



**DIGITAL GLOBALISATION OF KNOWLEDGE
AND THE IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION**



**IN SOUTH ASIA
AND EUROPE**


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Presentation 2019

**Digital Globalisation of Knowledge and the Impact
on Higher Education in South Asia and Europe**

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- The big picture: Digitalisation is a turning point in the history of education
 - Two regions in an interconnected world: there is a lot in common
 - Opportunities and challenges are specific to countries: South Asia
 - Opportunities and challenges are specific to countries: Europe
 - Comparing regions
 - Statistics
 - 6 questions
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DIGITALISATION IS A TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION

- Demand for quality Higher Education expected to grow exponentially over the next 10 years, especially in countries with youthful populations;
 - Digital is the only way to meet that demand;
 - Some forecasts predict that e-learning will grow by a factor of 15, accounting for 15% of all education provision;
 - Therefore, the educational economy is one of the major sites of investment in digital technology... but...
 - The sector lags behind other areas of the economy...
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TWO REGIONS IN AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD: THERE IS A LOT IN COMMON

- Fourth Industrial Revolution
 - Global mega-trends:
 - Social media echo-chamber
 - Information overload
 - The rate of change
 - New technologies
 - Rising costs and falling budgets
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OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES ARE SPECIFIC TO COUNTRIES: SOUTH ASIA

- **Afghanistan:** Government vision and strategy; huge ambition, energy, very strong international partnerships... but... conflict, poor infrastructure, geography, low literacy, poverty, gender issues, high access costs, political uncertainty...
 - **Nepal:** one of the fastest rates of economic growth in Asia, fewer gender issues, enthusiasm for education... but... post-conflict and natural disaster, poverty, poor infrastructure, high access costs, low literacy rates,
 - **Pakistan:** Government vision and strategy, largest generation of young people in its history; growing HE sector; increasing access to broadband... but... quality issues; lowest worldwide in gender access parity...
 - **Sri Lanka:** Government vision and strategy, high levels of literacy; low-cost broadband access; fewer gender issues... but... lack of capacity in HE sector; declining budgets; demand for access to HE in excess of supply...
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OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES ARE SPECIFIC TO COUNTRIES: EUROPE

- **Finland:** Government vision and leadership, one of the world's best education systems, third most advanced digital economy in the EU, very high level of digital skills, gender parity... but... concerns pedagogical approach hinders learning, and more to be done on gender...
 - **Germany:** Government leadership and investment, an industry 4.0 nation, 5th largest digital economy in the world, enormous opportunity for growth through digital... but... lack of high-speed Internet, students and faculty do not drive digitalisation...
 - **UK:** Government vision and strategy, leading global digital economy and major tech hub, access to broadband improving fast, leading universities with expertise in digital education... but... students and faculty sceptical about online learning, institutions may not be making the most of the opportunities...
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COMPARISON

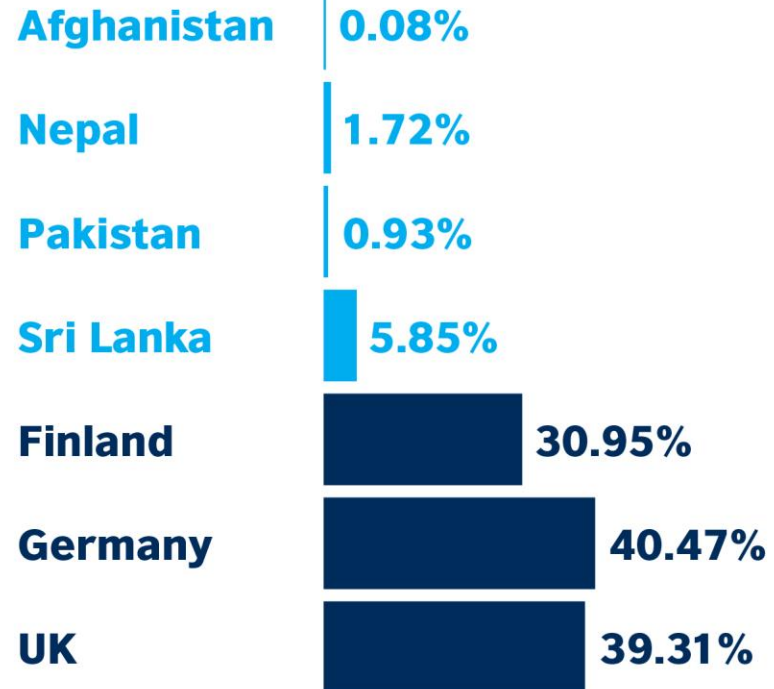
- **Why compare?**
 - Inter-regional comparisons are very rare
 - Meaningful benchmarking therefore difficult and understanding of impacts of global phenomena such as digital education understood in isolation from the bigger picture
 - **Opportunities**
 - There is a clear need in South Asia for quality online education
 - There are great visions, strategies, and initiatives which need to be implemented
 - Europe is further along the curve – lessons can be learned both ways through exchange of knowledge
 - **Challenges**
 - The digital and knowledge divides
 - The urgency of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: knowledge, skills and inclusiveness
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Fixed broadband subscribers per 100 people

(2017) Source: World Bank



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Access to data: varied levels of affordability

Country	Cost per 1GB of data US\$ (2018)	GDP per capita (PPP)	Ratio
	US \$	US \$	
Afghanistan	1.60	1,900	0.08
Nepal	2.25	2,700	0.08
Pakistan	1.85	5,400	0.03
Sri Lanka	0.78	13,000	0.01
Finland	1.16	46,430	0.00
Germany	6.96	52,559	0.01
UK	6.66	45,705	0.01

