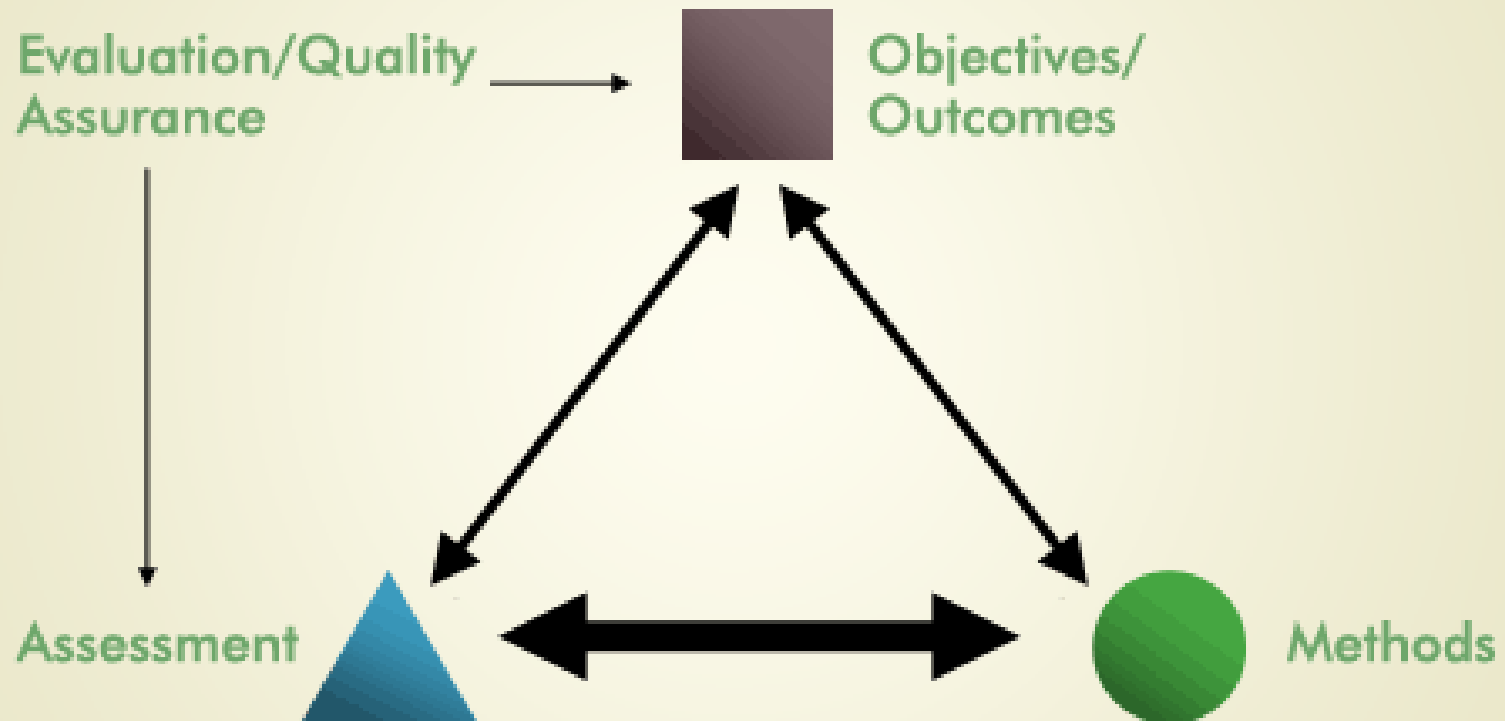
Role of Universities

- reconfigure the ways in which they create learning outcomes by identifying learning styles,

