Levelling the Playing Field: AI as a Social-Mobility Engine for the Next Generation.
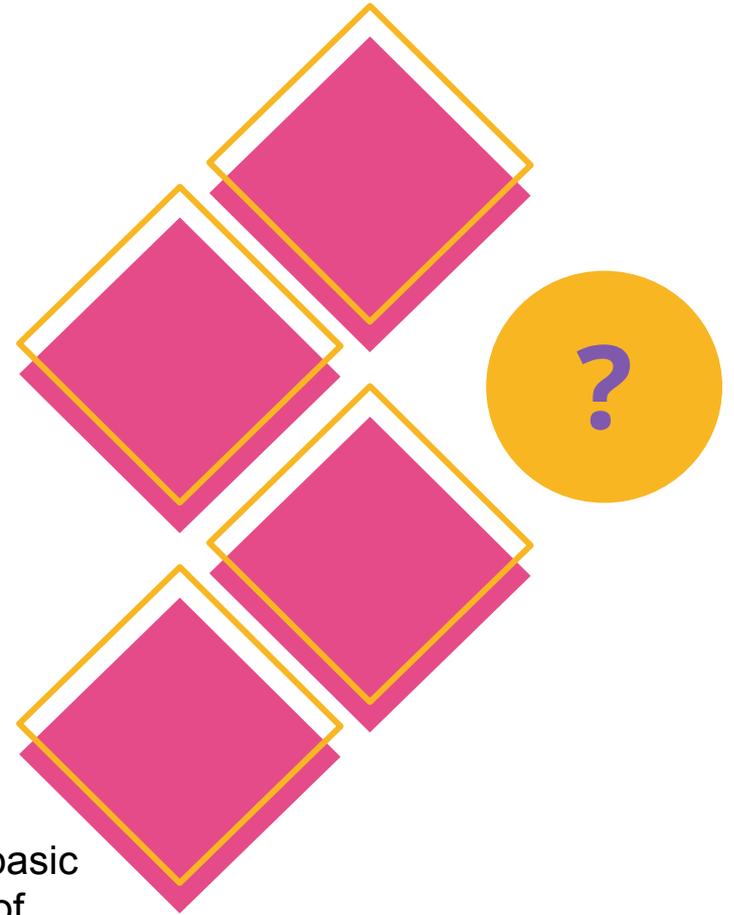
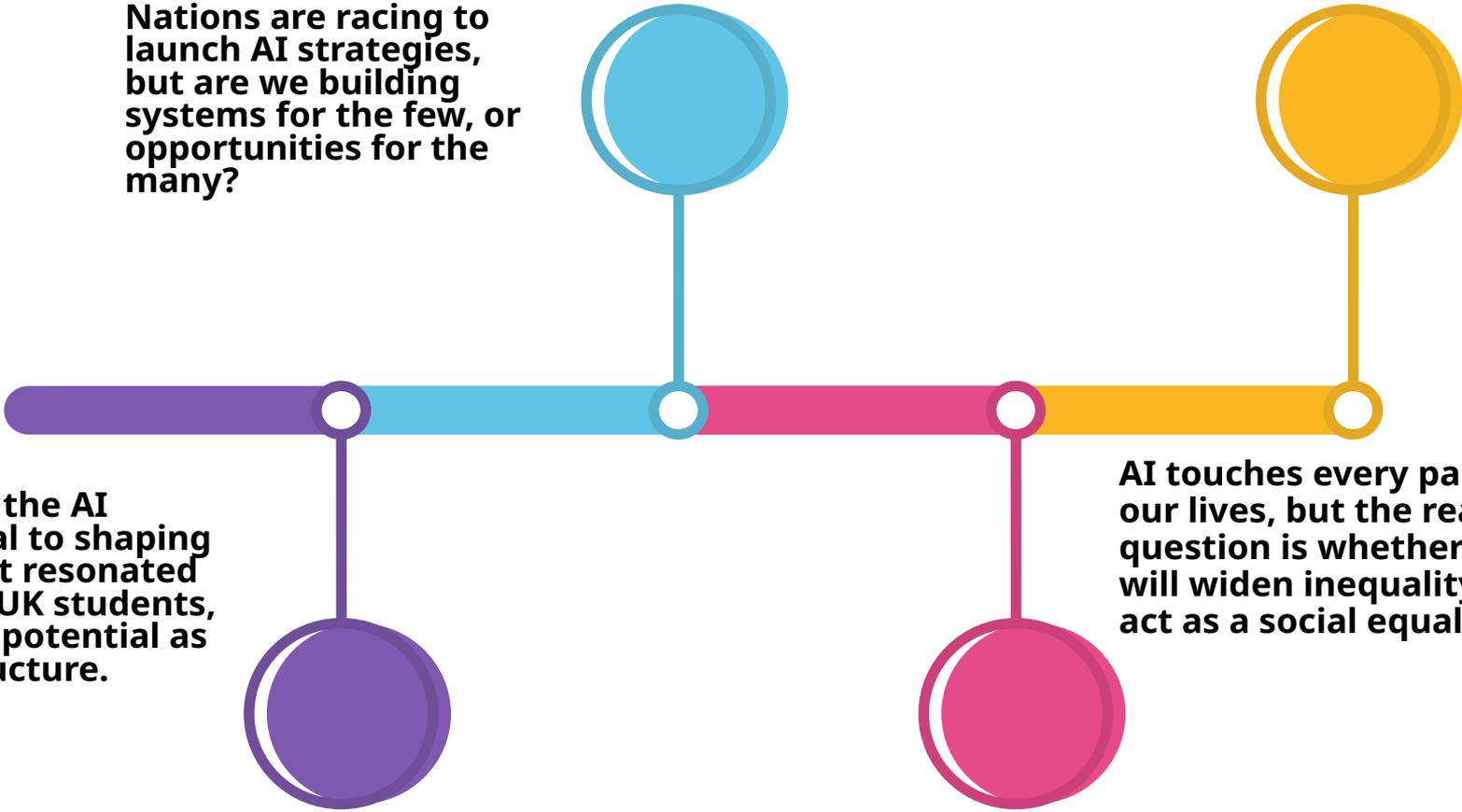## AI for Humanity

