

A learning experience is any experience you learn from. It can take place in school, on the job, in a museum, at home, or in the outdoors. It can be in the real world, a virtual environment, or a combination of both. Therefore, to put things into perspective, after completing my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), I did well and met the university entry grade. I, therefore, applied for scholarship opportunities for two years, but unfortunately, I did not get any. I almost gave up because most of my classmates were already enrolled at various universities. In my third year without scholarship certainty, I applied for about eight scholarships. Luckily, I was awarded two-one of which was the Mastercard Foundation Scholarship. I was very happy. The scholarship helped me pay rent, take care of my parents, and cover my health insurance. Most importantly, I will soon graduate with a degree in Entrepreneurial Leadership where I aim to apply the knowledge and skills learned to become a job creator. This experience reminds me that great leaders often endure suffering and hardship, but they never give up.

Similarly, a leadership theory describes how and why certain individuals become leaders. The focus is on the characteristics and behaviors that people can adopt to enhance their leadership ability. Therefore, the leadership theory that resonates well with me throughout my learning journey is transformational leadership theory, which encompasses motivating others to achieve exceptional results by inspiring them to go beyond their own self-interest. One instance where I applied this theory was during the DAFI scholarship orientation session. My mission is centered around education, where I look for post-secondary scholarship opportunities and help refugee students with technical application support. During that orientation session, I managed to talk to the applicants, mentored them and took them through the interview process. In the end, when scholarship results were released, about five of them were considered. They are currently pursuing their studies in different Kenyan universities.

Additionally, evaluating a learning journey refers to the process of assessing learning effectiveness in achieving learning outcomes, ensuring learner engagement, and improving future learning experiences. That being said, I evaluate my learning journey by reflecting on how I responded to issues around me, and how my actions have changed over time as well as how feedback from my peers has influenced my personal and professional growth. Throughout my educational journey at ALU, I used peer feedback and facilitator's insights to assess my development. This type of reflection was instrumental in helping me identify my weaknesses and strengths.

In terms of skills transformation, I have greatly improved in team collaboration, time management, multitasking and prioritization. For example, in my trimester seven summatives, I had to create a to-do list for the summatives to ensure no task was overlooked. On the other hand, my knowledge has deepened around leadership theories such as transformational leadership which I applied to mentor my fellow refugee youths. Furthermore, my mindset has shifted from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. “By embracing prompts such as, ‘how can we create change for our community together?’, I now see leadership not just as a title but rather a process of empowering others.”

Moreover, my mission is centered around ensuring every refugee has access to post-secondary education so they become self-reliant and break the cycle of poverty. Thus, every artefact in this portfolio reflects my goal, whether it involved conducting mentorship programs or creating scholarship opportunity hubs such as Let’s Educate Kakuma. Each activity demonstrated my leadership skills and capabilities. Therefore, after my graduation, I aim to work with NGOs focused on refugee education, and apply the lessons learned throughout my program to lead projects that scale educational impact in underserved communities.

In summary, my learning journey and experiences have been shaped by perseverance and transformational leadership and deepened commitment to educational equity for underserved communities such as the refugees.