designing tools and environments to support

YOUTH-LED SOCIAL CHANGE

in low-income communities

leoburd@media.mit.edu -- 2003.11.04

agenda

development of software for educational activities
the young activists network (YAN)
discussion
What is so special about Logo?

How to develop Logo-like applications to explore non-mathematical domains?

The answer does not lie in the Logo language, but on the kind of activities – Constructionist microworlds – that it supports!!!
yet another basic, naïve questions...

- what kinds of activities should I focus my time on?
- who should design educational activities?

Can technology help change this situation?
Committee for Democratization of Information Technologies Sao Paulo (CDISP)

A non-governmental organization whose mission is to combine education and technology towards a non-exclusionary society based on the principles of solidarity

Schools of Information Technology and Citizenship

inside

outside
‘Barn-raising’ party

Training
Acknowledgement
the Young Activists Network (YAN)

mission

**develop** tools, methodologies and support structures
to **transform** community technology centers into spaces that foster and sustain
**technology-supported, youth-led social change**
Piece of Peace

The Charlestown Boys & Girls Club is working in collaboration with the Young Activists Network to continue a project our club did years ago.

Our goal as a group is to decide how best to bring peace to our community. We’ll be taking field trips, working with digital photography, film and other artistic media to develop the best strategies.

First Meeting:
Tuesday, March 4th 3:30-5:00
We’ll be taking a field trip with our cameras. We’ll have a dinner together afterwards.

All other meetings will be Tuesdays, from 6-8pm unless otherwise notified.
the YAN activity

Subject (young person)

Rules (session schedule, focus on neighborhood, reflection, etc.)

Community (mentors, other kids, people from the neighborhood, other adults)

Objects (group talents and connections, other local and external resources, etc.)

Mediating Artifacts (cards, posters, and other support materials, digital cameras, desktops, network, appropriate digital artifacts, etc.)

Outcome (concrete neighborhood improvement, celebration, etc.)

Division of Labor (facilitator, actor, learner, source of reference, activity designer)
action research

key elements

- youth participation
- focus on neighborhood challenges
- human connectivity
- contextualized uses of technology
- storytelling
- recognition
where are we?

Brazil
Costa Rica
India
Mexico (2)
Philippines (2)
United States (5)
major challenges

- youth engagement and commitment
- lack of adults
- lack of appropriate tools and materials
- resilience building
- assessment, monitoring and evaluation

youth engagement and commitment

- build rapport
- start with short-term, concrete projects
- serious fun (lots of action)
- it’s “easier” to work with 10-12 year olds
- involve older kids in the organization
- talk to the families
- don’t overstructure
- get a quite, spacious room
plans for 2003-2004

expand the network to new sites in Boston
young activists volunteer task force
YAN activity/ best practices portfolio
YAN website
YAN toolkit

the young activists task force

provide support “from within” to network organizations, help enhance the model,
create new support materials, outreach to new communities

work in teams of 2 or 3
2 to 3 hours per week
monthly meetings
discussions over internet
the young activists toolkit

make it easier for youth to implement their projects in the neighborhood,
access relevant information, reflect about their work,
communicate ideas, and get recognition

"narrator"

"mapping tool"

"graphical wiki"

"Convention of the Rights of the Child" card set
http://llk.media.mit.edu/projects/yan
yan@media.mit.edu