YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING FROM DIGITAL MEDIA OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL: THE INFORMAL MEETS THE FORMAL

Dr. Sara Pereira, Joana Fillol and Pedro Moura (Portugal)

https://doi.org/10.3916/C58-2019-04

INTRODUCTION

Formal learning, as teenagers learn in schools and informally what they learn in their daily lives, the dissonance between the two is becoming increasingly relevant.

Skills that teenagers develop with and through digital media seem to be on the margins and the school-based view of learning still prevails.

Transmedia Literacy, ethnographic research conducted with teenagers on their strategies and practices of informal learning through digital media.

OBJECTIVES

1) To understand the relationship between informal and formal learning by understanding the use of media in young people's daily lives and the perception of media use in the classroom
2) To discover how they learn with the media and how informal learning strategies influence formal education.

RESULTS

Informal learning: trial and error, imitation/inspiration and searching for information
From the informal to the formal with video games young people learn (English, skills: improvement...) useful in their studies and lives.

Teenagers: Connected generation
Gap between reality inside and outside the classroom, but considered normal.
Internet, source of theoretical and practical knowledge and to socialize (social networks).

CONCLUSIONS

1) Informal learning strategies contribute to the development of skills and competencies that are useful from a school point of view.

2) Technological, cultural and educational gap between young people's lives outside and inside the classroom caused by the failure of formal education to consider digital literacy as a priority.

3) Media literacy in schools suggests: clear and effective educational policies, curriculum reform and a policy framework that encourages and supports it, as there are resources for teachers to carry out projects and initiatives.

Qualitative research

Figure 1. Portuguese research methodology within the “Transmedia Literacy” project