

## **THE SOLAR-POWERED ELECTRONIC BOOKS**

William Godwin once said, “He that loves reading has everything within his reach.” Though this may be true, what happens when one cannot access reading material due to circumstances? What happens when one is not even given the chance to find out whether he/she loves reading? Is it really fair that they miss out on information that may be vital to them? I do realise that not everything in life is fair, but to one under such circumstances as these, a solar-powered book requiring no Wi-Fi or internet connection would prove beneficial.

This device, the solar-powered electronic book will contain pre-downloaded and saved books from other devices. The books in the device will be in whatever field relevant to the particular targeted users. They will contain books varying on anything, from agriculture to fishing, mechanics, construction, novels, children’s books and even the school curriculum.

For instance, for a farmer, the field of books will be in agriculture. They will mainly be about the best crops to plant under their environmental conditions depending on the soil type, how to get the best quality of produce they can, what type and the amount of fertilizer to use and generally educate them on how to maximize on their land use.

All that will be required of the user is to download the books they desire upon acquisition of the device and, though this is not a must, they may occasionally download others and erase some if they so wish and are within reach of an external drive such as a flash disk or a laptop or any other computers. The books, however, will not be downloadable from the internet as the device will not be internet enabled.

Though several solar-powered research devices at the moment, what I came to realise is that very few take into account that apart from them being environmental friendly, the people who would like to gain most from them are those living in remote areas who cannot access cable electricity, and thus most likely cannot also access Wi-Fi and internet connection. Therefore, through this device, those, particularly in rural areas can get the education they desire from the several books on the device.

The desired capacity of books to be held in the device is at least one hundred books. This is so as to provide sufficient variety of books to the user. The devices should be programmable to a variety of languages to enable even those who are not fluent in English or other popular languages like German, French, Spanish and Chinese to still be able to use them, after all, the device aims at benefiting all.

The batteries in the device will be chargeable by solar power. The energy will only be needed when downloading books from other devices, opening files and turning pages.

It is my belief that this device will benefit many. How many today do not know or reach their full potential in life simply because of lack of resources? Well, this device targets to reduce the number of such.

Just as books benefitted Ray Bradbury, so do I believe that through this device, they can do so for many others. Quoted from his own words, "I spent three days a year for ten years educating myself in the public library and it's better than college. People should educate themselves-you can get a complete education for no money. At the end of ten years I had read every book in the library and I'd written a thousand stories... Libraries raised me...I believe in libraries because most students don't any money..." Not that college is not useful, but what happens to that person

who would wish to make a better life for themselves but cannot afford the high fees charged at education centers nowadays, particularly those of higher education. This man, Ray Bradbury, went on to become a renowned writer and achieved success through books, thus, it not being possible to locate libraries everywhere worldwide in close reach of those who may desire to read, the device will bring the books to the interested parties.

With education, people gain knowledge and information. They are thus able to gain mutual respect, enabling them to work together and thus bring great developments to regions, countries and the world at large. This also results in unity brought about by trust gained from understanding the need for people working together to bring about success in their endeavours.

And why would this device be necessary? As a wise man, John Dewey once said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." The device is a tool useful in educating people. This can be of help to many people in remote areas to better their lives and feel more in touch with the rest of the world. It can also be made use of by anyone else in the countries that the device reaches.

In conclusion, I believe that a device such as this is vital in today's world as it will aid in developments. After all, education is the movement from darkness to light, Allan Bloom.