

## **PROBLEM: POOR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN AFRICA**

**Why this problem matters?**

**Education plays a key role in every country as it is crucial for economic growth and development, promotes gender equality and fosters critical thinking bringing about social stability and democracy. Education also play a vital role in poverty alleviation and is closely linked to health outcomes.**



## IMPACT OF THIS PROBLEM

I know of a 12-year-old girl who lives in a rural village in Sub-Saharan Africa. She comes from a poor family where education is seen as a luxury they cannot afford. Due to the lack of resources and opportunities, she has limited access to quality education. Without access to quality education, her dreams and aspirations remain unfulfilled and her future prospects are also heavily affected by the poor education system.

The lack of comprehensive sexual education and awareness also puts her at the her at risk of early marriage and teenage pregnancy.



## Web Research #1

According to UNESCO, as of 2020, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest out-of-school rate globally, with about 53% of children of primary school age (about 97 million) not enrolled in school.

**Source:** UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2020



## Web Research #2

The quality of education in Africa is a concern. The World Bank reports that around 90% of children in low-income countries in Africa are unable to read a simple sentence by the time they complete primary school.

**Source:** World Bank, "World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise".



## Web Research #3

The shortage of qualified teachers is a significant challenge. UNESCO estimates that sub-Saharan Africa needs an additional 17 million primary school teachers by 2030 to achieve universal primary education.

**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, "Facts and Figures: Teachers and Education Personnel".





## Using McKinsey Problem Framework:

1. **What is the problem?** Poor educational systems in Africa
2. **Where and when does the problem occur?** The problem occurs throughout Africa, across different countries and regions. It is a long-standing issue that has persisted over time.
3. **Who is affected?** Everyone is affected such as students, families, communities e.t.c
4. **What will make a solution successful?** Adequate investment in education, teacher training and support, inclusive and equitable education.
5. **What are the boundaries of this problem?** Limited resources, socio-economic factors (poverty, inequality) and cultural factors
6. **Who or what can stop you from implementing the solution?** Corruption, lack of political will, mismanagement, conflicts and instability.

## POSSIBLE WAYS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM #1

### **Mobile Learning Initiative:**

**Specific:** Launch a mobile learning initiative to provide accessible and quality education to underserved areas.

**Measurable:** Aim to reach up to 500 Million students with educational content and track their progress through assessments.

**Achievable:** Collaborate with mobile network providers and educational organizations to develop mobile learning platforms and ensure affordability and connectivity.

**Relevant:** Address the lack of educational resources and infrastructure by leveraging the widespread mobile phone usage in Africa.

**Time-Bound:** Implement the initiative within a specified timeframe, such as launching pilot programs within two years.

## POSSIBLE WAYS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM #2

### Virtual Teacher Training:

**Specific:** Develop a comprehensive virtual teacher training program to enhance the skills and knowledge of educators.

**Measurable:** Train a 1 million teachers annually, evaluate their progress, and measure the impact on student outcomes.

**Achievable:** Utilize online platforms and multimedia resources to deliver training modules, allowing teachers to access materials remotely.

**Relevant:** Address the issue of insufficient teacher training and professional development opportunities in remote areas.

**Time-Bound:** Design and implement the virtual teacher training program within three years, with regular assessments and evaluations.



## POSSIBLE WAYS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM #3

### **Digital Content Creation:**

**Specific:** Establish a digital content creation initiative to develop interactive and localized educational materials.

**Measurable:** Produce 200 million digital learning resources aligned with the curriculum and measure their usage and effectiveness.

**Achievable:** Collaborate with local educators, content creators, and technology experts to develop engaging and culturally relevant educational content.

**Relevant:** Address the lack of localized and up-to-date educational resources, promoting inclusivity and relevance.

**Time-Bound:** Create and distribute the digital learning resources within a specific timeframe, such as developing a library of resources within four years.

# USER STORY FOR POSSIBLE WAYS #1

## **Mobile Learning Initiative:**

**User Story:** As a student in Africa, I want to have access to educational content on my mobile device, so I can continue learning and improve my knowledge and skills.

## **Acceptance Criteria:**

The platform should offer a diverse range of educational content, including subjects like math, science, language, and vocational skills.

The platform should provide interactive learning experiences, such as quizzes, simulations, and video lessons.

**Describe what exactly you would measure in order to see if one of your solutions was working, and how you would go about measuring it.**

**Progress Tracking:**

**Measurement:** Monitor the progress of individual students and their completion rates of lessons or modules.

**Method:** The mobile learning platform can include features that track and record student progress. This could involve implementing progress bars, badges, or level indicators to visually represent the completion status of lessons. Data on student progress can be collected and analyzed to measure engagement and completion rates.

## **Restating my WHY:**

My purpose is to create positive change by empowering underprivileged communities through improved access to quality education

## **Why one of my solution can make a difference.**

Education is a fundamental right and a key driver of development. By focusing on improving educational systems, you are tackling a critical need in Africa. Access to quality education empowers individuals, promotes social and economic progress, and contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty.

By focusing on improving educational systems, you are targeting systemic change. Educational systems involve various components, such as curriculum development, teacher training, infrastructure, and policy frameworks. By addressing these aspects, you can create lasting and sustainable improvements that benefit current and future generations.

## APPENDIX:

The educational system in Africa faces various challenges, including limited access to quality education, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient resources, and a shortage of trained teachers.

There is a severe shortage of qualified teachers in many African countries. The student-to-teacher ratio is often high, making it challenging to provide quality education. In some regions, there is a lack of incentives for teachers, resulting in low motivation and high attrition rates.



## **APPENDIX 2:**

**Target Demographic:** Students in Africa from age 5 - 20

**User persona:**

**Name:** Amina Oluwafemi

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 32

**Profession:** Primary School Teacher

**Education History:** Bachelor's degree in Education

**Annual Income:** Approximately \$8,000

**Access to Technology:** Limited (basic smartphone, limited access to computers and the internet)

**Location:** Lagos, Nigeria

**Community Engagement:** Active participant in local education initiatives

**Resource Constraints:** Limited teaching materials and technological resources

**Passion for Teaching:** Deeply passionate about providing quality education to students.



## IMAGE SOURCES

Page 2: Habitat for humanity:

<https://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/blog/2017/04/poverty-and-education-east-africa/>

Page 4: The African Exponents:

<https://www.africanexponent.com/amp/post/10399-what-are-the-main-problems-in-african-education>

Page 3: BORGEN Magazine:

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/education-in-developing-countries/>

Page 5: The world economic forum:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/06/3-steps-to-fix-education-in-africa/>

Page 13 : U.N.

<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2017-march-2018/africa-grapples-huge-disparities-education>

Page 1: Concerned Worldwide US:

<https://www.concernusa.org/story/how-does-education-affect-poverty/>