C3-MICRO CLOUD CONTRIBUTES TO A LIFE-CHANGING PROJECT IN MYANMAR

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO KNOWLEDGE

IMPACT:

- Connected 31 rural schools, 310 teachers and 30 000 students to knowledge

- Improved teaching quality

- Access to cloud-based education content

CROSSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN MYANMAR RURAL SCHOOLS

Myanmar is the largest of the mainland Southeast Asian states. It has an ethnically diverse population of approximately 51.5 million and 70% of the population lives in rural areas. Substantial disparities in housing, living and teaching conditions exist between rural and urban areas and between different parts of the country.

Poverty is a major challenge for Myanmar, especially in rural areas where nearly two-thirds of the population resides. Updated classroom resources and teaching materials are needed, much of the school's infrastructure is inadequate and many of the classrooms are overcrowded.

School attendance has traditionally been a problem for students. While basic public education is free, thousands of children are sent to work on farms and tea shops to support family income. Student attendance rate in rural areas is lower than in urban areas and motivating them to attend to class is a constant challenge for teachers. Teachers' own motivation is sometimes affected by the difficult conditions of rural schools.

The UK Development Agency Department for International Development, Ericsson and Critical Links joined forces and the "Connect to Learn" project was implemented in 31 schools located in rural areas. This public-private partnership offered access to quality education by providing user-friendly learning devices for teachers and students to use in the classrooms where they have now access to cloud-based educational content and resources.

The C3 Micro-Cloud provides local Wi-Fi infrastructure, applications and cached content to accomplish a specific task even if school's internet connection is down. Texts, subject media, learning guides and other resources are cached on the micro-cloud, so that they are always available for the e-Learning process regardless of "upstream" network connectivity.

The project changed Myanmar's teachers' and students' lives. Teachers commented that using the C3 Micro-Cloud highly improved their teaching capability because they learned how to effectively combine pedagogy and ICT- based learning methods. They can now easily plan lessons with instant access to a wide variety of rich content right in the classroom, improving the teaching process. They also had the support to learn innovative new classroom management techniques and gained additional confidence to integrate the use of advanced mobile technologies in the classroom.

This new way of learning also motivated the students to attend classes because using technology is now much more exciting and engaging for them. "We come to school on foot, we walk every day. On the days when we have class using the tablet, we walk to school faster!" said one of the students.

In Myanmar, investments in technology for education are a requirement to improve the access to quality education and to develop the digital skills of the future workforce. Using internet in classes is enriching students learning experience, especially because in rural schools they tend to have lower access to books, tutoring programs, and other resources. Students now have in their classes modern devices and technology that makes them believe that they have reached international standards, enabling their hopes of a better future.

With this project, teachers and students in Myanmar have the opportunity to exploit the power of internet connectivity and to understand how it can be used to improve the levels of education throughout the country.

The access to Internet and digital technology will help students to succeed in education, in their future jobs and most importantly, in their lives.

This Connect to Learn project is clearly proof of how technology can enable any school, anywhere in the world, to close the digital divide in Education. This project supported the Myanmar education system and enabled it to become more effective and efficient. We are pleased to be part of it!

Thanks to the Connect to Learn program and C3 Micro-Cloud, nearly 30 000 students and 310 teachers from 31 schools have now the opportunity to leapfrog to a 21st century education where they can use tablets in their classes.

Regardless of their social standing, they now have equal ability to use Connect to Learn devices, which also places them on equal footing to build their future.

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