Uchenna Victor Moses

...Because history warns us - and the numbers don't lie.

Over multiple waves
(agriculture → manufacturing → digital), each
wave must be accompanied by a pipeline, else
people are left behind.   (McKinsey)

?

ITU data shows that only 25-56% of people have basic
digital skills meaning nearly half to three-quarters of
the world still lack them.

Nations are racing to launch AI strategies, but are we building systems for the few, or opportunities for the many?

From writing the AI Global Manual to shaping advocacy that resonated with 11,000+ UK students, I've seen AI's potential as civic infrastructure.

AI touches every part of our lives, but the real question is whether it will widen inequality or act as a social equaliser.

The Problem.

70% of digital transformations fail, not tech, people. (Whatfix).

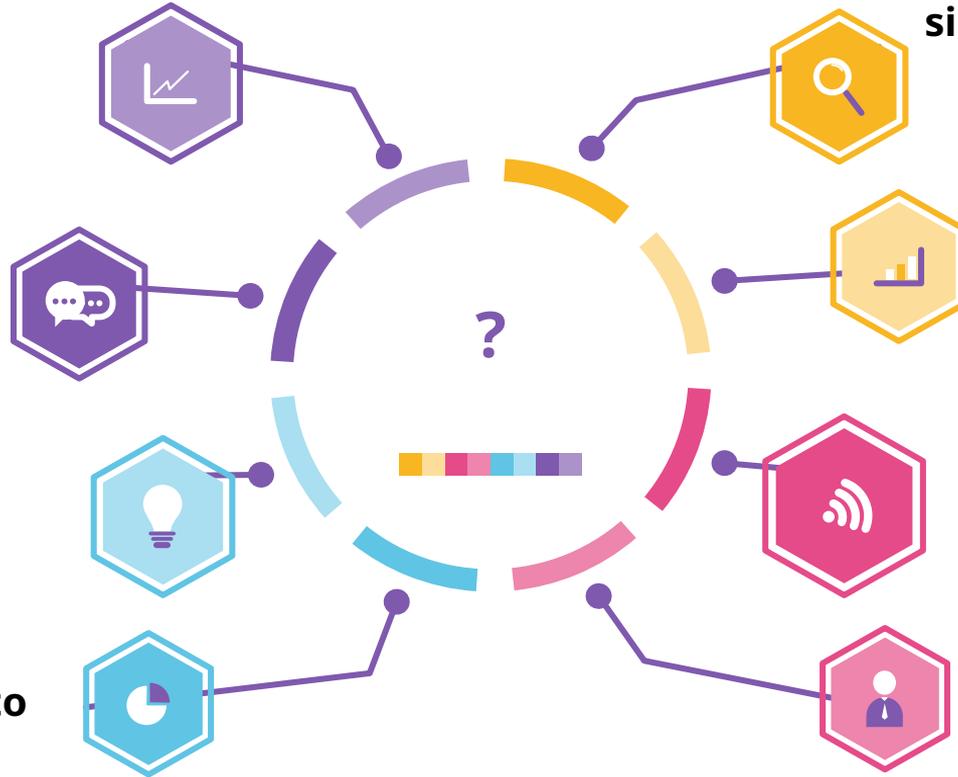**Tech adoption is rising skills aren't keeping up. (MeriTalk).**

