

RURAL INTERNET KIOSKS

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LEAD

To chat with your friends,
and on the way learn a few things you want to know.
Download music, or to apply for a job.
That's the promise of newly introduced internet kiosks in rural Kenya.
Although fiber optic connection is being rolled out in the cities,
many villages up country are still not connected at all.
Only ten per cent of the country has electricity,
and computer penetration is even lower at 3 per cent.
The internet kiosks have to help that situation,
and are supposed to open a world of opportunities.

BETA LENGTH 1'22

This boy is new on the internet...
and he is already browsing for information on his hobby.

QUOTE

Here I am looking for ways to find music.
I use this for music.

This kiosk is in a small village on the Kenyan coast.
It runs on solar power, and has a cheap satellite internet connection.
Inside there are three computer terminals,
and despite its short existence
the kiosk is already popular among the youth.

QUOTE FAITH KIMANGA owner

The turn-out is very good.
Every day more people are coming since we started.

The idea is that people here will use the internet for fun.
To look for useful information, or to search for jobs.
But so far the youths are attending popular social networks.

QUOTE

I'm trying to open an account on Facebook.
So I can reach my friends.

The 7,500 US Dollar kiosk is introduced by the American organization Voices of Africa.
Crystal Kigoni is the director.
She believes people will become curious for more.
So there is a teacher in the kiosk to assist.

QUOTE CRYSTAL KIGONI, founder Voices of Africa

That teacher is able to figure out what the next step in the person's learning process is,
and then move them in that direction.

For less than a cent per minute, it is affordable for most people.
More kiosks in Kenya are planned,
and if successful other countries in Africa will follow.