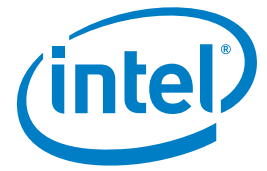


CASE STUDY

Intel®-powered classmate PCs

Education
Intel World Ahead



Enhancing Education with IT Innovation

Intel teams up with the British Council to introduce computer-based language learning in Egypt

Egypt's National Strategic Plan for Education Reform is designed to deliver high-quality education to all citizens. Its key elements include access and participation, curriculum and learning assessment, textbooks and learning materials and a quality improvement strategy. One important area is greater emphasis on the learning of the English language. To assess how this might be achieved, the Ministry of Education sanctioned a computer-learning pilot program, in collaboration with the British Council and Intel, in a school based just outside of Giza, a suburb of Cairo. The pilot was based on Intel®-powered classmate PCs pre-loaded with English language learning software from the British Council.



Strategic Objectives

- **Education for all:** Egypt's National Strategic Plan for Pre-University Education Reform is designed to ensure high-quality levels of education for all Egyptian citizens
- **English language learning:** The strategy has many components, one of which is greater emphasis on the learning of English

First Response

- **Pilot project:** The Ministry of Education sanctioned a pilot in the Al-Nadha Experimental School to establish the efficacy of computer-based language learning
- **Working together:** The pilot was run by Intel in conjunction with the British Council which was familiar with both the challenges and opportunities
- **In the classroom:** Intel-powered classmate PCs, pre-loaded with materials devised from the British Council's LearnEnglish Kids* website, were introduced into classroom

Impact

- **Highly engaged learning:** The children and teachers readily engaged with the classmate PCs and pilot evaluations highlighted increased levels of enjoyment and engagement
- **Greater learner satisfaction:** Teachers and students reported higher levels of motivation and commitment
- **Larger scale:** The Ministry of Education intends to commission a number of similar projects on a wider scale to assess how greater value can be gained

Computer-based learning

Egypt's Ministry of Education is responsible for improving education across the entire country. It is leading a drive to ensure a comprehensive, sustainable, and collective approach towards providing quality education for all citizens, in order to develop a knowledge society.

To achieve this, the government's Education Strategic Plan sets out a series of objectives such as improving teaching and learning of English in schools, as well as appropriate technology adoption.

In a project designed to assess the best way to reach this objective, the British Council and Intel, under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, launched a pilot in Cairo's Al-Nadha Experimental School.

Both the British Council and Intel have well resourced and experienced operations in Egypt, familiar with the challenges and the opportunities. As a result, they delivered clear criteria for the project and were ultimately selected by the Education Ministry's English subject counselor and a deputy minister for information communication technologies (ICT). The Ministry also nominated Al-Nadha Experimental School for the initial deployment pilot.

The pilot had four assessment areas: the training implications for teachers, the impact of technology on student motivation, the impact of technology on teacher and student attitudes towards technology, and the relevance of computer-based English language material from the British Council to the school's English syllabus.



"The classmate PCs were undoubtedly helpful and enabled me to achieve my aims better. Students looked forward to the lessons and the parents were happy and excited to see their children using the technology."

Ghada Mohie Ahmed, Teacher,
Al-Nadha Experimental School, Giza, Egypt

Teachers and children unanimously endorse Intel-powered classmate PCs and computer-based learning

Transforming the Learning Environment

As part of the pilot, Intel-powered classmate PCs were introduced into the school. The heart of the Intel® Learning Series (Intel® LS), these are purpose-built netbooks with full PC functionality. The Intel LS brings together a strong ecosystem of PC manufacturers, operating system vendors, education service providers, content and software providers to deliver a complete, end-to-end education solution. Built to advance education, the Intel LS is designed specifically for kids, teachers, and IT administrators to support 21st century learning.

A content learning package of activities from the British Council Learn English Kids website was preloaded onto the Intel-powered classmate PCs – the first time English language learning content had been added to the devices. The activities within the British Council package were indexed against the Egyptian national curriculum and then used as the core content in some lesson plans.

The Intel LS Software suite of classroom management tools gives teachers control over how the netbooks are used. For example, a teacher can broadcast his or her own desktop and demonstrate the learning material prior to the students engaging in independent learning. They can also monitor and take control of an individual student's computer and stream content to the whole class.

Teacher benefits

The pilot could not be successful without teachers being willing to embrace and explore the potential of technology-based learning. Prior to the launch of the pilot, a series of six teacher lesson plans, designed to cover curriculum content, were introduced. These teacher lesson plans were based on an English language course book that reflected the content being taught to students. The aim of the lesson plans was to show the teacher how to integrate the course content into a computer-learning environment and the benefits of teaching students with the use of computers.

The pilot class's teacher was responsive to the lessons and quickly grasped the potential of computer-based learning. For example, she could send files and messages to individual students, ensure all students start the same material at the same point, and create quizzes and tests.

The teacher, Ghada Mohie Ahmed, said: "The classmate PCs were undoubtedly helpful and enabled me to achieve my aims better. In class it made it easier to move from one stage of the lesson to another, both for me and the children. Students looked forward to the lessons and the parents were happy and excited to see their children using the technology. Everyone could see that the kids were more focused and better behaved."

Joy of learning

The children took to the classmate PCs quickly and all of them expressed a preference for working with the classmate PCs as opposed

Spotlight on Ministry of Education, Egypt

Egypt's Ministry of Education is responsible for a centralized educational system that has three stages: basic, secondary and post-secondary. There are two types of government schools, Arabic schools and experimental language schools. The Ministry of Education is responsible for making decisions about the education system with the support of three centers: the National Center of Curricula Development, the National Center for Education Research, and the National Center for Examinations and Educational Evaluation. Each center has its own focus in formulating education policies with other state-level committees.

to the regular text book-based classes. Several of the students said they hoped all of their school lessons could be taught using classmate PCs.

One student said: "I love Thursday's classes as we use the laptops and learn more than the other classes." Another added: "Having a laptop makes learning easier and more interesting and I can more easily connect with my friends."

From the school's perspective the project clearly demonstrated the potential of Intel-powered classmate PCs to support learning when used in conjunction with relevant materials, training and support. The children were highly motivated when using their classmate PCs instead of regular text-based classes, which in turn encouraged the teacher.

Al-Nadha Experimental School considered the pilot to be a success and as a result Egypt's Ministry of Education intends to commission a number of similar projects on a large scale to assess how greater value can be gained across a wider number of educational institutes.

To learn more about this project, visit www.viddler.com/explore/BCLearnenglish/videos/413 and www.britishcouncil.org/kids

What is your vision of the world ahead? Contact your Intel representative to put together a comprehensive plan for using educational technology to help make your vision a reality.

For further information about how technology can help increase the quality of education, visit www.intel.com/worldahead