Every wave required reskilling and civic infrastructure to avoid social gaps (McKinsey).

Innovation without civic responsibility leaves society behind. (CSIS)

Tools alone don't transform - people and pipelines do.

It means that the "product" side must be matched by the "people & institutional" side.

?

Building Civics Concepts into STEM and the Tech Sector

Demonstrates that even in civic tech, without inclusive pipeline and design, the "platform modality" can reproduce exclusion.

What would you do differently ?

Access

Demography, Money and Privilege

Agency

Voice and Choice.

Academic-Industry-Govt-Society Partnership

Acceleration

Strengthen systems

People and Products

Framework for Inclusion

Which of these dimensions do you see most clearly in your own work?

The AI Literacy Compass

Curious Explorer

How AI applies to individuals

Beginner Builder

Shape policies and question products.

Aspiring Developer

Choice

Responsible Changemaker

Ethics, fairness, global advocacy.

Beyond coding, It's about building a pipeline of citizens - from explorers to change makers, ready to shape AI responsibly

Higher Education (UK)
From Advocacy to Institutional Adoption
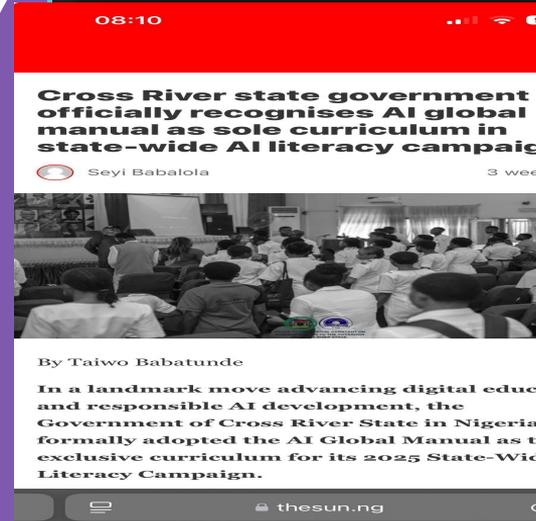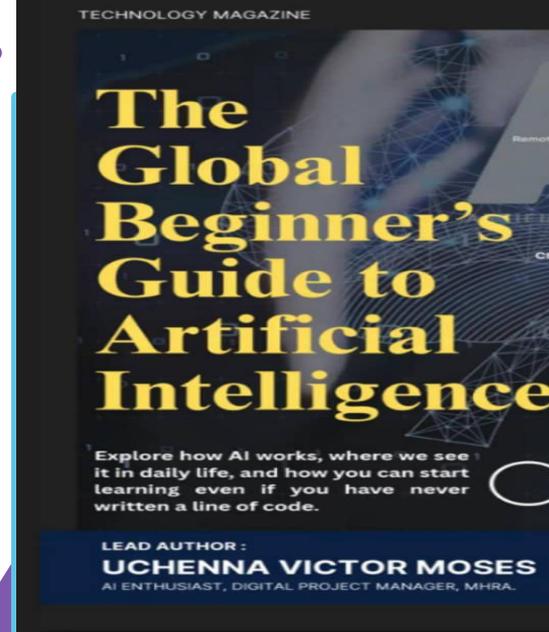
(Advocacy → Adoption → Student Reach).

Policy change doesn't always start with a white paper sometimes it begins with the right call at the right time."

