PimpmyUSB

Technology, modernization, and cultural capital in a Costa Rican squatter settlement

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Computer Literacy as Cultural Capital

*"**We need to redefine computer literacy as cultural capital** in order to examine the broader issue of educating children to live in an increasingly technological environment" (Emihovich 1990:228).*

*"**The context for human development is always a culture**, never an isolated technology" (Seymour Papert as quoted in Emihovich 1990:227).*
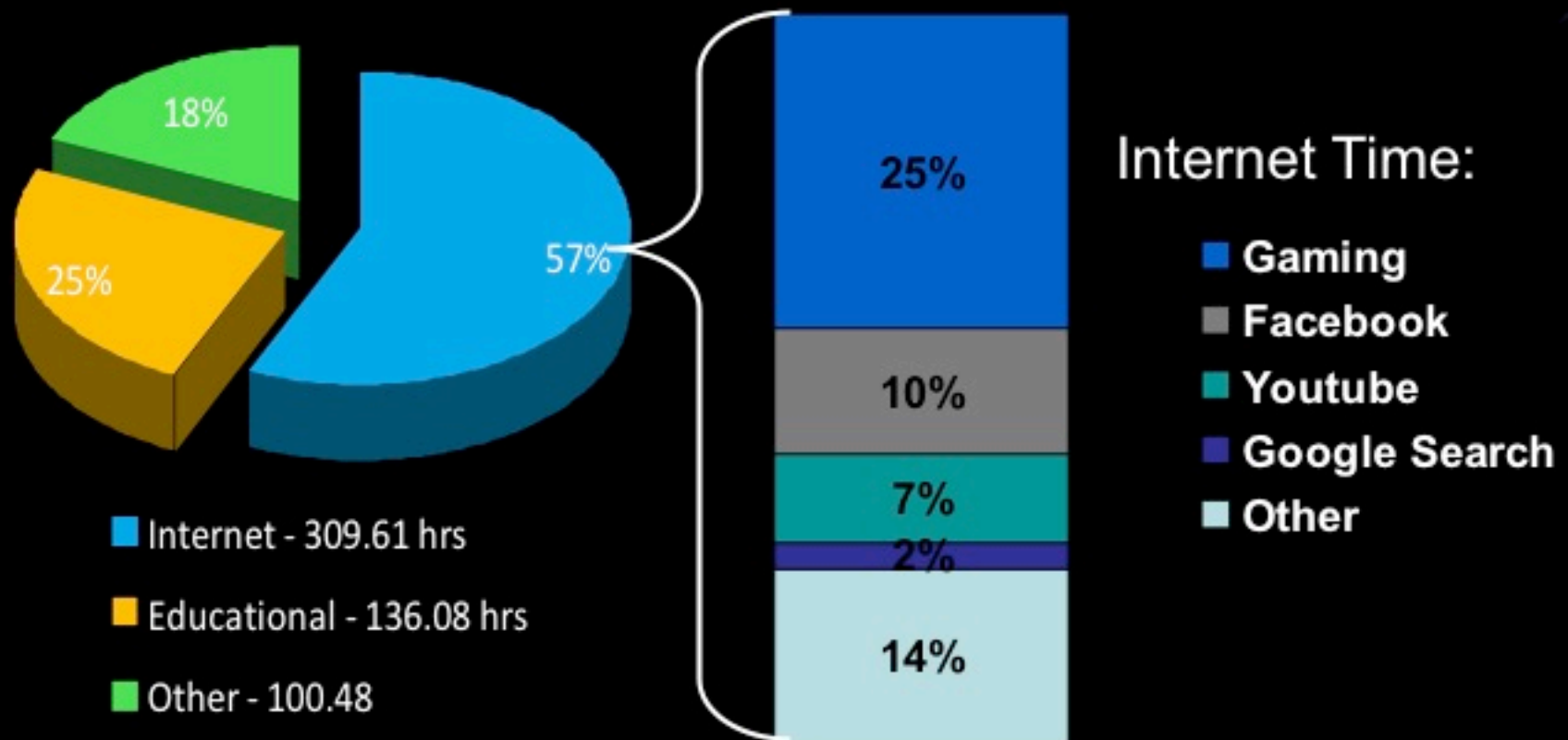
Education as part of a social and cultural context

Mind the gap

Left – student supervisor teaching classes
Right – Costa Rican/U.S-American Astronaut Franklin Chan speaking to class via Skype video

Classroom Use

18%

25%

57%

25%

10%

7%

2%

14%

Internet Time:

- Gaming
- Facebook
- Youtube
- Google Search
- Other

- Internet - 309.61 hrs
- Educational - 136.08 hrs
- Other - 100.48

This chart shows the computer use of programs in our computer lab over the course of 6 weeks of class (42 days, 546 active hours)
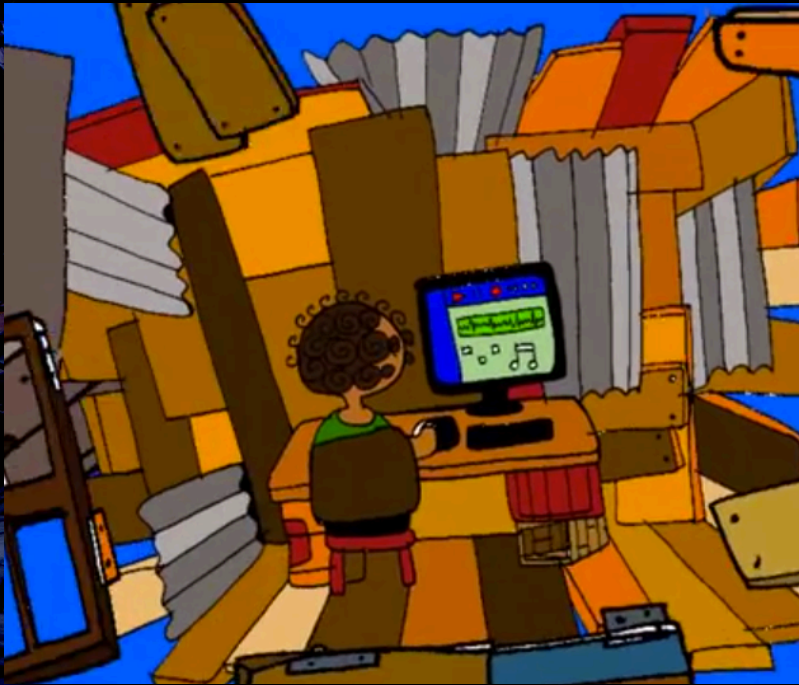
Bricoleur vs. Engineer

A student "tinkers" and redesigns a building-block program at a press release event

Conclusions

- Computer classes in marginalized areas must "mind the educational gap"
- Students will learn not just computer skills but cultural relationship to technology
- In La Carpio, Costa Rica, under-resourced schools negatively impacts attendance