

# Teresa Sguazzin

## **Funding the future: How grant makers support quality socially inclusive education?**

Speaking from the perspective of a medium sized British international grant maker with a strong focus on social justice, and from a personal perspective of passionate commitment to quality and equal educational opportunities for all, this conversation will explore some of the issues that keep me awake at night.

Civil society-led education projects in the global south are under increasing pressure from multiple angles. Nationally, they are often faced by uncertain contexts and shrinking spaces for civil society voice and agency. Internationally, there is a push towards scale and minimum acceptable standards, rather than quality and inclusion. Increasingly indigenous voices are pushed to the side in the face of homogenised movements to scale, and local learnings discounted as large INGOs compete for access to resources and influence. Within the education sector, there's risk of an increasingly narrow focus on easily measurable results which impacts on the scope and size of work that can be funded. How do we navigate these times of shrinking budgets, and conversations about 'charity beginning at home'? And how best can philanthropy and grant making work to keep education open and inclusive?