Equitable Remote Learning for All: Using multiple delivery channels for remote learning to support ethnolinguistic minority children’s learning

“FIRST LANGUAGE FIRST” EDUCATION

ABDINOOR ALIMAHDI
UNESCO estimates that 40% of school-aged children don’t have access to education in a language that they understand.
MTB-MLE in Kenya

Kenyan language policy calls for the use of the mother tongue or ‘the language of the catchment area’ in the first three grades of primary school (Kenya Institute of Education, The languages not used as medium of instruction are meant to be taught as subjects.

For most kids in Kenya, that’s exactly the scenario they face when starting school. Language barriers in the classroom are ubiquitous in a country that has 2 official languages and 66 local languages.

In Marsabit, the first language for most children is Borana. Once they start school, they must learn two new languages to understand their teachers: Swahili and English.

Despite years of schooling, many language minority students end up essentially illiterate.
M-Lugha In Rural Communities In Kenya

As a pastoralist community, we comfortably speak and understand our first language (L1) before we go to school. Imagine walking into a class for the first time, the language of instruction is Either English or Swahili and above all the teacher is a non-local who don't understand your L1?

Imagine dressing up for school one morning but you are told "no school for you today, we are moving to look for pasture"

Imagine, having a passion to learn but there is no school around or the nearest school is 20km away?

Imagine your illiterate parents helping you with your learning?
M-lugha is an offline multilingual, multicultural and interactive mobile App that translates the Kenyan Early Childhood Development Education (ECD), Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3 Syllabus to more than 20 indigenous Languages. The App also helps out of school youth and Adults acquire basic literacy and numeracy.
Equitable Remote Learning for All: Using multiple delivery channels for remote learning to support ethnolinguistic minority children’s learning

M-LUGHA APP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Rural schools
- Out of school children and PWD
- Home schooling as Covid mitigation
- Endangered Local Languages
- Urban communities
- Adults learning
- Nomadic learners
- Lack of teachers/schools
M-Lugh Impact

• 20 Kenyan Indigenous Languages
• 6700 students
• 1500 Adults
• 5 ECD centers
Equitable Remote Learning for All: Using multiple delivery channels for remote learning to support ethnolinguistic minority children's learning

AWARDS

• The App was voted best 100 startups (StartupIstanbul),

• 10 most education innovations (Africa Union)

• 11 startups (Africa Tech Summit)

• 1st Runner up (Africa Telecommunication Union)

• 200 pitches (Africa Innovation Week)

• Featured by BBC, VOA, Global Partnership for Education)
Equitable Remote Learning for All: Using multiple delivery channels for remote learning to support ethnolinguistic minority children’s learning

www.m-lugha.com

Info@m-lugha.com

abdinoor@m-lugha.com

+254724036633