

Can Education be changed in time for millennials to be first sustainability generation? It must, and yes we the peoples can.

By Chris Macrae . Foundation Norman Macrae, The Economist's Sustainability Tech Editor

chris.macrae@yahoo.co.uk this version 3/15/2022 (Washington DC Region)

EDUCATION MUST CHANGE NOW

Back in 1984, my father Norman Macraeⁱ had celebrated 33 years of hosting entrepreneurial revolution out of The Economist by asking leaders: what will you do with 100 times more tech over the next decade? And supplementary: if you are a leader with 30-year intergenerational responsibility, what is your back from the future map for celebrating application of a million times more tech? These systems questions had been gifted to dad by Von Neumannⁱⁱ when they met at Princeton in 1951

Ironically, the only Western national leader to have fully enjoyed this question was JF Kennedyⁱⁱⁱ who inspired 1960s generations with the decade challenge of the moon race, and spent his last year raising optimism about 4 hemisphere interdependence.^{iv} If he had not been assassinated, I wonder what his 1970s youthful inspirations would have been building on moon landing

EDUCATORS NOT FINANCIERS DEVELOP PEOPLE AND PLACES ACROSS GENERATIONS

By 1984, when I co-authored 2025report.com with father; our purpose was to raise the debate in every way possible that inter-generational sustainability would depend on transforming education. We timed technology's evolution pretty accurately as Viscount Matt Ridley summarised in his obituary to dad in 2010^v

But so far, we 21st C parents and children have overshot all of sustainability goal's deadlines as exponentially appraised from 1984. At Glasgow in 2021, Cop26 was not just climate reconciliation's last best chance^{vi} but post-covid's invitation to leap forward by changing education. In December 2021, UNESCO^{vii} published a report calling for a new social contract of education. Simultaneously, the eleventh year of WISE Educational laureates^{viii} celebrated the commitment of Wendy Kopp the New Yorker who hubs Teach For All^{ix}. When Kopp graduated from Princeton nearly 30 years ago, she started Teach for America. Her original vision to offer America's graduates the opportunity to experience a teacher's corps similar in optimistic rationalisation to the peace corps. Today, 60 countries graduate teachers are united in how can we most help children and teens of the 2020s.

Additionally in January Yidan Prize published a 70 year longitudinal study arguing we must seize tech and real leaps forward in education to narrow gaps between nations with poor and advanced education systems^x

AND YES WE CAN IF

We look at the quality of collaboration communally achieved where humans have made miraculous advances since moon landing – consider Bangladesh a nation that has designed education to advance local life expectancy at a rate never before achieved. I think of Muhammad Yunus as a friend- he was guest of honor at my dad's last public birthday party in 2008: Royal Automobile Club, St James London.. But I also think he made a gigantic branding mistake- why on earth did he let the Clintons and other

world leaders position Bangladesh's miracles as having been innovated by bankers? Yunus himself often tells the story of when in doubt on what to change next: I look at what big bankers are designing and value implementing an opposite direction.

I believe the whole truth is that: Bangladesh women empowerment-and nation building by the world's poorest was intergenerationally built round education SDG4; and in turn education livelihood connections with SDG2 food security and education for SDG3 last mile health services; and designing villagers' entrepreneurial enterprises. Its important to understand that in ESG framework terminology, this would mean that half century's lesson of women empowerment networking across Asia is: deepest social markets of every day life are food security, last mile health, livelihood skill education turned collaboratively into successful and natural local enterprises.

Bangladesh human development was not led by bankers. In order to understand what happened, we need to study what started up around Asia's leading young oil company engineer at 1970 Fazle Abed, and how grassroots trust networks multiplied round a billion village women. Yunus himself alludes to this extraordinary innovation in his remembrance of Sir Fazle Abed who died December 2019: *Economists and researchers from S. Asia ask me "how is it that in Bangladesh whatever starts in one place is soon scaled up as a nationwide program? Why does it not happen in our Country?" I give them a standard answer "Because an Abed is yet to be born in your country".*

By the time Fazle Abed parted from us, his collaborations had formed the world's largest NGO partnership and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Collabs were employing over 100000 Bangladeshi village educators that's not counting about 60000 school teachers and about 50000 health servants who were operating schools and para health microfranchises. Brac's collaboration culture had been designed around the Franciscan educator: Brazilian Paulo Freire who pioneered Pedagogy of the Oppressed. It's the same community loving ideology as the late great Paul Farmer and Jim Kim of Partners in Health train young medics around at PIH.org. It is the culture which makes UN refugee support networks hopeful, as well as action-oriented. In one final gift to education: one which celebrates the values of love that over 50 countries are now piloting Abed Playschools around in partnership with Yidan Prize, Lego Foundation, World Bank and others.^{xi}

