



Intel® Learn Program

Opening doors for youth around the world

More than a million young people in over a dozen countries have gained digital literacy, critical thinking, and collaboration skills through the Intel® Learn Program. The results have been truly remarkable.

Designed to meet the specific needs of children aged 8-18 in underserved communities, the Intel Learn Program extends learning beyond classrooms to informal environments in local community centers. It incorporates more than 90 hours of engaging curriculum that taps the interest of children in their own communities while nourishing their curiosity with creative, technology-driven projects. Participants are encouraged to identify problems in their own communities, and apply technology to seek solutions.



Children build the "Road to Spring"

In spring, the water runs high in a river that cuts through a village in the Samara Region of Russia. Because the village bridge was in disrepair, the river effectively split the town during high waters, with residents living on one side cut off from school, shopping, social services, and health care.

The local government had no money and seemingly little interest in bridge renovation, so eight students participating in the Intel® Learn Program decided to take matters into their own hands with a project they dubbed "Road to Spring." They came up with a bridge renovation plan, complete with budget estimates, and submitted a grant proposal to a regional social rehabilitation foundation. They won the grant, purchased needed tools and materials, and—with the help of an industrial arts teacher—restored the bridge over a three-week period. In the process, the children did much more than reconnect their village—they built a bridge to brighter futures.

A forest returns, tree by tree

In years past, flutters of orange and black filled the skies in the Mazahua region of Mexico, as monarch butterflies migrated to nearby forests to roost. Today monarchs are rare, since logging, agriculture, and encroaching cities have devastated their habitats. Youths participating in the Intel® Learn Program decided to take up the cause of the missing monarchs, launching a plan to rebuild a forest.

Access to computers and the Internet was virtually non-existent in Mazahua before the Intel Learn Program arrived at the local community center. Participating children embraced technology, using computers to research the migration of the monarchs, create a reforestation proposal, and prepare a multimedia presentation to showcase their work for the public. Community members, including a local civic association, then asked the children to come up with a formal plan to seek funding for the project.

The result? American Express, already contributing to philanthropic efforts in the area, agreed to fund the reforestation project. In the summer of 2007, local residents planted 1,000 trees and plants, hoping the skies will soon fill again with fluttering wings.

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Bus provides path to literacy

The tiny farming community of Rosemala in southwest India has just one school, which serves the primary grades. To continue their education, local children had three choices: walk many miles amid elephants, buffalo, and panthers; pay high fares for private transport; or move away from their families to a community with secondary schools. As a result, many of Rosemala's children dropped out of school early, and village literacy levels were low.

The Intel® Learn Program arrived in Rosemala in May 2009, and several participants decided to create a multimedia project focused on the school commute problem. They presented their findings and potential solutions to community members, and a district leader subsequently contacted the state transport organization for help. As a result, a bus now runs each day between Rosemala and the town of Aryankavu, where children can attend secondary schools.

Aneesha, a Rosemala Intel Learn participant, commented, "Earlier I never paid much attention to the problems surrounding us and would always blame others for inaction. The Intel Learn Program made us all think about the problems faced by our village, and we all got together as a team to come up with workable and long-term solutions."



The streets are cleaner in Nanjing

For years, the streets in Nanjing, China, had been contaminated by smelly liquid garbage leaking from collection trucks, resulting in ongoing environmental and health problems. A group of Intel® Learn Program participants turned the problem into a year-long project that included visits to the local dump to learn why the trucks leaked, research of regulations regarding garbage collection, and the development of several solutions, such as altering garbage trucks to prevent spills with simple plastic pipes.

The children held a public hearing to turn the spotlight on the problem, presenting their findings to 200 local government officials, educators, and other community members, as well as more than 10 media outlets. A month later, they received good news: Among other measures taken to address the problem, the local government's environmental sanitation department decided to invest to alter all 21 of Nanjing's garbage trucks using the children's spill-prevention design.

Students banish breakfast waste

About 2,000 students are served breakfast at Shijia Elementary School in China each day. A large amount of the food provided went to waste, but no one did anything about it until a group of Intel® Learn Program participants turned a spotlight on the problem. The children launched an investigation that confirmed that hundreds of breakfasts were left uneaten over the course of a month, and revealed some of the reasons why: students were bored with the same food offerings each day, one-size-fits-all portions were too large for younger children, and students simply didn't understand the need to avoid food waste in the face of hunger that exists in China and other parts of the world.

The Intel Learn participants presented their findings to other students and school staff, along with suggested solutions, such as diversifying breakfast foods, adjusting food servings according to children's ages, and fostering habits to save rather than waste food. As a result, 90% of the school's students have adopted habits to cut food waste, and have shared their learning with family and friends. The impact of the project was extended further when it was presented at a national science competition, where it won the top award.

New skills bring solutions to old problems

In the remote Indian villages of Pulvetta and Singodi, educational opportunities are lacking and literacy skills are low. Through Intel Learn, children in the villages gained access to technology for the first time, and—more importantly—applied new skills to solve age-old problems.

Six Pulvetta Intel® Learn Program participants aged 10-14 developed plans to renovate a playground and build a water tank to address the scarcity of potable water in the village. They incorporated their recommendations into a presentation, and invited community members to a public showcase of their work. The Village Council president was so impressed by the children's presentation and passion that he authorized both the building of the water tank and the playground renovation.

In Singodi, five girls participating in the Intel Learn Program conducted a door-to-door survey to gather information about hygiene and sanitation practices, and then presented their findings to the community. The village president started a committee to address the issue, and invited the girls to become members—a rarity since members had traditionally been men. Taking inspiration from the girls, residents of Singodi have since taken steps to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid, and cholera.



The "Kinnereth Underground" logo

Fifth graders fight to save water

Students in Kiryat Mal'akhi, Israel, chose water conservation as the theme for their Intel® Learn Program project—prompted by several dry winters that caused Kinnereth Lake, a major source of water in the region, to reach unprecedented lows.

The fifth graders developed a comprehensive advertising campaign—including fliers, posters, presentations, and a Kinnereth project logo—to educate people in the community about how to cut water consumption. They distributed the posters and fliers throughout their school and neighborhood, and then met with the mayor of Kiryat Mal'akhi and two town council members to discuss the subject. Following the meeting, the mayor published a water conservation advice page on the town's Web site, including quotes from the children's fliers. In addition, devices to reduce the flow of water were installed on faucets in all of the town's schools, resulting in water savings of up to 50 percent.



These are just a few examples of the tens of thousands of ways children have helped strengthen their communities using the 21st-century skills they have acquired through the Intel® Learn Program.

Every day, in multiple ways, children in the Intel Learn Program are gaining confidence, opening their minds, and embracing the opportunities that quality education can provide.

To learn more about the Intel Learn Program, visit:
www.intel.com/education/learn