- developing modular curriculum,

- mastering instructional technology and methodology

in order to

- become effective **assessors of a student's abilities** and potential, as well as **designers of learning environments and systems**
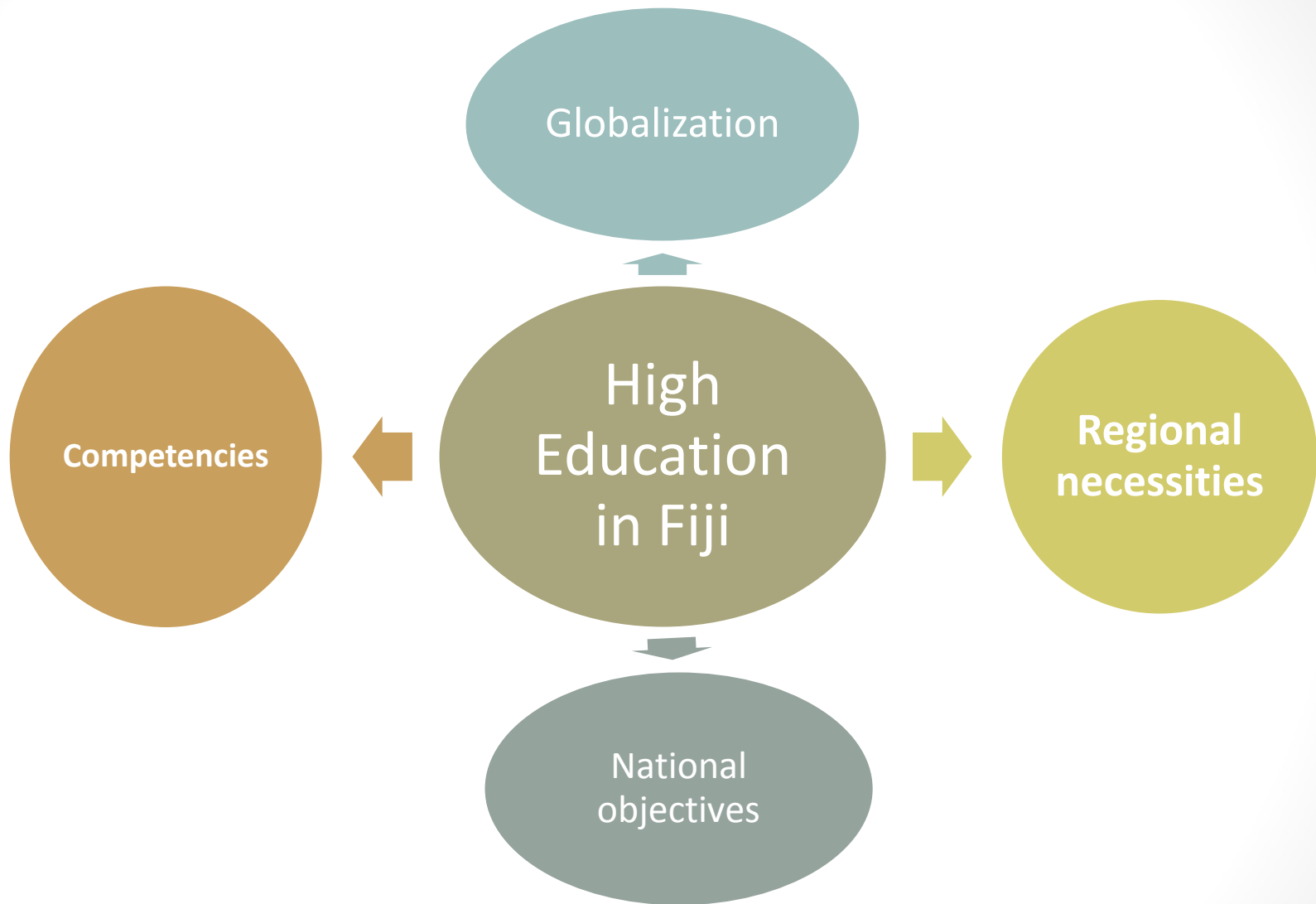
Linking up the Elements: The Educational Paradigm

Evaluation/Quality Assurance → Objectives/Outcomes

Assessment

Methods

Higher Education developments in Fiji

- Professor Rajesh Chandra shows the developments in tertiary education in Fiji the last decade, as well as the challenges faced by Universities and Government .

The **imperative of globalization** requests for tertiary programmes to be aligned with the skills & knowledge that are needed by industries, businesses and the employment market.

This will ensure that they meet the purposes of **social, economic and cultural development**.

Cf. *Fiji Higher Education Commission Reports,* 2010*.*

It is time for "**Fijian Time**" to upgrade to "**Modern Time**", because Fiji is also being dragged along by the wave of **internet revolution**.

It is expected by the time Generation Z enters the work market **digital technology** will be part of almost all career pathways worldwide.

