

Empowering Rural Education through Technology and Community Involvement



Context/Background

The cases at Dikubu Primary School (a teacher)

- Limpopo, Mookgophong
- Children from the neighbouring informal settlement
- Many children were nurtured by grandparents, aunts and young adults
- Some children were from the neighbouring orphanage home

The cases at Bathokwa Primary School (the Departmental Head)

- Gauteng, Saulsville township
- Same situation experienced at Dikubu
- Most parents lack skills to support children's education.

Case of Dikubu Primary School

After school support intervention

- Due to lack of support at their home, I would remain after school to help needy children with school work. Some of these children would come to my home during weekends or holidays for assistance. I would also fund some of the children's extra assistance from the community teachers.

Rationale: children from such families are normally left behind as their homework would be incomplete. As a result they would lose interest in class as they do not see their importance. Some of these children could not afford to pay for extra classes.

Case of Dikubu cont...

Coordinating Sustainability Projects

- Landscaping, school gardening, waste management education, energy conservation, water conservation, school tuckshop

Rationale: Norms and standards (funds) are insufficient to assist the needs of the school. These children come from the informal settlements which have lack of sanitation. Also, I wanted to make learning authentic as this was part of the school curriculum.

Recognition and impact: we won competitions in Limpopo; Received funding from Limpopo Department of Education and Limpopo Department of Economic Development, environment and Tourism (LEDET); School improvement (kitchen, gardens, school surrounding, learner bathrooms); children's awareness of the society and would take visitors on a tour.

- Environmental committee members:

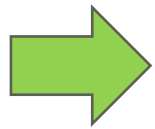
- SGB
- SMT
- LEARNERS
- EDUCATORS
- SUPPORT STAFF
- CWP
- EPWP
- MUNICIPAL REP.
- Other external stakeholders



Case of Dikubu cont...

- The case of Thuso whom I taught while in hospital





CONSTITUTIONAL PRECEPTS

REDRESS & ACCESS



- Breaking limitations
 - Teaching outside school
 - Access to schooling
- Inclusion
 - Physical abilities



Case of Dikubu cont...

Sporting activities

- I joined Fitness For All athletics club in Modimolle, and signed up my learners

Rationale: sustainable athletics activities were rare to find in the community. Some of the learners were involved in gangsterism. One of the rules in the club included that the children must not be involved in criminal activities and ignore school regulations. Due to their interest in sports and seeing that they excelled (having won competitions, and getting rewards), they had to change their behaviour.



- Arranging school uniforms for winter as there was an increase in absenteeism when it was cold

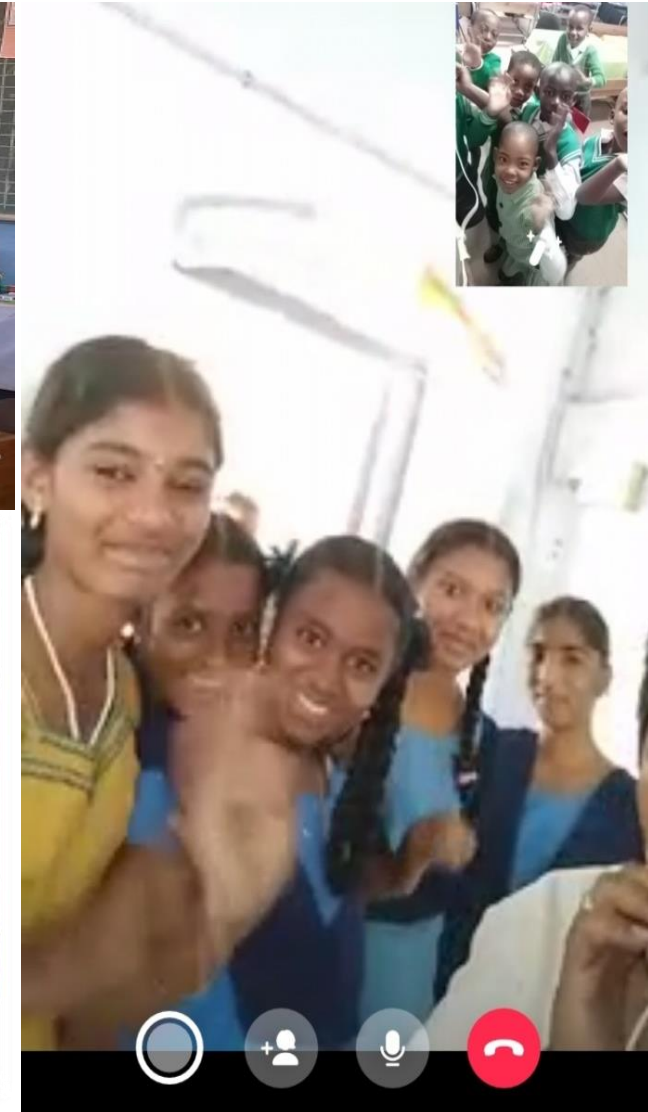
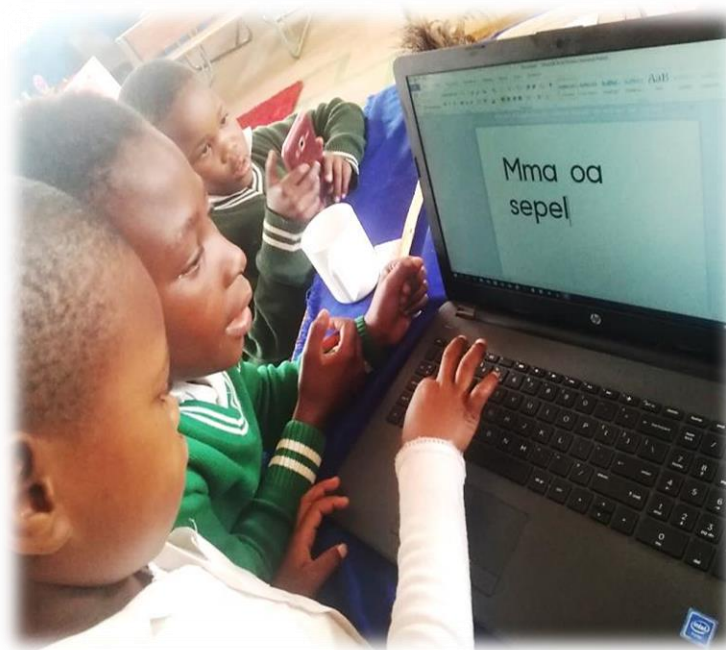
Case of Dikubu cont...

