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in some countries. In other countries, current mass education approaches are seen to have resulted in disengagement of young adolescents in schooling. Increasingly, the voices of reform are calling for a move away from standard curriculum with recognised subjects and a move towards more flexible structures of schooling that are devised around the student's immediate concerns. There are new challenges for the teaching of algebra and its part in mathematical growth in such an environment.

The on-going demand for copies of the conference proceedings after more than seven years, and the impact of the very carefully prepared overview chapters in the study volume are two further indications of the lasting benefits of the 12<sup>th</sup> ICMI Study.

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