AI Literacy at Scale: Cross River State-Government (Nigeria)

- Low-cost, high-impact → demystifies AI for students, professionals, civil servants.

- AI literacy as policy is not abstract - it's about giving everyday citizens the tools to participate in the digital economy.

Where Are We Falling Short? – Levelling the Playing Field.

Academia

A curriculum has no integrity if it is honest but obsolete.

Industry

You can't thrive by just recruiting top talent you must co-create talent pipelines with universities, governments, and civil society because if you only recruit, you starve the ecosystem you depend on.

Civic Dimension

AI transcends tech. it's civic infrastructure. We need AI literacy as part of being an informed citizen.

Individuals

Without civic responsibility, AI decisions become uninformed, inequitable, and exclusionary.

Why (the need)

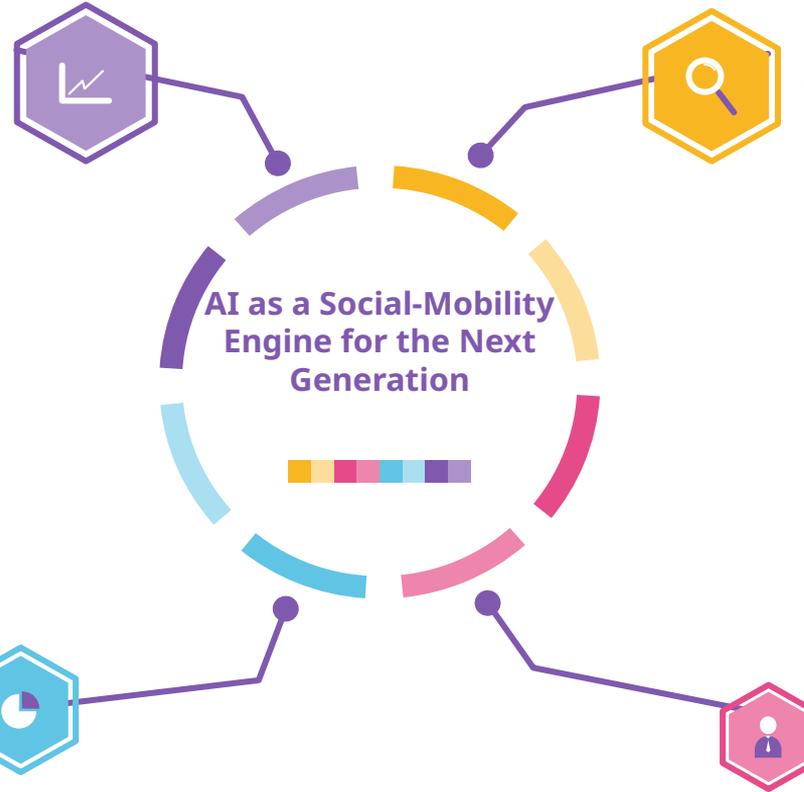Nations measure power by AI capacity without mobility, the gap widens.

How (the mechanism):

Embed AI literacy in schools, scale government adoption, fund industry reskilling, and expand community access.

AI as a Social-Mobility Engine for the Next Generation
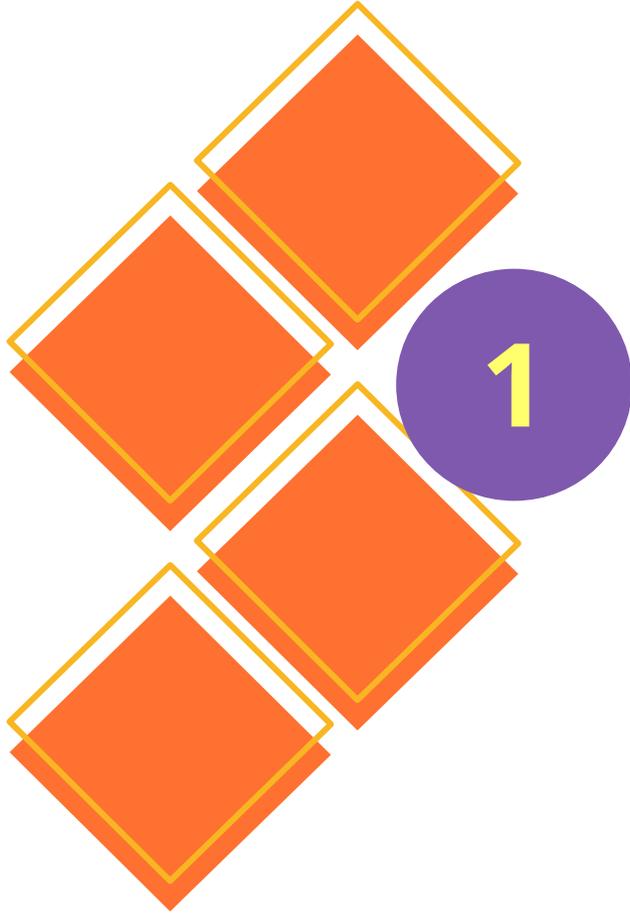
What (the engine):

