

MY ARTEFACT:

THIS ARTEFACT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PRESENTATION OUTLINING A NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOCUSED ON TEACHING ABACUS MENTAL MATH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS RWANDA. THE GOAL IS TO ENHANCE CREATIVE THINKING, COGNITIVE SKILLS, IMPROVE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, AND EQUIP STUDENTS WITH ESSENTIAL SKILLS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN FUTURE

PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE ARTEFACT

1.SKILLS GAP IN EDUCATION:

Problem: Many Rwandan students lack essential cognitive and mathematical skills due to traditional teaching methods and limited resources.

Solution: The Abacus program enhances cognitive development and math proficiency through interactive and engaging mental math exercises. This helps bridge the skills gap, preparing students for more advanced studies and become flexible thinking.

2.YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT:

Problem: The high youth unemployment rate in Rwanda, exacerbated by a lack of relevant skills at their education background and competitive job market.

Solution: By improving cognitive and analytical skills from a young age, So our program aims to produce more capable and versatile individuals who are better prepared for the job market. Enhanced cognitive abilities and problem-solving skills can lead to higher employability and adaptability in various professions.

3.EDUCATIONAL INEFFICIENCIES:

Problem: Traditional educational methods are not sufficiently engaging or effective in improving academic performance where people have skills mismatch and low capability of job requirement.

Solution: The Abacus program introduces an innovative and effective method of learning that can significantly boost students' interest and performance in mathematics, leading to overall academic improvement.

INFLUENCE ON MY GCGOS

Education: This artefact directly contributes to my GCGO of Education because it provide a high-quality, innovative learning tool that can be integrated into the Rwandan education system. The focus on cognitive skills and mental math aligns with the goal of improving educational outcomes.

Job Creation: By equipping students with essential skills, the program indirectly supports my GCGO of Job Creation. Because Well-educated individuals with strong cognitive and problem-solving skills are more likely to secure employment due to high level of competence and contribute positively to the economy.

HOW MY ARTEFACT WILL DEVELOP MY MISSION:

The Abacus program's development emphasized a holistic education approach, addressing academic, cognitive, and emotional growth. Its success highlighted the value of innovative teaching methods and reinforced the importance of community and stakeholder engagement. This experience will guide my mission to explore creative educational solutions and foster collaboration for sustainable education reform and youth empowerment in Rwanda.

HOW IT CONTRIBUTED TO MY INTERNSHIP:

- 1. **Practical Experience:** Developing and implementing the Abacus program during my internship at Shenmo Rwanda provided hands-on experience in curriculum design, classroom management, and educational innovation.
- 2. **Public Speaking:** Presenting the program to various stakeholders and teaching in classrooms enhanced my public speaking and presentation skills.
- 3. **Networking:** Collaborating with educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders expanded my professional network, providing valuable connections for future

References

- Top 10 Significant Benefits of Abacus for Kids | Expert Opinion. (2021).
 K8 School. Retrieved June 27, 2022, from https://k8school.com/benefits-of-abacus-for-kids/.
- Rwanda's poor education empowers the unemployment rate. (2019).
 Umusingi. Retrieved July 23, 2024, from https://www.umusingi.org/fr/archives/17969.

SOURCES

Dweck, C. S. (2006). Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. Random House.

This book provides insights into the importance of fostering a growth mindset in educational settings, which is relevant to cognitive and emotional development.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (2018). Education at a Glance 2018: OECD Indicators. OECD Publishing.

This report offers comprehensive data on educational outcomes and the importance of innovative teaching methods.

World Bank. (2020). World Development Report 2020: Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains

This report includes data on the role of education in economic development, emphasizing the need for holistic approaches in educational reform.

WHO. (2014). Mental Health: A State of Well-being. World Health Organization.

Provides information on the importance of mental health in overall well-being, relevant to the emotional development aspect of your program.

Rwanda Ministry of Education. (2021). Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Offers insights into current educational policies and strategies in Rwanda, supporting the need for community and stakeholder engagement.

National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). (2021). Rwanda Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2020. Provides data on unemployment rates and skills mismatch among Rwandan youth, emphasizing the importance of educational programs like the Abacus initiative.