

Empowering rural disadvantaged pupils using Community Radio
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TECHNOLOGY - RADIO

Radio has always been considered the cheapest and main communication tool across various communities mostly in rural Africa. Radio broadcasting is a powerful tool that enables communication to many isolated rural villages and towns in developing countries and for many of these rural communities, radio broadcasts are often the only effective way to solicit important information to a large audience.

Most recently in Uganda, community operated educational programmes are being broadcast to remote localities in an effort to reach students that have limited access to educational resources.

Since its establishment in 2003, Nakaseke community radio has served as a forum and knowledge portal for poor rural communities in Nakaseke, a newly created district located 75km north of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Nakaseke radio operates in the Nakaseke Community Multimedia Centre (CMC), and is part of a piloted series of Multipurpose Community Telecentres (MCT) established by the African Information Society Initiatives to test and assess the impact and viability of MCT's in rural Africa.



The Nakaseke Community Radio Studio

Education as one the station's main programme foci and considering the low literacy levels and poor academic performance of pupils in the impoverished district, the radio embarked on an effort to find a solution to the challenge.

The Radio Quiz Competition is a radio show that came up as a result, and it runs live every Sunday over the community radio.

The Arrangement:

After a thorough research and analysis of the problem, the station collaborated with teachers and education officers in an effort to find a lasting solution to the challenge.

Schools are mobilized, registered, seeded and drawn into groups after which competition starts. The program runs live every Sunday (because many people will be listening as it is a rest day). Three schools are hosted, each represented by two pupils in a live question and answer session, conducted by a panel of examiners. There is an examinations board by teachers that sets questions for the participants.

The winning school advances to a next round and the process continues up to the final stage.



A live quiz session in progress



Winning schools are awarded accordingly with prizes; a Bull for the winner and goats for runners up, scholastic materials, school bursaries to participating pupils, all donated by local leaders, listeners, NGOs and CBOs. The Radio has too provided a trophy for the winning school.

According to assessments and evaluations conducted every year by the station, district education authorities and the Teachers' Union, the competition has helped in;

- Promoting confidence among the learners.
- Promoting competition among the learners
- Raising the academic standards in the district and country at large.
- Enabling teachers to evaluate their teaching.
- Exposing the pupils to an educational environment beyond the classroom.



Winners celebrating with their trophy

A bull roasting session for the winners

References:

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