Five generations of my family have collected stories of entrepreneurs across 50 countries and almost from the start of the age of engines and machines – 1760s Glasgow of James Watt and Adam Smith. This has been more formally supplemented by The Economist 1843-1993^{xii}. Key pattern rule : seldom has any entrepreneur founded something humanity needed everywhere without recursive trial and error over decades. Abed made one big mistake at the start of dedicating his life to serving the poorest which prompted the most joyful entrepreneurial pivot ever – one which has changed how the whole world of development economics is understood^{xiii}. He had become Asia's leading Oil company engineer of his generation – rising in Royal Dutch Shell to be their regional CEO for his homeland. In 1970, his life was changed by experiencing a cyclone that killed a million people all around him. He went back to London to terminate his contract with Shell and to sell his Putney flat. Arriving in Bangladesh's new nation freed after a war of independence – his mistake was to spend all his life savings rebuilding 15000 village homes (of 100,000 people). Although he used his engineering skills to build what Oxfam called the most successful relief program ever- Abed was desolate. No sooner than the homes were built than tens of mothers were dying weekly of starvation, scores of infants dying of dehydration. Why hadn't he realised that most of all these village mothers needed to be taught small village (microfranchise) businesses

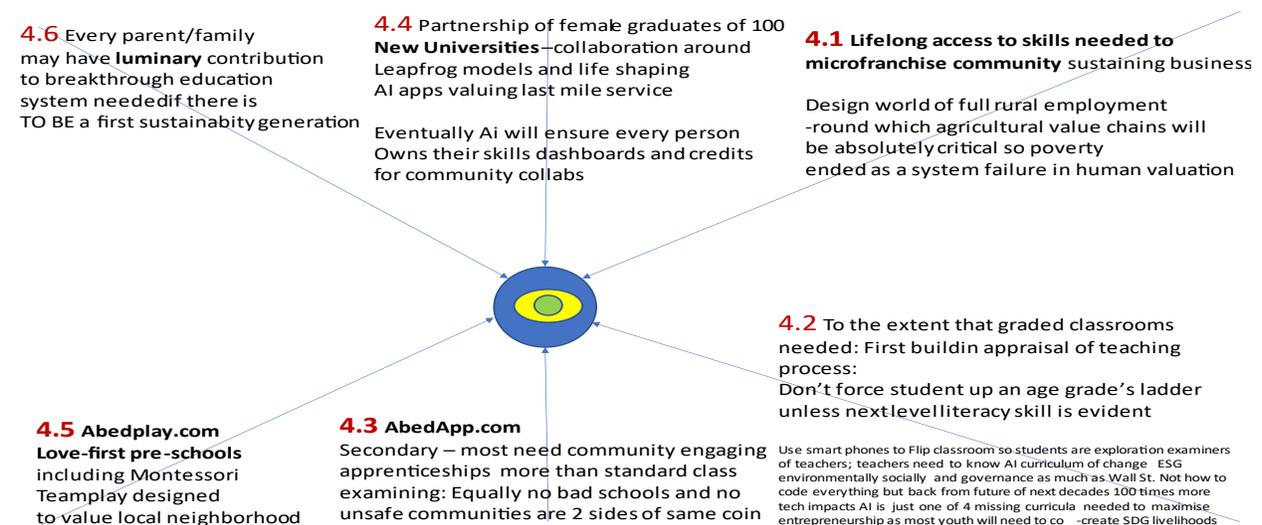
matching positive cash flow with life saving solutions such as “Borlaug”^{xiv} rice production to end starvation, last mile health services to end infant deaths. Fortunately, Abed had world class network contacts to quickly design life saving village mothers microfranchises and they were so evidently needed that the whole of the world of aid started to change once the scaling opportunity was demonstrated. In Abed’s bon mots: in Bangladesh^{xv} small may be beautiful but large scale is absolutely essential. The extraordinary scale of Abed’s village startups incubation would never of have blossomed if Abed had not needed to offer most of the 15000 village mothers in his metavillage^{xvi} sustainable microfranchise opportunities at the same time.

