Introducing the Digital Backpack: Looking at Ivory Coast

Authors : Eunice H. Li

Abstract : This e-Poster presents how the 'digital backpack' was introduced to primary school children in Ivory Coast. The idea of a 'digital backpack' was initiated by Mr. Thierry N'Doufou in 2012, who later designed and presented to the rest of the world in September 2014. The motivation behind the backpack was to relieve children of the heavy-weight they carry in their school backpacks. Another motivation was to promote Ivory Coast as a country where all children are brought into the digital era. Thierry N'Doufou regards education as the means by which his nation and the entire African Continent can be developed as a prosperous territory. The 'digital backpack' contains the entire curriculum for each class and favours a constructivist approach to learning. The children's notes and exercises are also included in the pack. Additionally, teachers and parents are able to monitor remotely children's activities while they are working with the 'backpack'. Teachers are also able to issue homework, assess student's progress and manage the student's coursework. This means that teachers should always think the most appropriate pedagogies that can be used to help children to learn. Furthermore, teachers, parents and fellow students are able to have conversations and discussions by using web portals. It is also possible to access more apps if children would like to have additional learning activities. From the presentation in the e-Poster, it seems reasonable to conclude that the 'digital backpack' has potential to reach other-level of education. In this way, all will be able to benefit from this new invention.
Keywords : pedagogy, curriculum, constructivism, social constructivism, distance learning environment, ubiquitous learning environment
Conference Title : ICDEIT 2015 : International Conference on Distance Education and Instructional Technology
Conference Location : London, United Kingdom
Conference Dates : January 19-20, 2015