



GREEN SHOOTS: NURTURING EXCELLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICAN MATHS EDUCATION



In the heart of South Africa's educational landscape, where challenges in primary Maths education persist, an organization named Green Shoots is sowing the seeds of change. With a compelling vision, innovative work, and tangible impact, Green Shoots is nurturing excellence in South African Maths education, one classroom at a time.

Vision: Equitable Maths Education for All

Green Shoots' vision is as ambitious as it is essential: to create a South Africa where every child, regardless of their background, has an equal opportunity to excel in Mathematics. The organization believes that Maths education can be a transformative force, capable of leveling the playing field for young learners. Maths should not be a source of frustration but a path to confidence and success.

Work: A Tech-Enabled Revolution

To achieve this vision, Green Shoots has harnessed the power of technology and innovative approaches. Their flagship initiative, the Integrated Maths Programme (IMP), is leading the way. This program offers a range of tech-enabled tools, with the Mathematics Curriculum Online (MCO) at its core. MCO is a dynamic online platform that provides learners with an engaging Maths curriculum, including real-time exercises and feedback. It has revolutionized the teaching and learning of Mathematics in South African primary schools.

One of the core strengths of the IMP is its real-time data feedback. The platform provides immediate insight into student progress, allowing teachers to tailor their instruction to meet the specific needs of each learner. It transforms teachers into data-informed educators, making the teaching process more effective and engaging. Students, in turn, benefit from targeted support and a newfound love for Mathematics.

But the IMP's impact goes beyond the classroom. Parents and caregivers can actively engage with their child's education by accessing real-time progress reports via their mobile phones. This empowerment helps bridge the home-school learning connection and encourages active involvement from families in their child's education.

**“ I Like doing Brain Quest* because it is very fun and on my report I improved a lot in Maths
now the things come to me more clearly and I understand
I am very happy that I'm scoring at a nice percent in Maths
Brain Quest* made my life more easy now I can help my sister in Maths aswell”**

Learner feedback Nov 2023

*MCO weekly exercise

Green Shoots

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Impact: Transforming Lives and Communities

The impact of Green Shoots and its IMP is nothing short of remarkable. A recent study titled "Measuring the Learning Gains from Engagement with the Green Shoots Mathematics Curriculum Online" documented significant improvements in affective, behavioural, and cognitive learning gains. Students reported higher confidence levels, greater engagement in collaborative learning, and improved Maths literacy.

Perhaps most compelling is the impact on Mathematics performance. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) runs annual standardized Systemic tests. The WCED average pass rate for Grade 6 Mathematics dropped by 5% from 2019 to 2021 due to COVID-related learning losses. However, schools actively using the IMP and MCO with their Grade 6 students recorded only a 0.2% decrease in their pass rate during the same period.

These results aren't isolated incidents; they represent a broader trend. Green Shoots has scaled its impact to reach over 360,000 learners and nearly 7,400 teachers in 755 schools across South Africa. The organization is actively making Maths education more equitable, accessible, and effective.

A Bright Future Ahead

Green Shoots envisions an even brighter future for South African Maths education. In the next 12-24 months, they plan to expand their program to new provinces, engage additional stakeholders within the education ecosystem, and continue monitoring learner progress trends. Over the next 3-5 years, they aim to scale up, providing learner data at the provincial level, supporting students transitioning from primary to secondary education, and enhancing teacher development.

As they cultivate this future, Green Shoots is committed to inclusivity, affordability, and a holistic approach that engages all stakeholders in the education process. The impact of their work is evident in the transformed lives of South African students, who now see Maths as an avenue to success, and the broader community, where educational transformation is underway.

Green Shoots is indeed nurturing excellence in South African Maths education, one green shoot at a time. They are making a difference not just in classrooms but in the lives of the nation's future leaders, equipping them with the tools and confidence they need to excel in Mathematics and beyond.



You can listen to the Green Shoots story & impact in this podcast produced by Wesgro (www.wesgro.co.za)

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