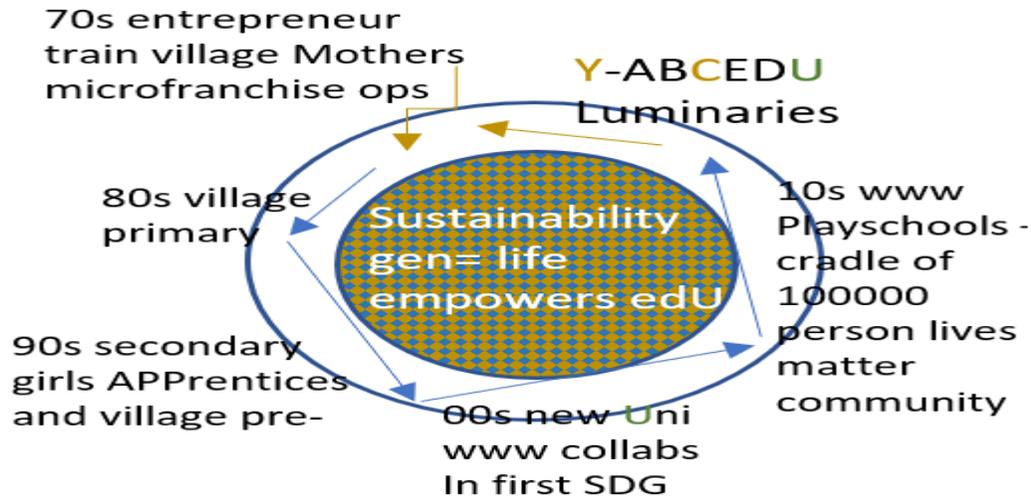
There was a double good fortune to Abed’s ability to linkin relevant solutions from all corners of the world. Those familiar with the Bay of Bengal can see Bangladesh is hemmed in by the cultural rivalry of India and the unhappy country of Myanmar. Miraculously tropical village China of the 1970s and 1980s most wanted women to hold up half the sky, and needed Bangladesh’s oral rehydration solution. Soon Bangladesh and Chinese village microfranchise designers were open sourcing all their most relevant health and food security solutions. There was no swapping of financial investment but rural social business microfranchising suited the stage of China’s nascent capitalism to a tee.^{xvii}In addition UNICEF’s James Grant whose parents had been missionaries in China facilitated further correspondences in massive development of both countries last mile village health services.

When development experts congratulate themselves on the last half century’s ending of extreme poverty by over a billion rural Asians, please verify how much of this miracle is connected, at least indirectly, to Abed’s action learning networks through one billion women.

First, it is important to note how and why Abed built a non-linear education system. By non-linear, we mean this is a system where education supports people of any age and is ultimately both livelihood focused in ways that are both entrepreneurial and collaborative round life critical knowhow. It is not the standard western system through which children get one main chance at progressing exam by exam and, in most cases, no longer connects with majority of 21st c livelihoods nor suits any of the practice skills that are honed by experiential learning^{xviii}

Roughly once a decade, Abed took on a new massive educational challenge whilst continuing to build on previous ones. You can see how Brac education integrated 6 phases 4.1 to 4.6 in both of these tables.





At the level of human development that 20th C Brac gravitated around, education was the core of SHELF :female-empowered lives-matter communities of Safety, Health, Education Livelihoods, Food as well as the transformation of finance from top down to scaling 100,000 lives matter community development. For millennials: to be the sustainability generation, our borderless global village world needs the 6 dimensions of non-linear education to be embedded in any framework such as ESG that global financiers urgently apply as tech now reaches a stage where its algorithms may take over real-time governance. In effect Asia's 1 billion girls SHELF compass provides the deepest maps to SDGs related to the S of ESG. When it comes to valuing E we need not only climate change but tech change and infrastructure change and peace change in borderless ways. Borders have become compound traps for externalizing risk usually onto peoples who had no part in the disaster waiting to happen. Bhopal 1984 was an early global corporation disaster – and it is time that transparent disaster listings became a top page of google if sustaining humanity is core to the purpose of search engines

Sustainability's local knowhow will not come about if SDG responsibility is confined to public private partnerships of big organisations. Rather we need private and public to be anchored by the intel of young poorest women. Put another way, Abed left the message to his alumni whilst his focus had been on ending poverty through 1971-2020 as Bangladesh went from 90% rural to 70% rural, the goals by 2050 of a hugely populated nation half rural and half urban would need to triangularise ending poverty, expanding middle class, gong green. There's no point celebrating internet of things (or anything else von Neumann's compound gift now apps from metavillage to metaverse) if the professions of finance and governance are separated from education wholly valuing girls (and boys) development. After 16 trips to Bangladesh, we offer a 6 by 6 view of the 36 collaborations Abed hoped would empower the sustainability generation at www.abedmooc.com and www.economistbangla.com

