

Podcast transcript 2020/10/07

Alexandra Magold and Felicitas Heyne

Good morning, science! Stories for a great day in research.

Today is motivating Monday, and I'm talking to Felicitas Heyne. She's a long time friend and a world class psychologist. Felicitas started an NGO called Uridu. Uridu provides MP3 players to women in the Third World, who are mostly illiterate, which effectively cuts them off from the most basic information. And as we all know, knowledge is power. Felicitas, please tell us more about Audiopedia..

If you or me look for information, we go to Wikipedia and we read about it anytime and anywhere. But if we were born in the global south, there would be a very good chance, you and me would be illiterate - as women, for example, and we wouldn't have access to electricity anyway. So Audiopedia wants to provide freely accessible, essential audio knowledge for any woman anywhere. And that's why we use different technologies for this. For example, solar powered MP3 players in remote areas or mobile apps in the suburban areas.

And if there's one thing Development Corporation agrees upon, it is this that women are the key to sustainable change. They are the least educated and the poorest of the poor worldwide. And at the same time, they are the ones who care for the family and who bring up the next generation. So if you empower a woman, you empower a family, and if you empower family you empower a community. You know, there is an old saying, you want to keep a secret in Africa, you put it in a book, I don't know who said it.

I think it goes back to colonial times, but sadly, it's still very true and for many people in the global south. And I think that's a very subtle and very horrible way of oppression. But we live in the year 2020 and we can change this and we can change it quickly. Using modern technology, we only have to create knowledge from literacy.

This is phenomenal. Thank you so much for sharing that story. So if people want to join in and help you, where can they find more information?

Just go to the to our website. It's all in English there audiopedia.org.

Amazing!

So what's next? What are you doing after your first cup of coffee in the morning?

I think I'm going to feed the cat and maybe read the newspaper.

Nice! Thank you so much. Have a great day, Felicitas.

You too.

Bye bye.

Bye.