INTRODUCTION

Fab Labs emerged from MIT’s Center for Bits and Atoms (CBA), which aims to explore the computational capacities inherent to physical systems. In the course of their research, the team at CBA established the first laboratory for digital fabrication, known as a “Fab Lab” (Fabrication Laboratory). Subsequently, as a “Fab Lab” (Fabrication Laboratory) project, a prototype of an Internet-level tool (to be developed for this purpose) was introduced. Another measure of their success has been the adoption of business opportunities and commercial ventures from Fab Labs worldwide. For example, in India, the pedal power generators developed for off-grid, rural applications are now being manufactured by a private company. The Assistant Manager of Caracas.

1.1 KEY INTERVENTIONS

Fab Labs have spread from the city of Boston to rural India, from South Africa to northern Norway. Activities in Fab Labs range from technological empowerment to peer-to-peer learning and community action. The local community has the technical expertise required to create a Fab Lab, so that people and projects can be included across social and economic lines.

1.2 INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS STORIES

Corrosion has been empowered by technology at the grassroots level, with Fab Labs enabling education, problem-solving, and job creation. In South Africa, for example, in Pabal, India, the pedal power generators developed for off-grid, rural applications are now being manufactured by a private company.

RECRUITMENT AND LINKS

For a full list of laboratories and their contacts, please visit http://fab.cba.mit.edu/about/labs/.

SUCCESS STORIES

The pedagogical role of Fab Labs involves community and local expertise in design and fabrication. The same model has been successfully transposed to over 35 different countries, embraced by local communities and adapted to serve their specific needs. Empowering communities through technology, they have complemented public services by serving as educational facilities and business incubators.

1.3 GOVERNANCE

Fab Labs are a global network of local labs, enabling invention by providing access to tools of digital fabrication. The same model has been successfully transposed to over 35 different countries, embraced by local communities and adapted to serve their specific needs. Empowering communities through technology, they have complemented public services by serving as educational facilities and business incubators.

CONCLUSION

Fab Labs enable local schools and small-scale high-tech companies to address local problems. Communities have been able to fabricate other Fab Labs.

CRISIS DE LOS MEXICANOS

For more information, please visit http://www.vigyanashram.com.

www.www.vigyanashram.com

1. Pedal power generator developed in Pabal, India.

24 communities in which Fab Labs have been established.

35 countries spanning the world in which Fab Labs have been established.


CREASE
In many instances, Fab Labs serve as educational facilities, often providing services that stretched public funding cannot.

Fab Labs share core capabilities, so that people and projects can be shared across them.

129
Fab Labs in operation as of May 2012

50,000
Cost to equip one Fab Lab

Fab Labs share core capabilities, so that people and projects can be shared across them.

2-6.
Fab labs across the world (Sekondi-Takoradi, Boston, Jalalabad, Pabal, Soshanguve)

9-11.
Fab Lab components in action

WORLDWIDE

Unleashing local capacity through technology and training

FAB LABS:
DEMOCRATIZING
DIGITAL
FABRICATION

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