It should be noted that the luminaries model of Education was in rapid evolution at time of Abed's death and responsibility for it is currently led by Hong Kong billionaire Charles Yidan (previously co-founder of TenCent as well as main benefactor of a new University in Wuhan. Here is an overview –for updates see Yidan Prize web site typically offers 4 updated events a year as it travels round the world with updated exchanges

ⁱ www.Teachforsdgs.com catalogues Economist's Norman Macrae's main surveys on entrepreneurial revolution and sustainable futures opportunities of peoples places worldwide. Dad had spent his last days as a teenager navigator in allied bomber command Burma Campaign. You could say he had google maps in his head a generation of other journalists. How could the 4 hemispheres naturally fit together to develop all peoples the way Adam Smith had hoped, Sadly, the British Empire mispurposed engineering until The Economist's founder James Wilson and Queen Victoria tried to change to Commonwealth. They were too late to prevent outbreak of world wars,; from 1950 von Neumann post-industrial revolution digital engineering might give humans three last quarters of a century to transform around ending poverty.

ⁱⁱ Al Hall of Fame survey- this is being piloted in 2021 by von Neumann family and biographers/influencers of von Neumann Intel- if johnny was alive to day which first 20 technologists would he advise children and educators everywhere linkin?

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.raabcollection.com/presidential-autographs/kennedy-japan> Kennedy review of Macrae's 1962 survey Consider Japan – sustainable models of supervillages and supercities can support Asia's two thirds of humans rising. On retirement Macrae was awarded The Emperor's transnational honor – Order of Rising Sun.

^{iv} See ich bin ein Berliner https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ich_bin_ein_Berliner

^v <https://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/death-of-a-great-optimist/>

^{vi} See US Climate Tsar John Kerry and ecop26.com

^{vii} <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379707> Reimagining our future together – a new social contract for education 2021; also UNGA 2021 Guterres calls for 2023 summit future – see

https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf

^{viii} <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-works/wise-prize-for-education/#laureates>

^{ix} <https://teachforall.org/> <http://teachforun.com>

^x <https://yidanprize.org/files/Education-the-key-to-global-sustainable-development-media.pdf>

^{xi} <https://www.bracied.com/> <https://inee.org/journal>

^{xii} The first 100 years of The Economist's entrepreneurial watch are summarised in its centenary 1943 autobiography. That text's main editor Geoffrey Crowther was also main journalistic mentor of my father Norman Macrae. After 40 years of sub-editing The Economist, my father's two books on consequences of world entrepreneurship : The 2025 Report and Biography of Von Neumann's relevance to millennials. More at www.2025report.com www.summitfuture.com In terms of American Professors sharing my father's East-West & South-North historical leadership watches, I find Peter Drucker and Ezra Vogel most purposeful in human development literature but welcome transnational exchanges chris.macrae@yahoo.co.uk. My father was also the only journalist to track the birth of the European Union from its 1955 startup in Messina- a story that soon shifted from dad's heries like money to a group who he termed Eurocrats..

^{xiii} EconomistAid.com

^{xiv} High up in America's shared gifts to the world were two 1950s schools of practice Borlaug world food prize knowhow - greatest gift to humanity of poorest villages; all of the consequences of digital technology linked by Von Neumann and his peer network of mathematicians

^{xv} EconomistBangla.com

^{xvi} To understand the metavillage as brac's first COLLAB – search abedmooc.com 5.1 -when Abed designed sdg5 concepts his compass was 100,000 person lives matter community building integrated round women lift up half the sky. 1970s China was discovering the same economic reality- nations cannot be leaders if only their male half is productive.

^{xvii} See Economist survey on China rural Keynesianism model

<http://normanmacrae.ning.com/forum/topics/curriculum-of-entrepreneurial-revolution-can-you-help-us-wanted?commentId=6339278%3AComment%3A18653>

^{xviii} See experiential learning of genius – flow research by Mihaly Csikszentmihályi

^{xix} See the late Paul Farmer's video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PINxZQwde54>

^{xx} Yidanprize.org

^{xxi} #Aiforgood is the UN platform where collaborations are supporting each operational arm of the UN with urgently suitable AI

^{xxii} Practice laureates of yidanprize.org and <https://www.wise-qatar.org/>