



ICT education at junior secondary level

How highly do students rate their ability in ICT, what are their teachers' expectations and how positive are young people about studying ICT at junior secondary level?

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, about 14% of jobs might be replaced by automation in future so enhancing students' abilities in information and communication technologies (ICT) is important for careers.

This study asked for views on the value and effectiveness of current ICT education in Hong Kong, the ways in which schools implement such education and the coverage of the curriculum.

Findings show that ICT education at junior secondary level is thought to play an important role in developing problem-solving skills and the ability to adopt ICT tools both in learning and daily life thereafter. It can also enable enhanced information literacy and life-long learning.



by Rudy and Peter Skitterians

Key points from respondents

- 99% of teachers expect students to use ICT tools for learning. 96% of teachers expect students to be able to use ICT tools in daily life.
- There is a significant difference between teachers' and students' evaluation of ability in 9 out of 11 areas of ICT listed by the survey.
- The majority of students claim to only recognize the names of ICT tools or simple operation procedures.
- ICT teachers say their two major challenges are keeping up with ICT developments for curriculum review purposes (53.5%) and not having enough lesson time (50.5%).
- Students say that schools allocate 1.96 periods to ICT lessons on average per week, matching the government's recommended level.
- Students prefer taught information-based lectures to participation-based project or presentation work in ICT.
- Students think ICT is less important than other subjects, differing significantly from teachers.

Comments from Youth I.D.E.A.S. think tank members

Derren Lam and Silver Ng "We recommend that the Curriculum Development Council strengthens ICT education at junior secondary level by requiring schools to allocate at least 5% or 2 periods per week to it."

Daneil Cheung "Information overload is common in the cyber world so it is important to equip students with the ability to verify the authenticity of online information and to use it in an ethical manner. Therefore, we recommend the introduction of information literacy as compulsory content of the ICT curriculum with at least 10% of ICT lesson time dedicated to it."

Dickson Kwok "The Government is giving subsidies up to HK\$1 million to schools in the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme. We suggest schools use this to redress the current limitations. Possible ways include organizing advanced lessons for students talented in ICT and introducing external partners to practise innovative teaching methods including experiential learning."

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Respondents 590 HKFYG secondary students and 101 ICT teachers

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