

## Kibera Smart ~School

The joy of sharing whatever God puts in our hands to make life better for others is very edifying. I live in Nyayo Estate in the neighbourhood of Kibera Slums. Strangely, I have a BIG family here.

A road and a wall separate my house and the sprawling slums. Using my savings from a consultancy I did, I have turned my living room and one other bed room (which I do not use) into a Cyber School of sorts. These children from the slums will get free afterschool education using 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills.



I bought a Microsoft Multipoint Sever, created 5 workstations (I already have furniture for 20 work stations).

The multipoint server has in it Eureka eContent <http://www.designmate.com> with over 3D 4000 animations and simulations in Maths Biology Chemistry and Physics (which I “stole” from my place of work) Collins Advanced English Dictionary Collins COBUILD Advanced Dictionary (Interactive CD-ROM - New edition 2009) and Microsoft digital literacy curriculum.

I intend (with some help- may be yours) to create 20 workstations and buy another projector for the other room.

I just couldn't just seem to manage the numbers this X-Mass season. The children come to my house as early as 8.00 am. My house was usually jam packed with the slums kids from all grades. Word is spreading like a bushfire about a new 'School with a new kind of way of teaching'.

We do not teach. Once the kids have been told how to click, they kind of jump into the deep end of technology and manage to swim. Most of the time, it is a Learning from Each Other scenario

Sustainability? I don't know! This was a Christmas gift. It looks like they will definitely push me out of the house! The kids are Great Company. Their desire to learn and learn is it is very gratifying. I couldn't trade that for anything.



I like the way the whole thing is evolving. When I asked them to name the place, there were lots of suggestions like Cyber~ School, Techschool and Smart ~School. They settled for the latter. So my house has become a **Kibera Smart ~School** of sorts! The thing is unregistered, free and in my living room and guest bedroom which is not in use. But I am confident it will grow, have dedicated friends and well wishers.

They are sweet, inquisitive collaborate a lot and sometimes animatedly discuss various topics and Use Technology! We do not have internet (we cannot afford this at the moment since I am out of a job) it is so tempting to charge them, but they are poor and some of their parents can hardly afford it.

One **RULE** here is that they have to be clean and look smart. Only the girls are allowed to use our shared toilet well. This they have agreed to without question. They are in charge and will not hesitate to send back home one who is dirty and unkempt.

As 2010 approached its end, teachers around the world gripped their red pens to evaluate students' progress. They went through the systematic process of determining the extent to which their daily lessons had been absorbed and understood.

Instead of focusing on answers and results, I grappled with many questions.

1. Can teaching and learning only be measured in red ink?
2. Are Grades the absolute indicators of students' abilities and potential?
3. What can I do to make a permanent mark in the lives of the Kids in the slums

The idea here is not to make teachers put away their red pens for a day to clean up garbage. We are not giving kids masks and rubber gloves to clean the environment.



We want to educate them on the need to always have a clean and maintain a clean environment .Everyone gets of education of some sort. It's the quality that makes the difference!

I realise now that I unknowingly jumped in the deep end.I was just helping these kids use technology fill in the gap left by formal schools here. If you have those earphones, education soft ware's you are not using and any low energy technology stuff like flip cameras you are keeping in the shelves, they will make a BIG difference. The kids have the potential to prepare creative simulations, media projects.

At the moment we have no curriculum, so I hope we are promoting holistic learning.

I hope we are helping them with develop critical and creative thinking skills and encourage them to improve their communication skills.

I hope their proficiency in the use of technology in learning increases by the day as they progress at their own pace since they have varying capabilities, interests, and needs.

May be they will integrate knowledge, skills, and values and gain access to quality learning and knowledge skills for the information



I am thinking of using Conventional media in an integrated manner with high-technology media, for example, computer-based teaching-learning materials.

I am all eyes and ears for Modules for computer assisted interaction, Interactive story books, Simulation games, Virtual reality system software, Individual self-paced learning modules ,Problem solving computer games and Artificial Intelligence modules.

May this project sufficiently touch you to volunteer your time, help in kind, expertise, time or cash in making this happen.  
Feel most welcome!