OLPC XO Laptop

The OLPC XO Laptop is an inclusive design that tackles the educational gap caused by poverty. It was presented by Fuse Project in collaboration with the One Laptop Per Child foundation in 2008, targeted towards underprivileged children.

OLPC was a non-profit organisation that originated in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2005. They advocated the importance of education in initiating social transformation. Hence, their technology products promoted inclusivity and equality of experience, giving all children a chance to develop responsibility and maturity.

Dubbed the '$100 laptop', the OLPC XO laptop prioritises the impoverished child. With electricity supply being a struggle in some developing nations, the laptop was initially designed to be powered by hand crank. This proved too tiring, and soon after laptops were shipped with power adapters. In terms of format, it was small and lightweight for easy transport, yet robust enough to last and withstand damage from external sources. It also had a zoomorphic personality with bunny ears and bright colours to be desirable for a child. It was crucial that the child felt dignified and proud to own the device.

Due to the commercial viability of the cheap laptop, over 3 million OLPC XO laptops were sold. It also won many awards when launched including; Red Dot, GOOD Design Award, and the IDSA Design of the Decade. However, the product ultimately failed as OLPC didn't provide tech support for the machines, or training in how to incorporate them into education. Sales slowly decreased as competitors took over.

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