Inclusive Mathematics for Sustainability in a Digital Economy (inMside)

David Wagner University of New Brunswick dwagner@unb.ca Inclusive Mathematics for Sustainability in a Digital Economy

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



**ESD**: responsive to context (environmental and social)

# Inclusive Mathematics for Sustainability in a Digital Economy

The digital economy is not concerned with context.

# google image search: digital economy





growth vs.

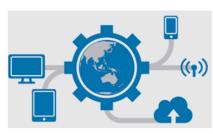


Digital economy.... driver of innovation, competitiveness and growth



















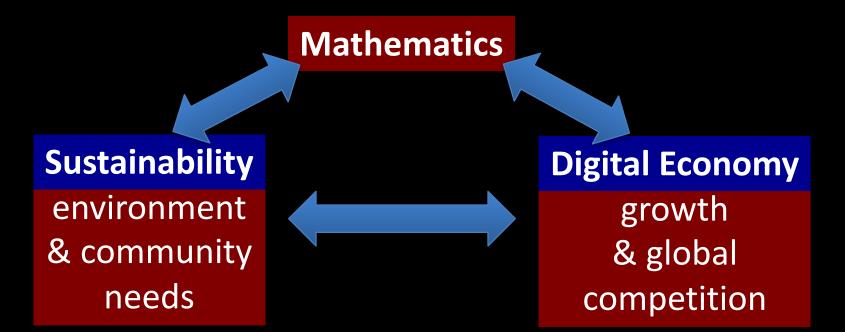






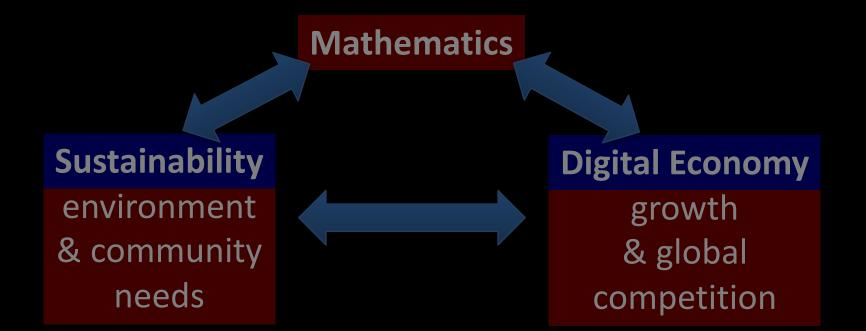


# Inclusive Mathematics for Sustainability in a Digital Economy



## **Questions:**

- 1. Does mathematics favour sustainability or digitalization?
- 2. How can mathematics mediate the tension?
- 3. Can the digital economy support sustainability?
- 4. What are pedagogical implications?
- 5. What are curriculum implications?
- 6. What new resources will be required?



### Design:

- 1. Pay attention to your community and its needs.
  - What mathematics is used to address these needs?
  - ... or to understand the community concerns?
  - What mathematics could be used ...?
  - ('your community': local, cultural, regional, global,...)
- 2. Think about curriculum outcomes.
  - This mathematics was developed to address concerns.
  - What parallel concerns exist in your community?

