

# Development Works for Integrated-Study with Co-operations of Community

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## Abstract

We reached a consensus that the main factor behind the current decline in community power might be the rapid deterioration in the volume and quality of communication within the community, as it sees its common conventions and goals being lost. Our research revealed that "children, women and the aged", while thought generally to be the key players in community revitalization, were also unfortunately perceived as being on the isolated side of the digital divide. Based on these premises, we set a common goal for the internal community as a whole, i.e., "to inculcate children with a sense of the community's responsibility". By assisting in the development of educational programs with which it was involved, this began to lead to the establishment of common agreement. For the following period of around a year, during the "Periods for Integrated Study" at a municipal elementary school, we implemented "the development of curricula and environments to enhance child creativity and problem-solving skills without requiring special personal or financial resources" through the use of IT.

## 1.Introduction

No matter how advanced the IT software is, if the general public cannot use it, it will not produce the desired effects and more over wouldn't increase the value.

However, as far as Education goes, there isn't sufficient teacher knowledge, funding, and facilities. Not only that, but, the reason for learning IT is still not clear. In this kind of situation, it is hard to say "Just learn IT" without knowing the educational effects, and also it cannot be said whether the acquired benefits of leaning IT would be sufficient or not.

Over a period of two years we implemented this project as an experiment. The children, while learning

IT at school, using local information and working together, they were able to create new community values and share this experience.

Especially in the Kansai area, over 6334 victims of Hanshin Earthquake in 1995 used their experience by making a e-MAP(with special GIS) of information about disaster prevention and crime prevention, while at the same time, the Fire Department, Police Department and City Hall also provided information to the residents, and were thereby successful in heightening public awareness. Refer to the Homepage to see more detail. <http://www11.ocn.ne.jp/~masipiyo/>

If you have any questions, please send us an e-mail. If you not writing us in Japanese, we ask for your understanding if our response is delayed.

