One Laptop per Child

OLPC Nepal
<info@olpcnepal.org>
OLPC is not merely a Laptop/Technological Project

it's an “Education Project”

Even more basically, OLPC is about

Eliminating Poverty Through Education
Learning is The Main Goal

It's not about Computer Literacy

it's about “Learning Learning”

When you start going to school first – you stop learning because of Curiosity, but start learning because of Authority

it's about “Changing How Kids Learn”
there are about 1.2 billion kids in the developing world, that's 1/5th of the total population of the planet, who don't have proper access to learning.

it is not a matter of not being able to learn
it is really a matter of
not having the “opportunity” to learn
Ability vs. Opportunity

Fifty percent of them have no electricity
fifty percent are rural
usually those overlap considerably

How do you fix that?
The answer could be: building more schools and training more teachers not in the sense that's a bad thing to do,

BUT

that's going to take a very, very long time
Use of Computers?
Information and Communication Technology?

How?
Ability vs. Opportunity

Building Computer Labs in schools was an earlier approach and perhaps the only one approach possible in the past.

Today, OLPC has put forward additional approach available.
The Solution

why?
The exponential growth of knowledge in the world since the ubiquitous presence of computers is undeniable. This growth of knowledge was achieved not merely by using computers as books, or televisions, or as communication devices.

What is different is the protean nature of the computer, enabling anyone to express his or her own ideas, to model the thinking, to reflect and gain feedback, to debug, and to begin the cycle again.
When each child has a laptop at his or her disposal, that child is freed to build, to explore, to express, to collaborate, to reflect, to debug, to model, to imagine, and to construct; not only alone but with others anywhere, any time.
The computer is the most powerful learning tool yet invented.

The problem with them till yet is:

not the Computer but
the way they are being used
We get people who say, "Well, we've been running a laptop program in the state of Maine and there's no major difference in their testing scores."

NO

but they're a far more creative bunch of kids who are doing much more innovative work.
The Laptop

___  ___  XO
it operates at less than two watts. Your laptop operates at thirty-five to forty. it's very important because the two watts means that a child can crank it, 

It's within the range of what we call human power
Your laptop, if you try and use it outdoors, you just can't!

But you can use XO in Bright Sunlight
The Laptop/Network

The ears are the way the laptop communicates to the rest of the world.
The Laptop/Network

**Explore what's going on**
The Laptop/Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>App/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Sept 21</td>
<td>Made a drawing of the ocean</td>
<td>6:45 PM</td>
<td>A Drawing of the Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Browsed the web</td>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrote many kinds of ships</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 20</td>
<td>Browsed the web</td>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Made my classroom</td>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
<td>My Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Browsed the web</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrote all about sharks</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>All About Sharks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Laptop/Network
Open Source

And the most important thing

OPEN SOURCE!
The Web grew exponentially as people everywhere were able to create their own web-based content and applications, since they had the freedom to see what others had created in order to appropriate it, modify it, and make it their own.

It is sort of a slap to our own face if we shipped essentially a black box that kids can't look into or change how it works.
The idea is that you take something, change it, put it back together and make it better
Other stuffs

- camera
- high quality audio
- USB ports
- e-book mode
- water, dust proof
- writing pad
- no moving parts
- localized keyboard
OLPC Nepal
OLPC Nepal
The question of whether to invest in laptops or not is not binary. It is not that there is one perfect thing to do and nothing else has value. One can do good things in a variety of environments.

The real question is:

What actions now, what investments, bring the best trajectory for long-term gain?
Thank you!

References:  http://laptop.org

http://olpcnepal.org

http://wiki.laptop.org

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