

CDI Campinas

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What is CDI Campinas?

The Committee for the Democratization of Information Technology of Campinas – (CDI Campinas) is a non-profit and non-government organization (NGO).

Since 2000, in collaboration with other regional CDI's in Brazil and abroad, it has developed the pioneering work of digital inclusion aiming at achieving social inclusion.

Internationally acclaimed by organizations such as the UN, UNESCO and IDB, CDI Campinas creates and monitors Technology and Civic Engagement Schools. The schools strive to stimulate active participation in society and in entrepreneurship in underprivileged segments of society.

We believe that new technologies open avenues of employment and income generation. They also allow these people to access information sources and spaces of social interaction that can help them understand and address their problems effectively.

See here [how you can contribute](#).

Mission	To promote social inclusion of underprivileged groups through the use of Information and Communication Technologies as a tool for building active citizenship.
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solidarity• Cooperation• Efficiency• Transparency• Co-responsibility• Innovation• Equality• Excellence
Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology as a means, not as an end• Sustainability and self-managed entities• Pro-active community• Partnerships with entities based on projects• Action ruled in pedagogical proposal• Participatory performance of the entities• Monitoring and evaluation of the work

What is digital inclusion?

Digital Inclusion is to human development through the democratization of the access to new information and communication technologies (ICTs). The right to information and communication should be seen as essential basis for social inclusion, effective citizen participation and deepening democracy. However, access to technology alone is not synonymous with digital inclusion, as well as access to information does not represent acquisition of knowledge.

Delivering digital inclusion is how to use ICT to understand the world and participate actively and positively in society. Accordingly assume centrality promotion of socio-educational practices that allow the acquisition of skills to a critical thinking about technology and its relationship with a company and more just and equal.

What is the project?

CDI Campinas invests in the ability of low-income communities, particularly young people, so that they turn the path of their life towards entrepreneurship and creative ownership of the new ICTs.

Upon acquiring new knowledge tools, educators and students, as they qualify professionally can carry a re-vision of their world, redirecting their own path and operating changes in their reality.

Students are encouraged by educators – who also belong to the community – to develop a project that involves a process of reflection and action on their issues of interest. In this context, the group has ownership of the technology and can actively decide when, how and for what use it can be used. Information technology is a tool for this process, in which the subject is the community itself.

The TCES Model

While they are mainly located in underprivileged communities, Technology and Civic Engagement Schools (TCES) can also be found in certain public institutions and private companies.

When opening a school, CDI Campinas provides the methodology for conducting classes, training of teachers, coordinators and technicians; specific curricula to meet their demands, computer equipment, teacher monitoring and advice on managing the TCES.

The school, in turn, needs to have adequate space to house 8 to 12 computers, and rely on alternatives that ensure their sustainability. Often, the community group that has implemented the project is guided to seek the support of partner institutions to help them with their financial and operational viability.

TCES can even charge a small monthly fee that help ensure their sustainability and pay educators, but they must also have provisions for students who cannot afford to pay, by allowing them to do volunteer work instead.

The community group thus becomes responsible for the management of the project, the maintenance of the school, selection of students and induction of educators from the community, after being trained in the methodology of teaching.

Political Pedagogical Proposal

The concepts defined by the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire served as a reference for the formulation of CDI's proposal. Like Freire, the organization believes that real education should be geared towards awareness and the transformation of society, aiming to build a world more brotherly and fair. In summary, the main objectives of the Proposal of Political-Pedagogical IDUs are:

1. Providing quality training for the use and ownership ICTs by communities;
2. Fostering a process of awareness of individuals and their reflection on the society and its aspects;
3. Encourage the creation of a physical space for discussion, participation and community action;
4. Enabling the construction of knowledge, so that individuals and communities exercise their citizen rights and ensure their social, political and economic development.

Teams from CDI Campinas work with educators, coordinators and technicians in assembling and maintaining computers housed at the TCES. And also help strengthen them through lectures, discussions, workshops and training. The idea is by making them better aware of the reality in which they live these agents can motivate their communities to engage in actions to transform society.

It is expected that, with time, students will be able to make a critical reading of the world, by linking it with the economic, political and cultural realities of the place in which they live. Several instruments are used for this purpose, such as debates, analysis of historical facts, statistics, text of newspapers, books, poetry, music, search the Internet and interviews in the community.

Our numbers

Active schools in 2010	38
Students	29.554 in ten years (around 4.000 per year)
Trained social educators	1.152 in ten years (around 120 per year)
Recycled computers	800 (400 currently in use)
Promoted events	9 Meetings of Citizenship, integrating all students 10 Digital Inclusion Week

Ongoing challenges

We understand that it is important to keep the students up to date to available technologies. Beyond maintaining the quality education in the active schools, our current efforts are focused on:

- Applying social media to promote social mobilization
- Proposing technical and social solutions to deal with electronic trash
- Intensifying the use of Open Source software.

How you can contribute

CDI Campinas has a variety of projects that are currently being implemented. You can directly contribute to either in cash or kind or by volunteering at our organization.

Promoting CDI Campinas to companies, friends and employees is also a way to help us finding new sponsors or partners.

For more information:

Email us: [**helena@cdicampinas.org.br**](mailto:helena@cdicampinas.org.br)

Call us: +55(19)3273.0626

Visit our website: [**www.cdicampinas.org.br**](http://www.cdicampinas.org.br)

Your contribution can go a long way in transforming the lives of our students and help us lessen the digital divide.