Activity Report

SCHOOL OUTREACH FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

Kano State

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Title of the Activity:
School Outreach for Digital Learning In Kano State

Date of implementation:
9th October, 12th October and 3rd November 2023

Location of the Activity:
Government Junior Secondary School Rijiyar Zaki
Gora Academy Kofar Ruwa
Rosselle Academy Burma Road Sabon Gari Kano

Implementing Partners:

Background

During the Covid 19 pandemic, many students were left without access to education during the imposed lockdown, due to the absence of out-of-classroom learning opportunities. Before the pandemic, the Nigerian education system exclusively employed face-to-face teaching methods for primary and secondary schools. Students in these levels were prohibited from possessing digital devices like phones or computers, and their use was strictly prohibited within school premises. However, when the lockdown was enforced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both educators and students found themselves grappling with the challenge of continuing the learning process amid the crisis.
In a digitalized world, the lack of access to technology and digital learning resources has created a significant educational divide among students. Many schools, particularly those in underserved areas, faced challenges in providing equal opportunities for quality education due to limited access to digital tools and resources. This digital divide affects students' ability to engage with modern learning methods and hinders their potential for academic success.
School Outreach for Digital Learning is an effort to enlighten students on the use of technology for learning. This project will prepare students for learning digitally and improve access to digital resources. School Outreach for Digital Learning involves engagement with schools and the government to ensure that all students have access to quality education outside the classroom, secure funds for upgrading digital learning infrastructure, and monitor the students on the use of the infrastructures provided.

Government Girls Junior Secondary School Rijiyar Zaki
Government Girls Junior Secondary School Rijiyar Zaki is located in the region of Kano, specifically in Rijiyar Zaki, approximately 6.8 km / 4.2 mi away from Kano's capital. Established in 2020, GGJSS emerged after the nationwide lockdown was lifted, addressing the absence of a public junior secondary school in the region. This initiative aimed to provide an educational option for female students whose parents couldn't afford private school enrollment, ensuring they wouldn't be left without access to education.

Currently, GGJSS has an enrollment of approximately 806 students across three grades, from JSS 1 to JSS 3. It stands as the sole junior secondary school in the region, drawing students from neighboring communities such as RIMI GATA, RIMI JAKARA, DORAYI, UNGUWA, DAMBARE, and JANGUZA. Setting itself apart, the school is dedicated to delivering quality education by employing qualified teachers, including NCE holders, degree holders, and even those with master's degrees.

Despite lacking a computer lab, the school recently benefited from a government intervention project focused on building additional classrooms to accommodate the growing student population. A notable achievement was the completion of one block with three classrooms in October 2023. While GGJSS relies on government support and community generosity for educational projects, the school recognizes the importance of equipping its students with digital learning skills. The aim is to ensure that students can continue learning beyond the classroom environment, fostering a commitment to enhancing education within the community.

Gora Academy, Kofar Ruwa

Situated in Kofar Ruwa 'B' behind Yan Rodi Junction along North-West University Road in Dala/Kano, Kano State, Nigeria, Gora Academy was established in September 2006. The institution is dedicated to creating an educational atmosphere that captivates and involves students, nurturing a lasting passion for learning. Despite having a computer lab, only a handful of students currently utilize online learning activities. Gora is steadfast in its commitment to enabling students to learn both in traditional classrooms and through online platforms. The school actively encourages collaboration to make this dual-learning approach a reality for all students.

Roselle Academy Kano

Roselle Academy is located at Burma Road Sabon Gari Kano, It is a Private school, established in 2009, and currently has a growing population of about 500 students across all grades. Roselle stands as a bastion of education, fostering an environment where the unique potential, talents, and gifts of its students are not only discovered but nurtured. The school is dedicated to prioritizing teaching and learning, Its ultimate aim is to cultivate a generation of self-reliant individuals. Hence the School's outreach for digital learning aligns with its vision of empowering students through technology.

Objective and Methodology

- Conduct campaigns to inform students, parents, and stakeholders about the benefits of digital learning.
- Emphasize the relevance of digital learning in today's education.
- Equip students with skills to effectively use digital tools for education.
- Conduct workshops for educators to integrate digital platforms into teaching methods.
- Encourage the use of platforms like Nigeria Learning Passport and Inspire Learning for online learning.
- Ensure all students, regardless of background, have access to high-quality resources.
- Document and share case studies highlighting the positive impacts of digital learning.
- Provide necessary resources like devices and the internet for effective engagement.
- Collaborate with institutions and tech providers for long-term impact in digital learning.

