

Labdoo Laptops Nyaishozi School, Tanzania

Grace: +255 764 043 136

In Tanzanian primary school learning to handle a computer has become an own subject called Technology, Information and Communication. Even though the pupils are supposed to learn computer skills the big question is how to learn those skills without a computer. In almost all of the primary schools in Kagera, children are only learning computer skills theoretically. Teachers draw pictures of computers, of a desktop and programs on the blackboard and explain how to use the computers and programs theoretically, some creative teachers even build computers out of old boxes. But most of the time the lessons are very dry and hard to follow. It is not surprising that the attendance rate in those lessons is much lower than in other "important" classes.

On Thursday the 21st April the Labdoo-Laptop was presented at one of our workshops to 32 teachers from different schools together with all the programs and the instruction page. The laptop was then handed over to the Nyaishozi school where the workshop took place. We took photos of the handover and told them to start using the computer. After one month (until the 30th of May) we would need a feedback of the computer usage with the following questions:

Are the teachers able to give instructions how to use the laptop? Are there any problems with the computer skills of teachers?

Yes, the teachers have enough skills using the computer

How many students used the laptop in the last month?

approximately 150 from standard 5, 6 and 7.

How much time did students work with the laptop each week?

3 hours approximately, we have made a schedule which day the classes can use the laptop. On a weekly basis Tuesday standard six, Wednesday standard seven and Thursday standard five.

What did the students do on the laptop/which programs did they use?

They have not started with the programs, we are now learning how to type in words and opening folder.

Did the students enjoy working with the laptop? Did they have fun with it?

Yes they really enjoy it, as it has been a struggle with the students, everybody wants to participate in the program.

Are the students able to work with the laptops or are there any problems with them?

Yes they do, however there is a struggle, because a lot of things on the laptop are in English.

Are also students from others schools coming to your school to use the laptop?

No, most of them faced the distance problem as the long distance problem become a big challenge for them.

On Monday after the handover of the laptop to the school, they seemed to have problems with the computer. They were asking about windows and don't seem to understand the linux program. We told them to take another look into the instructions. Additionally, two weeks after the handover we went back to the school to explain the computer and the programs again.

On Monday 25th July we handed in a second questionnaire to see the development of the laptop project.

How many students were able to use the laptop since you got them?

120 students

Last time you said, that you were not yet able to start with the programs on the computer because you had to show the students how to type and use the computer first. How is the progress now, could you start using the programs?

Yes, at the moment students are able to use one program.

What would happen if you would have a second laptop? What would change for the students?

It will be easier for most of the students to have access because there are so many students in one classroom.

If you have to name one thing that changed most through the laptop in the school most, what would that be?

Increased school attendance during the days of teaching computer practical lessons.

Want do you think, the students learned the most by using the laptops?

1. How to switch on /off
2. Learned how to type

Please ask a group of students what they learned most by using the laptop. Every student should write down one sentence about the laptop. (Students should decide themselves what to write)

No answer yet