CASE STUDY

IT Integration Activities and Project Work Fairs Promote Constructivist Learning

Students 'Construct' their Own Knowledge: Some students at the Project Work Fair in Kampong Cham make a presentation using critical and creative thinking skills in which they synthesize information into a coherent 'whole' using locally provided computers.

The IBEC Project seeks to promote better educated youth with increased access to a quality and relevant basic education through an approach that emphasizes holistic programming, stakeholder-driven development, and improved educational relevance and management. To learn more, visit www.ibec.worlded.org

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A culminating event during the school year to increase the integration of computer facilities in the teaching-learning process was the implementation of Project Work Fairs across the three provinces. A total of 16 schools came together in one site in each province in order to provide a forum for students to present the research topics that they had developed with their peers using PowerPoint and other software programs. Teachers provided supervision for these projects using guidelines that they learned from IBEC supported workshops that explained the _Project Method_. This methodology is one of the front line strategies that the IBEC uses to encourage the use of computers in teaching and learning. Student presentations reflected in-depth projects undertaken on various topics of relevance in their local communities. Some of the topics presented included the damage to the environment caused by plastic bags, local history, the usefulness of sugar palm trees, and Khmer poetry composed by students. The students used their computer labs to research topics and developed their presentations on PowerPoint, as part of the project's efforts to develop computer literacy skills. These project work demonstrations exemplify IBEC's strong focus on 'constructivist' learning in which students create their own knowledge through research and then share with other students. In all about 400 students participated in this exercise in the three provinces. There were 77 student presenters and 32 supervising teachers in attendance at these events.