

Discussion: Computer aided learning (CAL)

Computer Literacy 1 Lecture 15
23/10/2008



Discussion



- Computer Assisted Learning in developing countries

Pros of CAL in developing countries



- New learning experience
 - This can also be seen as a general pro for CAL
 - See next point - adults
- Chance to see more modern technology
 - Bringing the computer into the classroom is not only an advantage for children
 - adult might be able to use a computer for their first time as well and get trained on it. Leading to better jobs and the possibility of knowledge about computers they can spread
- Substantial lack of teachers
 - CAL could substitute teachers and bring education to students who didn't have the chance before
 - Or it could be used to train more teachers

Pros of CAL in developing countries



- Allows access to more information
 - Information which might be lifesaving like new developments in medicine
- Better job possibilities
 - People can get trained in CAL and integrate it in their teaching, this might give them better promotion possibilities
 - Students who learned using CAL might get better job opportunities in future
- *Everybody* will have access to (higher) education
 - That's a very theoretical pro for CAL
 - There are still many hurdles to take before this can happen and only part of the problems are technology based

Cons of CAL in developing countries



- Expensive
 - Governments of developing countries normally don't have the money to support CAL
 - Meaning it's mainly the upper class and a small part of the middle class that can afford it
- Don't know how to use computers - no training
 - People might not be trained to use computers
 - Therefore not be able to use CAL for their advantage
 - Need training - leads us back to money issues
- Might intrude culture
 - This is one argument against Globalisation in general
 - And CAL is part of Globalisation

Contras of CAL in developing countries



- People might not know where to find correct information
 - Since people are not trained they might have problems to access correct information
- Not a guarantee for getting a job
 - Some governments might not support computerised age (see North Korea for example)
- Maintain the computers and lines
 - A big issue can be the missing maintenance of computers in developing countries
 - Brings us back to training and money issues
 - Climatic conditions must be considered before installing hardware (e.g. Monsoon)

Discussion



- Thank you to everyone attending today's lecture and contributing to our discussion

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- <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/inf2a/lecturematerials/>

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