INTRODUCTION

The wake of this millennium has witnessed a mismatch between the education children receive in Nigerian schools and the life activities they are expected to engage in. It is painful to observe young graduates roaming the streets unsuccessfully looking for jobs while employers spend their time looking for competent workers. There appears to be a huge disconnect between the knowledge imparted in schools and the skill needs of the society they are been prepared for.

Even though we have long entered the information age and the era of technology revolution, yet it appears that the Nigerian education system has been over taken by events. The technological backwardness of most Nigerian secondary schools has made it almost impossible for them to produce students that are ICT savvy. Many students in Nigerian secondary schools have not even seen a computer or can correctly identify the different hardware components of a computer system.

This is lamentable and terribly disheartening as education globally has moved from just been classroom based to one employing various information communication technology components to deliver knowledge to students. So what will be the fate of the Nigerian student who desires to compete with pairs from all over the world in a world that is increasing a global village.

THE NEED

One of the roles of our education system is to prepare kids to be responsible citizens with the skills needed to be successful in adulthood.

Now, one could argue that kids these days seem to intuitively know how to use technology. Even at an early age, they start touching screens and keyboards, quickly learning how to navigate around all types of digital devices.

We live in a digital age in which technology plays a role in much of what we do everyday, We use technology at the office, at school and at home.

We pretty much accept the fundamental role technology plays in our lives and mostly use the basic functionality of each of our digital devices and also learn how to use Microsoft Office Programs and be the best in it without knowing the technology behind it.

Teaching programming skills to children is seen as a long-term solution to the "skills gap" between the number of technology jobs and the people qualified to fill them.

At TZE Foundation, we believe that learning programming skills will benefit children in other ways whatever their ultimate career – almost akin to the reasoning for giving children the chance to learn a musical instrument or foreign language.

OUR PROPOSITION

We are proposing a 1-week residential code camp in Abuja where young high school students within the age of 14-17years will be gathered for a code camp challenge and to come up with beautiful innovations.

One week hackathon will be a very demanding time as the students will be exposed to the world of computing and will be allowed to compete among themselves after few days of learning

We are looking towards working with Microsoft Nigeria on this noble cause from training the students that we are planning to start in February to the Code Camp Challenge in June.

TRAINING (SKILLS TO BE ACQUIRED)

We hope to train these students on following courses during the Code Jam. Each student will have the opportunity to choose the kind of course he/she wants to do from the courses below.

- HTML,
- HTML 5
- CSS
- Java

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

We plan to establish a code club in schools after the competition to continue learning and development of various ideas. Since the school teachers will also be trained, he will act as the coordinator of the code club for the school and we will also launch a website www.youngdevelopersforum.com where every students can go to interact with each other about the new ideas they are developing. This will be the leading Nigeria website for young developer across the nation where learning and sharing of ideas will take place.

This will foster knowledge sharing among other students that were not part of the programme and it will help them connect to each other. We will also link the young developers forum to www.aiki.ng, a Microsoft portal for further development of their skills and to share with their colleagues to learn from.

We hope that our 30 trained students will impact 10 people each and we will be reaching 300 students within 3 months after the programme as the students start the code club in their schools.

BRIEF ABOUT THE ZARIAH ELIZABETH FOUNDATION

THE ZARIAH ELIZABETH FOUNDATION (TZE) is a Youth – Led NGO registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria as a non-political, and non-governmental organization, with a mission to champion education for all societies in Africa as well as to develop/build human capacity in Africa particularly that of young African emerging leaders.

THE ZARIAH ELIZABETH FOUNDATION (TZE) was established in Nigeria with the sole aim of building capacity and skill development of younger generation through Information Communication Technology (ICT) training for personal development and helps to achieve the outgoing Millennium Development Goal (MDGs)/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country, which is to ensure a good education system/capacity building for the citizenry. The organization implements her programs through sensitization, awareness, periodic trainings, advocacy and lobbying of policy makers to see the change as regards education and human capacity development in our society.

THE ZARIAH ELIZABETH FOUNDATION (TZE) has her staff/membership base in 2 states with 2 pilot programs in Nigeria, with nearly 100 individual's member volunteers. We belongs to a number of coalitions such as; A World At School, Global Youth Ambassador and others.

Our major goal is to help the African child to attain basic education also ICT skills through our various ICT trainings scheme and interventions. And to ensure no young person is denied access to acquire basic education and knowledge of ICT. As part of our objective in supporting Nigeria's vision 20 20 20"

- To deliver and improve access to quality ICT training and education at all various level of education starting from elementary stage.
- To run incubation centers by establishing various enterprises through our ICT empowerment schemes for the young people in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.
- To advocate for the right of the less privileged to education thereby promoting greater accessibility to basic education among them.
- To prioritize the education of people with disabilities thereby making them self-reliant.

THE ZARIAH ELIZABETH FOUNDATION IN THE NEWS

Please find below following links.

https://dotunroy.wordpress.com/2015/08/25/unesco-tze-train-fct-schools-on-mobile-applications/\

http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/city-news/fct-schools-benefit-from-unesco-mobile-app-training/107827.html

http://voiceofnigeria.org.ng/foundation-empowers-6000-public-school-students/