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KEY WORD : PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT / COMPUTER CLASSROOMS / ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

KULLAYANEE CHITWIRIYA : A STUDY OF PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF COMPUTER CLASSROOMS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF PRIVATE EDUCATION: ASST. PROF. ONJAREE NATAKUATOONG, Ph.D., 229 pp. ISBN 974-635-144-3

The purpose of this study were to survey a physical environment of computer classrooms in elementary schools under the Jurisdiction of the Office of Private Education and to study the opinions of experts specializing in computer utilization in instruction. The population used were sixty computer classrooms in elementary schools under the Jurisdiction of the Office of Private Education in Bangkok Metropolis and the samples consisted of nineteen experts. The methodology used were the survey and the Delphi technique. The data were collected by survey instrument and three rounds of Delphi instruments regarding fourteen physical environment factors. The results indicated that :

1. Computer classrooms in elementary schools under the Jurisdiction of the Office of Private Education mostly: were level carpet floor, flat concrete wall and ceiling, rectangle classroom size; consisted of one classroom with 21-25 computers, Stand Alone system with harddisk, PC with VGA monitor, mouse, CD-ROM drive, harddisk, 24 dotmetrix printer; had 2 students per workstation, computer table with stable chair, whiteboard, electrical system separated from other classrooms and controlled separately for area from in front of the room, no power surge unit but having amplifier, air-conditioner, double room lock, and installed the virus-protection program.

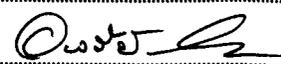
2. Penelists concensus was obtained for 40 of the original 105 Delphi items. A computer classroom in elementary schools should be level floor using tile and classroom size should be 8 x10 metre with twenty-five workstations. Microcomputers should be placed in rows facing the front of the room; each workstation consisted of PC with mouse, CD-ROM drive and 3.5 diskdrive and connected by LAN. Numbers of students per workstation should be 2:1 or 1:1; work table designed for single computer with keyboard and space for notebook; chair should be stable with backrest. Instructional media should include charts showing hardware and peripheral devices, worksheet, whiteboard, TV monitor, overhead projector LCD projector and bulletin board. Power for equipment should be controlled by separate switch located in the corner of the room. All wiring and electrical outlets should be in the floor or on the wall. Wireless microphone or microphone with speakers, hanging air-conditioning, room lock, fire-extinguisher, power surge unit, fire alarm and virus protection program should be installed. Students should study how to protect virus computer.

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