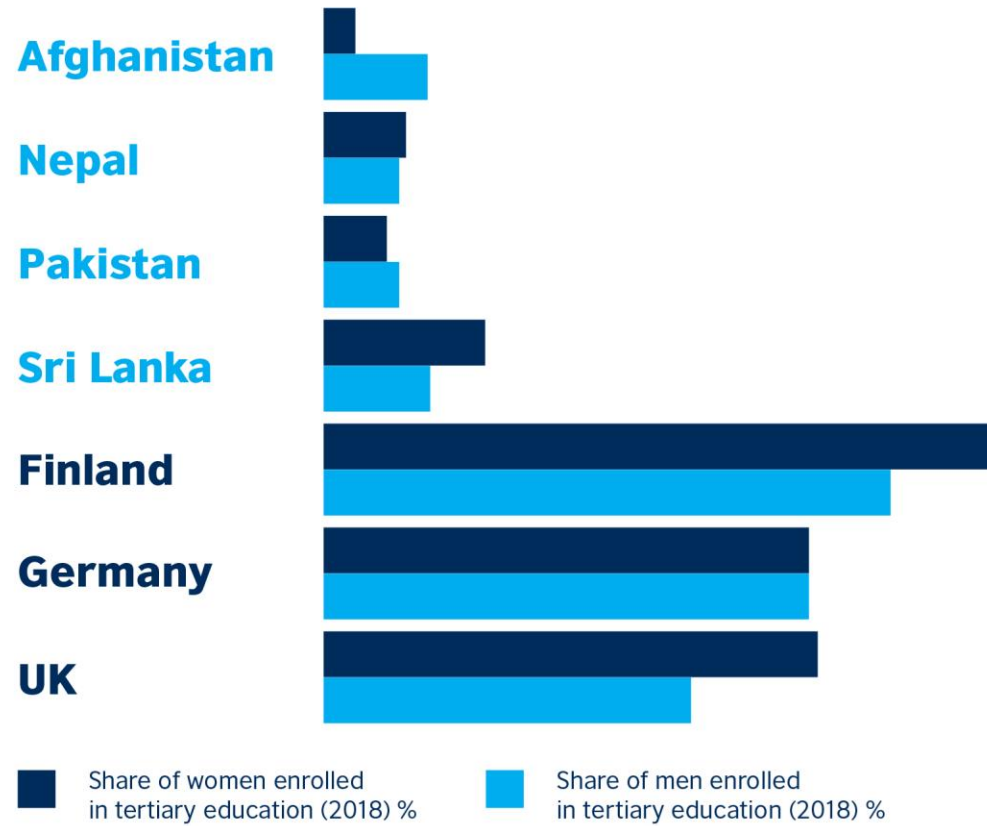
Source: Cable

Source: World Bank

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Varying levels of enrolment in HE by Gender

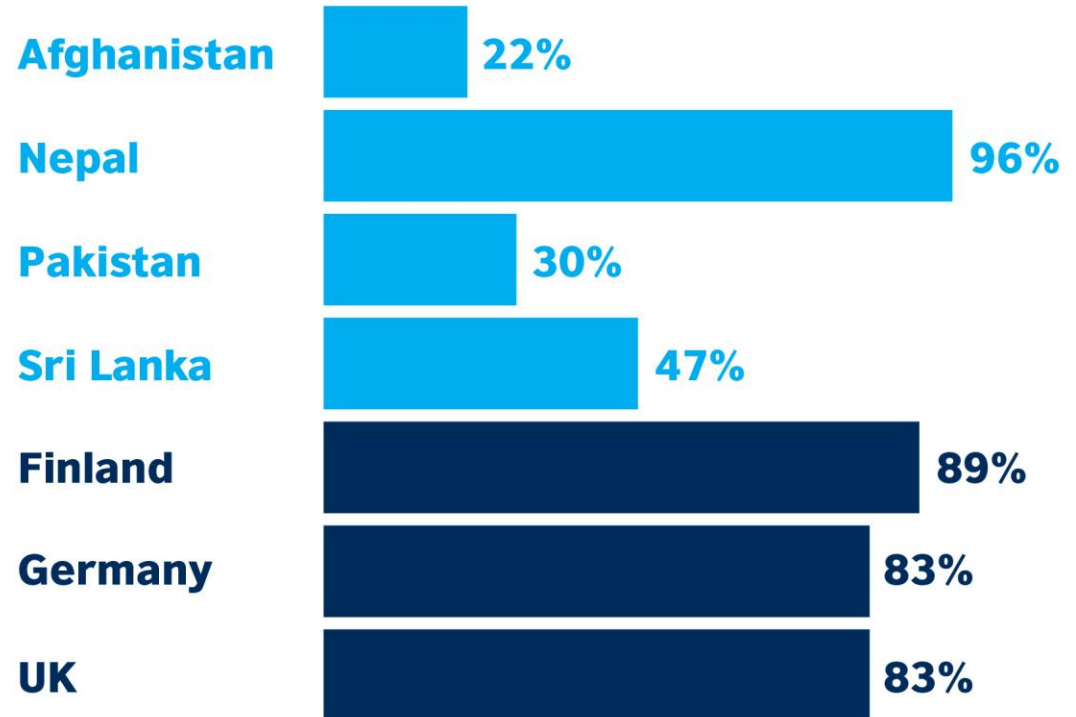


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Ratio of female to male labour force participation rate

(2018) Source: World Bank



6 QUESTIONS

1. How can universities provide both the knowledge and skills needed throughout life for the economy and society of the Fourth Industrial Revolution?
 2. How can digital education deliver both access and inclusiveness?
 3. How can policy visions and passions for digital learning be translated into tangible improvements in learning outcomes?
 4. What can be done to overcome scepticism about digital education among faculty and students?
 5. What can South Asia and Europe learn from each other to meet global challenges in Higher Education?
 6. What practical steps can they take?
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