Fiji is not an exception

Fijian Broadcast TV Channel

consequently

the impact in education is obviously expected as one of the faces of modernity – globalization – dictates the need of building a new educational environment for training qualified citizens

Fijian High Education Theater

Appendix 1: Creating a 21st Century Learning Environment

Blended learning

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pedagogic model

- combines **face-to-face instruction** with **online learning** and has yielded strong results since officially being researched as an education strategy
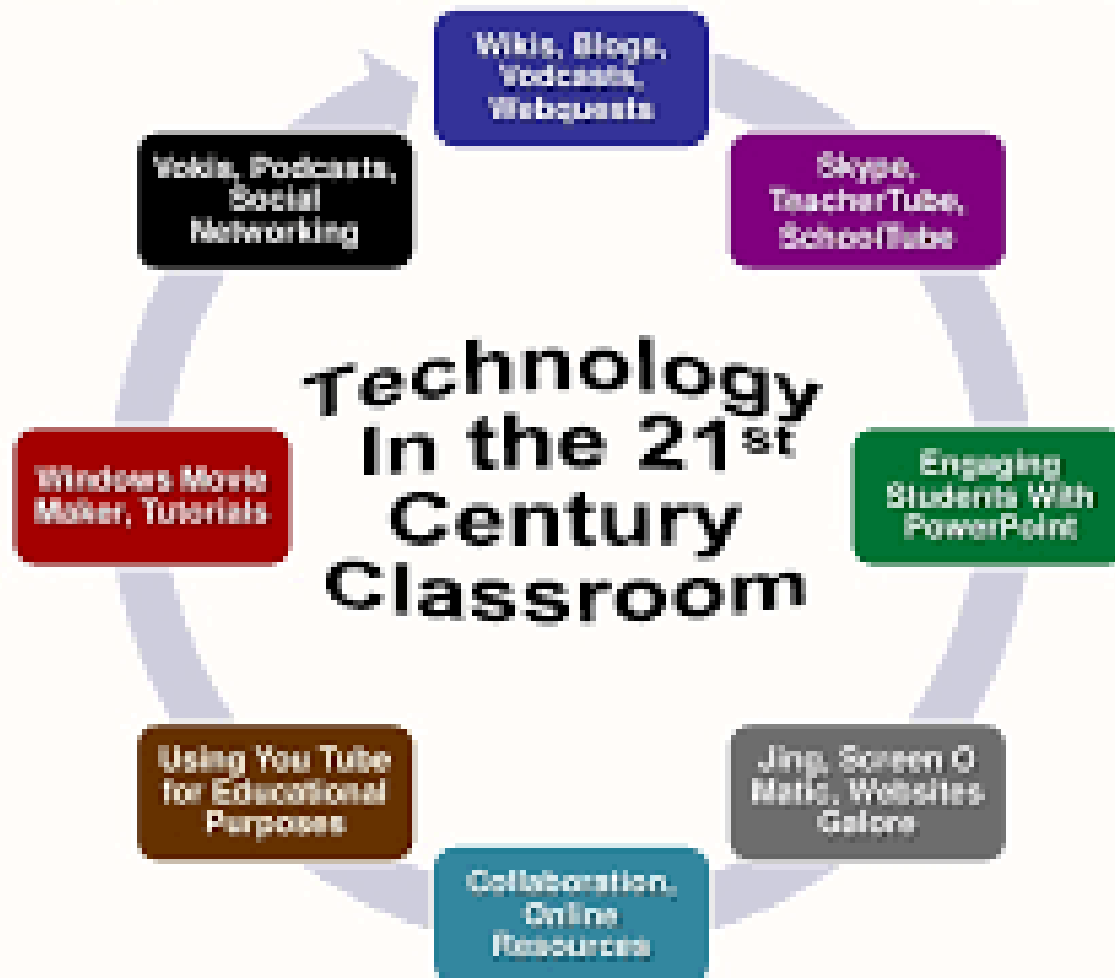
Success of this model

Due to

- flexibility and <u>individualization of student learning experiences</u> and allows teachers to expand the time they spend as <u>facilitators of learning</u>

- It allows a <u>large range of permutations</u> in technologies, pedagogies and contexts and the fact that it is rapidly growing all over the world proves its effectiveness and value

Studies conducted recently in America and Europe show that blended learning produces statistically better results than their face-to-face, non-hybrid equivalents.

This model is highly popular in Australia and New Zealand