Methodology:

1. **Pre-Assessment Phase**

A survey was crafted and administered in secondary schools to assess students' awareness and utilization of online learning tools for knowledge enhancement. The collected data will serve as

a roadmap for creating a targeted training guide and customizing the materials based on students' needs and comprehension levels.

2. **School Outreach Phase**

The school outreach officially kickstarted in October 2023, The school outreach is a combination of theoretical and practical steps to learning online, Through collaborative partnerships with schools, we introduced students and teachers to digital learning platforms tailored to their needs and how they can access it. Students were introduced to the concept of Elearning; What digital learning is, what it is not, the platforms available to take online classes, the resources that are available and needed to take classes online, The sign-up process for Nigeria Leaning Passport, Inspire learning platform, and Youtube channels for online learning.

3. Post Assessment Phase

- Sustainability Plan: Following the school outreach, an endline survey was carried out to identify the primary needs and obstacles related to online learning among secondary school students in Kano. This data will serve as a pivotal resource for advocating support and securing funding from educational stakeholders. We aim to provide schools and students with the necessary digital learning infrastructure. Additionally, we plan to collaborate with schools and the Ministry of Education to ensure the project's sustainability.

- Monitoring and Evaluation: The campaign's impact and effectiveness were continuously monitored and evaluated to measure the success of the advocacy efforts.

Activity and Achievement

The School Outreach for Digital Learning occurred in two distinct phases. Initially, two visits were made to each selected school. The first involved conducting surveys and interviews among students to assess their specific needs. Subsequently, the school outreach encompassed training sessions for both teachers and students. This comprehensive training aimed to equip them with the essential skills required for successful e-learning practices.

GJSS Rijiyar Zaki: The GJSS Rijiyar Zaki outreach took place at the school premises on October 9th, 2023. With the school principal's support, the team engaged 164 female students aged between 13 and 15, spanning from JSS 1 to JSS 3. Using a training deck developed by the team, they showcased visual representations of e-learning concepts. The session introduced students to e-learning, its diverse methods, and practical steps for registering on learning platforms. During the training, language emerged as a challenge, as many students struggled with unfamiliar e-learning terms. To address this, the team translated the classes into Hausa

language, offering practical examples to simplify and enhance the learning experience for the students.

Gora Academy: The Gora Academy Outreach took place on October 12th, 2023, right within the school premises during regular school hours. Involving 120 students from JSS 1 to JSS 3, the session was held in the school hall and lasted for three hours. The session commenced with a lecture on E-learning, led by the Communications Lead from BCAI. Following this lecture, a practical demonstration guided the students through the steps of registering and enrolling in online classes, detailing the necessary resources and procedures. The session concluded with students participating in end-line surveys to gather their feedback.

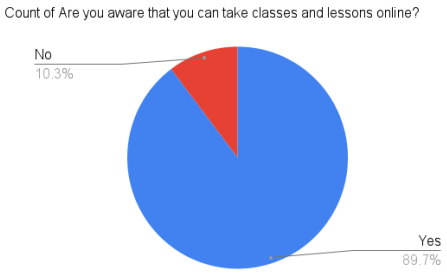
Roselle Academy: Took place on 3rd November 2023, in the school halls, 116 students from Jss 1 to JSS 3 participated in the training. Roselle Academy is located at Burma Road, Sabon Gari, Fagge LGA Kano. Founded in 2009, the school is known for its excellence. With approval from the school authorities, the session lasted for 2 hours 30 minutes, comprising of a lecture phase, practical phase and Q and A session. The session concluded with students participating in end-line surveys to gather their feedback.

Result from Data Collection

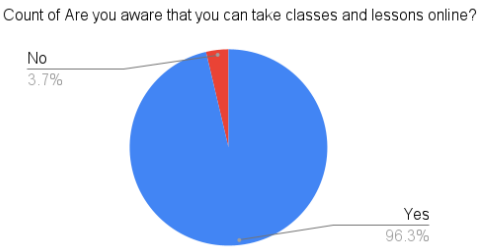
About 400 students and 10 teachers participated in the training, while 301 students took the pre and post-survey to ascertain the level of knowledge and understanding of digital learning before and after the intervention