Integrating technology in the classroom

- Using my personal gadgets (two phones and laptop)
- I would divide learners in groups
- Learners have shown interest when learning with technology
- I used Scratch Jr (a coding app). Children used to help me to create comics.
- Connecting with international learners

Implementation of ICT

Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning





Motivation...



Inspired by:
Mahlahlani M.K /
former Principal
18th NTA Award Winner



NTA 19th Edition
My father / former
colleague
Position 2 Provincially



NTA 19th
Edition
Position 1 Nationally

Case of Bathokwa (Departmental Head)

International collaborations

South African School Library Competition

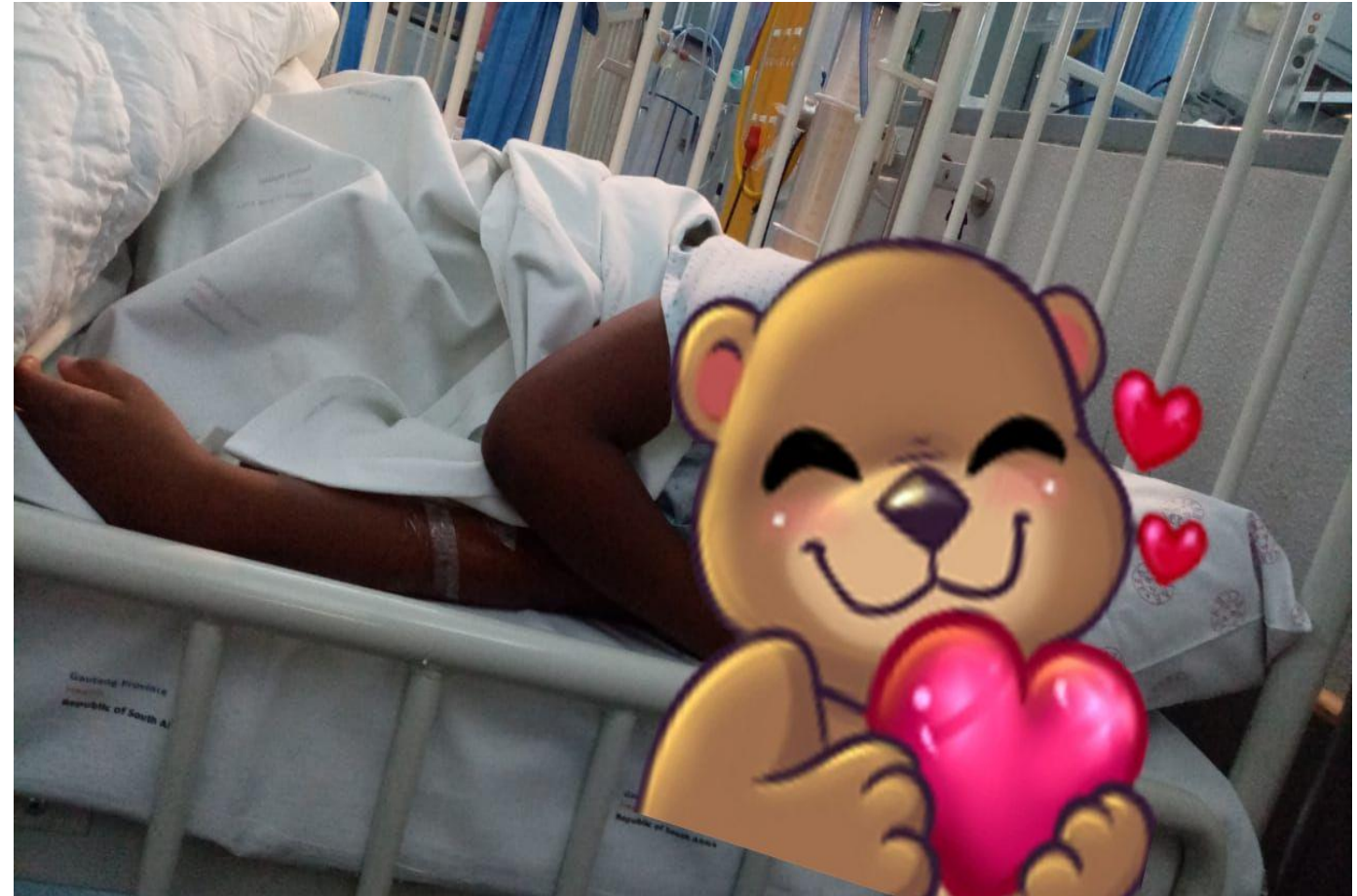
