

RETHINKING, TRANSFORMING AND CHANGING EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

This is a position paper that reflects on the compulsive ideas pertaining to: rethinking, changing, and transforming our educational ecology. Transformation and change in education are so much hyped about to the extent that sometimes there is lack of clarity about them as critical concepts in the field of education. The paper begins with clarification of key concepts commonly used in the discussion. The discussion progresses to share criteria for educational standards, whose absence or presence account for quality education or lack of it. Rethinking, transforming and changing the *status quo* is a task of greatest magnitude, hence no easy matter, and to tackle it, the paper is guided by these questions:

- a. Where do we begin?
- b. How can systematic transformation be brought about?

The key aspects covered include the background to education in traditional African communities. The article is inclusive by taking into account participation by citizens, especially along gender considerations. It highlights some of the reasons for the low education uptake and output in Africa, as well as the challenges of transformation in Southern Africa. The ideas are based on research, which was carried out by the Southern African Regional Universities.

Keywords: Rethinking, Transforming, standards.