D-Lab

Technology Critique

Due: Feb 11, 2009

Name: _____

Technology: _____

1. What are your first impressions on the technology you have just interacted with? What has crossed your mind when you first read about it? Did you opinion change after actually using the device? Reflect on the pros and cons of its design.

2. Do you think it is a successful technology? Why or why not?

This is the end of this part of the exercise. When you finish, stop here.
Don't turn the page, yet!

Working in your group, discuss the following issues and answer the following questions. As a group, discuss the following questions.

1. What problem does the technology address?

2. How does it work?

3. Is it a complete solution to the problem?

4. Among the considerations for designing for developing countries that came up from the brainstorming session last week, were:

- Ease of use (Intuitive? Self-explanatory? Requires manuals to operate?)
- Cost (How much does it cost? How will the user pay for it?)
- Locally available materials/supply chains (Where was it built? How will reach intended audience?)
- Income generation (Will the adoption of this technology impact the income level of the user? If so, how?)

Comment on the importance and relevance of each of these criteria

5. What are the benefits of this technology?

7. What sort of behavioral changes does this technology require?

8. What are the improvements over other existing technologies?

9. What are some ways that this technology might malfunction?

10. Can you think of any potential negative side effects?

For your reference, these are the market prices of the showcased technologies:

IDE Drip Irrigation Kit	$2.50
LifeStraw	$3
Solar Cooker	$29
FreePlay Radio	$50
Q-Drum	$50
Treadle Pump	$60

As homework, please answer the following questions individually:

1. Research and find out what has been the impact of this technology, and present your findings below. Argue why this technology has or has not been successful. (feel free to attach additional pages)

2. Has your opinion of the technology changed at all? How?

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