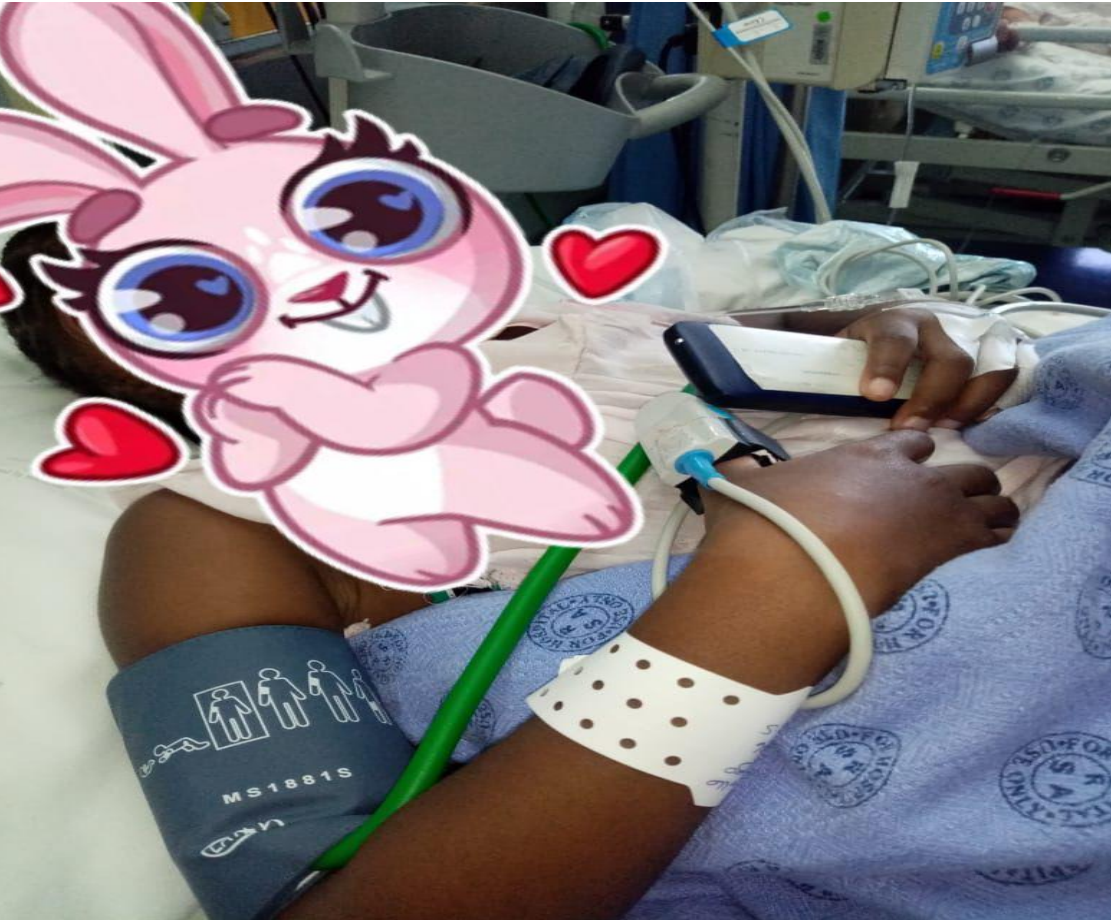
- Run by African Research Collaborative run in the USA by Georgia State University academics: Dr. Erica Bass-Flimmons and Dr. Melissa Speight
- Books were delivered in the school and received support
- Our children are teaching Dr. Melissa Sepedi reading

Represented the school in the Teacher Exchanged studio event in Soweto

- Comprised by Mathematics academics and teacher educators from USA



The case of Mohau





Sustainability projects that made impact (headed by the principal, Mrs Crystal Nkwana)

- School library (structure, books and a qualified fulltime librarian)
- Spell to read to write project (Ann Chamberlain)
- WIPS partnering school
- Click Foundation (ICT)



THANK YOU!

