

### **3. Are globalization influences affecting education in the country?**

Yes, but not as much as education in other countries, especially developed countries, where there has been a boost in other types of education, such as technical education. However, globalization has created new demands in education; for example, ESL programs. Since the signing of free trade agreements with the U.S, there has been an increasing need for the ability to speak English as a foreign language.

Call centers have opened in Costa Rica, and there is a growing need to prepare students in English and technologies. Some schools offer combined degrees; for example, English IT. The government has started putting some money into these programs.

Another impact globalization has had is the possibility of joining efforts with other sectors of society, for example with the private sector. The Ministry of Public Education has joined with Intel in Costa Rica to create programs to provide technological training to teachers. There has been some synergy between the Ministry of Education and the private sector and other organizations, such as the Omar Dengo Foundation ([fod.org](http://fod.org)). This foundation has been able to bring technology to the classrooms in Costa Rica, as well as the training required for teachers and students. This Foundation has also contributed to the 'tele-secondario' project.

Costa Ricans have gone from exporting cocoa, bananas, and coffee to exporting microchips. With globalization, attention has shifted to a more Capitalist way of thinking. Neo-liberalization is affecting the population. In order to survive, Costa Ricans must jump on the bandwagon and learn the skills required by liberal society.

Biodiversity is a positive aspect of globalization. Schools are trying to make students aware of new concept of biodiversity and the role it plays in the national economy.