



THE FIRST CHEPs CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP

“Education for community development”

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LUQMAN MBATIA MWINYI
Newbreed Academy of Digital Arts

INTRODUCTION

COMPUTER TRAINING AS A MEANS TO COMBAT
SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN THE YOUTH OF
KAWANGWARE SLUMS

BACKGROUND

Kawangware is a slum area based in Nairobi`s Dagoretti constituency. Majority are the young who are faced by various problems that affect the community. Starting from a large number of unemployed youths engaging in different unworthy activities such as drug abuse, crime, prostitution among others. This is as a result of poor education level, Peer pressure, lack of motivation and poverty. The children in the community are affected by these vices leading to poor performance in their academic performance. Making it a cycle whereby when these youth grow up they fall in the same position their elders are in.

With this in mind, I felt the need to try and help these children by creating an innovation of giving basic computer lessons. My main goal was to create a revolution that will eliminate this cycle of negativity and create a new positive cycle that will bring effect to the Kawangware community.

METHODOLOGY

I started a home based learning facility that gave the basic computer knowledge with my desktop computer. I identified the children in the community prioritizing the most affected and convinced them to enroll for the class. I managed to get five children that I was determined to take to the end of the classes. The main terms of the classes were discipline and performance for a better child. The classes were scheduled every weekend for 2 hours a day. The curriculum of the classes included; Introduction to computers, computer hardware, computer software (Operating system and Microsoft office packages).

RESULTS

Having run the project for a month and a half the classes came to a conclusion. I started with five students and ended the classes with only three students. The 2 students dropped out due to lack of focus and determination of which i tried to motivate them but to no avail.

The three students managed to understand 80% of the whole course. I had not given them an end course exam but tested them in every class we had and gauged them accordingly. We had a great time but also had a few challenges during the classes. Some of them were lack of enough computers to work with, proper space to work in, proper concentration as the main problems and dropping out of students.

DISCUSSION

During the course the students were passionate and so eager to learn more and more but they had to share a single computer during classes. But I am sure that if there are is a good environment to learn from I can assure a big outcome from the students.

CONCLUSION

Creating a community based resource centre will help in this revolution where the community will have a new positive cycle that will change the community to a new platform. This resource centre will be a platform where other than computer basics will be taught but also a hub where innovations will be created.