



## 2020 October Symposium

## Member Symposium

Zoom session 2-5pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> October

### Organisation:

#### Wellbeing Economy Alliance

WEAll is the leading global collaboration of organisations, alliances, movements and individuals working together to transform the economic system into one that delivers human and ecological wellbeing.



**WEAll amplifies members' voices making their vision and mission global.**

**WEAll supports members to work together in recognition that through collaboration our impact greater than the sum of our parts.**

**WEAll provides the opportunity to collaborate with others from different parts of society and the economy towards our shared vision of a wellbeing economy.**

### 1. Positive and empowering new narratives

Most of the focus is still on what is wrong rather than the creation and dissemination of positive new narratives about how we want to live together. More work has been done on positive new narratives recently, but little of this has been trialled in practice and is not yet making a significant difference.

### 2. A strong and coherent knowledge and evidence base

The wellbeing economy theoretical base is disparate and relatively hard to access; knowledge gaps remain; and synthesis work is urgently needed to make it more coherent and accessible. Similarly, the evidence base of what works in practice needs to be galvanised and proactively disseminated. There is also a need to explore and demonstrate the effectiveness of wellbeing economy approaches on a large scale.

### 3. Creation of a power base: a wellbeing economy movement operating at all levels, across sectors and across geographies

Collaboration is more important than competition. Yet cross-sector coordination is poor and there is too much disagreement within sectors about policy prescriptions rather than building on agreement around goals, values and principles.

## New Education Narrative

In 2020 The Flourish Project worked with the Weaving Lab and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance to evaluate global education trends both before and after the COVID pandemic. It did so by identifying the key reports, organisations and people working in the field and by listing the core conclusions and recommendations that were being made. What became clear is the enormous amount of emergent activity that is going on in the area and the key role that education plays in determining both the kind of societies that we wish to live in | and the long-term sustainability of human activities on the planet.

Outside of families and communities, education systems are the key influencers in how we learn to think about ourselves, others and the natural world. They inform us about what our cultures most value and significantly shape our subsequent motivations and behaviours. They profoundly shape our sense of personal agency, worth and wellbeing and either promote or inhibit what we feel is possible in terms of personal aspiration.

## **Six Core Emergent Trends**

**1) The urgent need for change 2) The need for ecological/eco-systemic thinking 3) Learning as a generative life process 4) Education for citizenship, human equity and peace 5) Education that supports human flourishing and 6) Rapidly evolving educational innovation.**

The COVID pandemic has now accelerated global concerns that the education systems that have dominated the past are no longer fit for purpose in a rapidly changing world, and that business and public-sector leaders must think beyond 'business-as-usual' to, instead, 'build back better'. This is not to say that the old models have not brought considerable social and economic benefits to many countries, and have often shone a light on deeply ingrained inequities across systems, but more that the complexity of modern living, and what we now know about human learning and development, is demanding an appropriate global response.

Transitioning to new models of education has tremendous potential to optimise personal, societal and planetary wellbeing, to better prepare children for the rapidly changing future of work, to distribute opportunities for agency more equitably, so that young people are empowered to shape the future now, to enhance social mobility and to promote more participative, engaged and harmonious societies, which pay attention to wellbeing beyond individualistic success. In this way, schooling and education systems are now being understood as simply one element of the wider ecosystem of a lifelong journey, within which personal meaning and ongoing growth is acknowledged as essential for human and planetary wellbeing. They are a crucial element in promoting our need to live regeneratively and in right relationship for a sustainable world.



# Spirituality in Education Alliance UK

Supporting the development of whole children and flourishing school cultures

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