AI Civic Literacy drives social mobility by lowering barriers, empowering choices, scaling opportunities, and turning AI from elite tech into civic infrastructure.

When (the urgency):

This decade: AI reshapes 97M+ jobs (WEF).

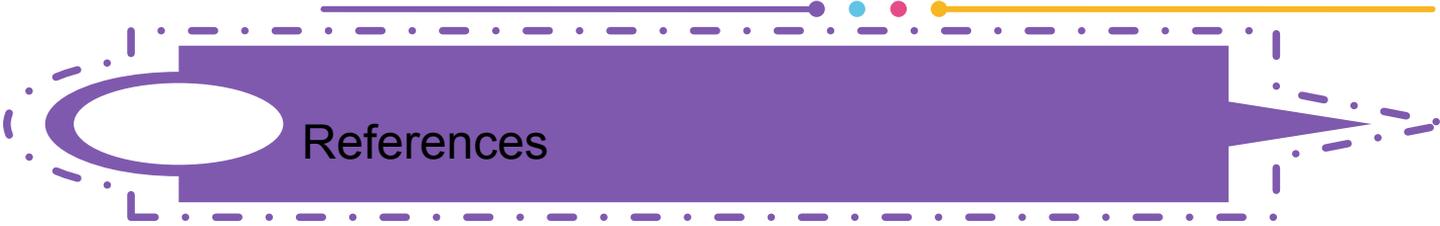**1** Civic Literacy → Access → Agency → Acceleration → Social Mobility.

Call to Action

1 AI leadership is not platforms, it's people.

Empower citizens or the pipeline fails."

References

Whatfix (2024). 10 Digital Transformation Failures and How to Avoid Them. Whatfix Blog.

https://whatfix.com/blog/digital-transformation-failures

MeriTalk (2024). Technology Adoption and Workforce Upskilling are Top Government Challenges for FY25. MeriTalk.

https://www.meritalk.com/articles/technology-adoption-and-workforce-upskilling-are-top-government-challenges-for-fy25

McKinsey & Company (2024). What Can History Teach Us About Technology and Jobs? McKinsey Future of Work.

https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/what-can-history-teach-us-about-technology-and-jobs

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (2024). Building Civics Concepts in STEM and the Tech Sector. CSIS Analysis. https://www.csis.org/analysis/building-civics-concepts-stem-and-tech-sector
ScienceDirect / Elsevier (2024). Artificial Intelligence, Education, and Policy: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities. Journal of Business Research, S0148296324000328. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0148296324000328
Wikipedia (2024). Diffusion of Innovations. (Everett Rogers' Theory). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diffusion_of_innovations

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Facts and Figures 2023: ICT Skills. ITU, 2023.https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/2023/10/10/ff23-ict-skills/

ArXiv (Vaswani et al., 2017). Attention Is All You Need. Cornell University.
https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.02274
OECD (2025). What Should Teachers Teach and Students Learn in a Future of Powerful AI? OECD Report.
https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/05/what-should-teachers-teach-and-students-learn-in-a-future-of-powerful-ai_4578ec74/ca56c7d6-en.pdf
EDUCAUSE Review (2025). Generative Artificial Intelligence and Education: A Brief Ethical Reflection on Autonomy. EDUCAUSE.
https://er.educause.edu/articles/2025/1/generative-artificial-intelligence-and-education-a-brief-ethical-reflection-on-autonomy
World Economic Forum (WEF) (2020). The Future of Jobs Report. WEF.
By 2030, AI and automation will reshape 97 million new jobs.
https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-jobs-report-2020

Thank You!