

ABSTRACT

A Snapshot Investigation into the Usage of Government-Issued Personal Laptops in Secondary Schools Across Trinidad and Tobago

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This study assessed laptop usage among Form 3 students in the e-Connect and Learn (e-CAL) programme, a government initiative that distributes personal laptop computers to all students entering secondary school from 2010, in schools in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through a survey of 1,500 students from 32 schools, which sought to determine their in-class usage of the laptops. Responses to the questions (aligned to the goals articulated in the e-CAL policy) indicated the students' use of the laptops, and the integration of the laptops into the curriculum, fell below expectations. The schools that consistently employed the technology on a limited but regular basis (once a week) showed high levels of usage for technology-related subjects. This finding was found to be not in alignment with the programme goal, which sought to move away from the traditional subject limitation of laptops in the classroom.

Keywords: Laptop computers; Computer uses in education; Programme evaluation; Information and communication technology; Secondary school students; e-CAL Programme; Trinidad and Tobago.