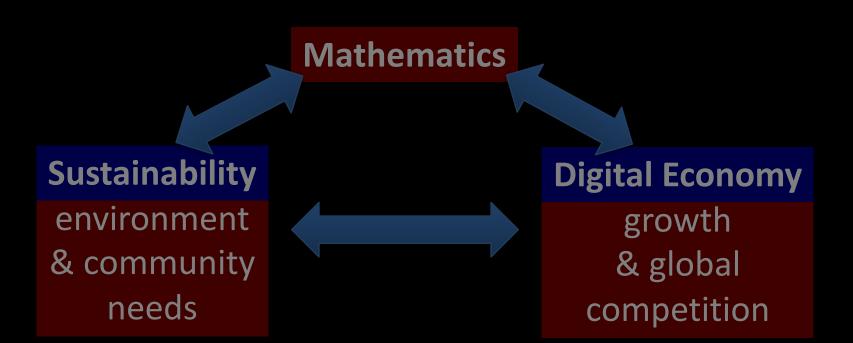
#### Mathematics

Sustainability environment & community needs



## Danger:

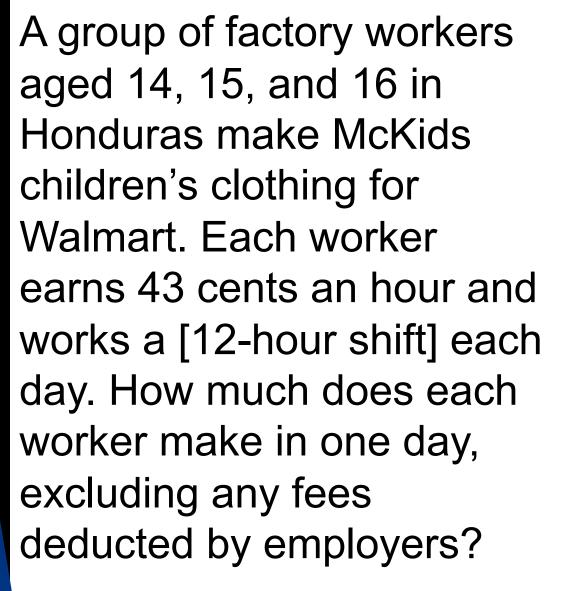
#### Shallow/nominal references to mathematics or community.



A group of youth aged 14, 15, and 16 go to the store. Candy bars are on sale for 43¢ each. They buy a total of 12 candy bars. How much do they spend, not including tax?

Reth

Teaching Social Justice by the Numbers



A group of youth aged 14, 15, and 16 go to the store. Candy bars are on sale for 43¢ each. They buy a total of 12 candy bars. How much do they spend, not including tax?

A group of factory workers aged 14, 15, and 16 in Honduras make McKids children's clothing for Walmart. Each worker earns 43 cents an hour and works a [12-hour shift] each day. How much does each worker make in one day, excluding any fees deducted by employers?

### candy bars child labour

the tradition of mathematical word problems treats <u>context as a throw-away</u> (Gerofsky)

## Which story is better to throw away?

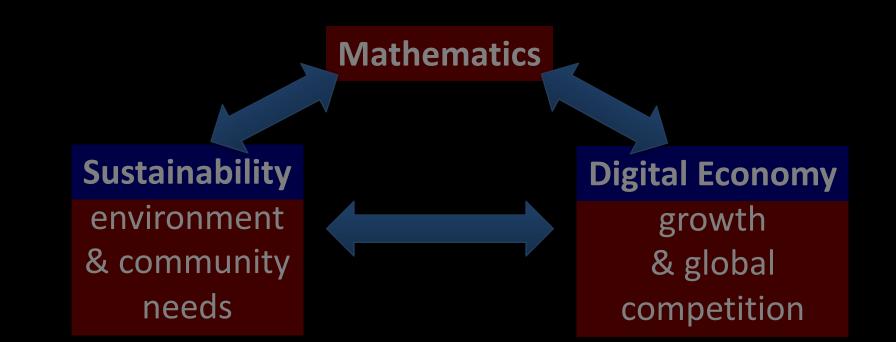
- candy bars
- child labour

## Danger:

Shallow/nominal references to mathematics or community.

### The goal:

- identifying the heart of the mathematics
- identifying the heart of the community needs



## **Possibilities:**

- Tracing the impact of the digital economy (by sector or as a whole)
  - environment (power/fuel consumption, pollution)
  - efficiency
  - wealth demographics
  - travel and commuting
  - decision-making / collaboration
- Designing systems & models for positive impact
- Capitalizing on connectivity to remote cultures/communities for sharing and collaboration (e.g., cross border lesson study)
- … <what else?>