Here are the results

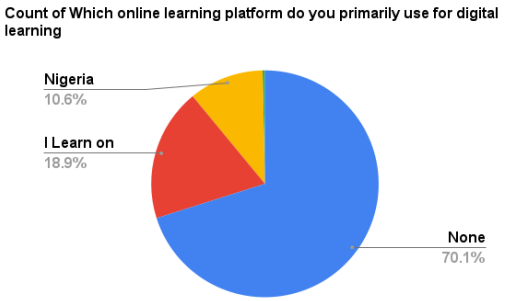
Before training

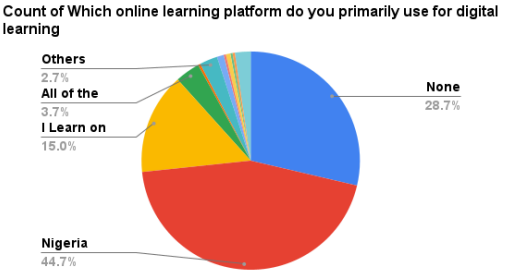


After the training

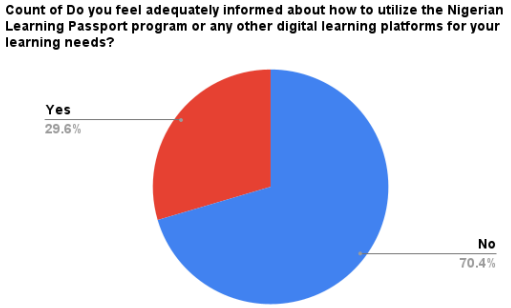


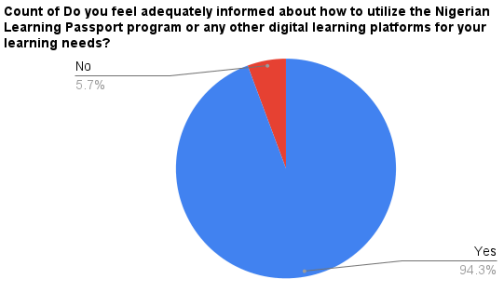
From the data above, it showed that 89.7% of the students were aware that they could take classes online, after the training, the number increased to 96.3%.





The data above showed that before the training 70.1% of the students had never used any platform to take classes online, but after the training, students started exploring different platforms, with only 28.7% of students reporting that they had not tried using any platform due to reasons such as unavailability of device and internet connections.





The chart above showed that only 29.6% of students were adequately informed about utilising The Nigeria Learning Passport and other online learning platforms to take classes online, before the training. But we see an increase after the school outreach, 94.3% of students understand how to register and sign up for classes using various platforms available to them. About 70% increase.

Success Stories and Testimonials:

Principal GGJSS

" As the principal of GJSS, I would say that this training is impactful, considering the increasing number of our students, sometimes our staff are usually so occupied with work, that they do not meet up with the curriculum before the end of the session, also due to the growing number of students and limited classrooms, Our teachers may not be able to give students full attention, so with this training on online learning, I believe my students can catch up on missed lessons during their convenient time"

Student (Gora Academy)

“Before this training, I knew about online learning, but I always thought it was for university students only, I didn't know that there were platforms that accommodated our curriculums, I have learned that regardless of the class I am in, I can always find helpful learning resources online.”

Key Learning and Recommendations

Recommendations:

For scalability, BCAI can actively solicit funding, collaboration, and partnerships from donor organizations, local organizations, governments, and industry to scale the project by ensuring continuous awareness of digital learning and the provision of resources such as phones, laptops, computers, and skilled teachers for students to easily adapt to taking lessons online.

Also, more teachers should be trained, this will ensure that the project continuous, as it can be easily inculcated into learning activities.

CONCLUSION

The School Outreach for Digital Learning project is a thought-through intervention to address the educational void created by the COVID-19 pandemic among students in Kano, Nigeria. By bridging the gap between traditional classroom learning and digital education, this initiative significantly enhanced students' awareness and utilization of online learning platforms. Through targeted outreach at GGJSS Rijiyar Zaki, Gora Academy, and Roselle Academy, approximately 400 students were empowered with the knowledge and skills needed for effective digital learning. The project witnessed an encouraging shift in students' comprehension and utilization of online platforms, from a mere 29.6% pre-training to an impressive 94.3% post-training, showcasing a remarkable 70% increase. Feedback from school principals showed the project's impact in supplementing classroom education and enabling students to catch up on missed lessons, amplifying the potential for self-paced learning. Moving forward, sustained efforts in fundraising, teacher training, and partnerships are recommended for scalability and continued success in promoting digital learning opportunities for students across underserved communities.

Appendixes

Find Photo Here
Presurvey Sheet
Post Survey Sheet