



UWAZI
Photos to Education

The Need

In Nairobi City there are over 50 slums and millions of people living in challenging economic conditions. For a children growing up in the slums, access to education can be challenging, however a larger amount are able to pass through primary and secondary school despite these challenges. However, according to UNESCO, the percentage of students that are able to do through school on the University level drops dramatically. **Despite the fact that there are seven public universities and 17 private universities in Kenya, only 3 percent will be privileged enough to get to that level of education.** A person from the slums has little chance, then, to ever reach this level of education, because although the total cost for four years can average 5,000 USD this is far too expensive for most to afford.

Photography on the Web

Kenyan students are hardworking and based on the increase in numbers of people who have been able to get higher levels of education, it shows that education is highly valued. **In order to equip and empower students to raise their own fees for their education we will design a website that will bridge the gap between Kenyan students and consumers who would like to help students through school and purchase photos taken by the students.**

While few youth from the slums own a camera, most everyone knows someone who does. We will ask the student to begin to build a profile on the website by submitting photos of objects that are in the shape of letters. After working with a particular student for a little while we will discuss the arrangement of funding the student to get their own camera. Once the student has a webpage with information about themselves and their photography; photos can be viewed, chosen, and arranged into spelling different words by the online customer.

Letters of Uwazi

The word Uwazi means “openness” or “emptiness”. The students we will be assisting will come to us empty-handed. Their backgrounds will be from slum areas and little economic resource or stability. However, as is evident in the positive perspectives and huge dreams, these students that we might think as empty, are just open.

Openness is a wonderful attribute which can empower “empty” students to fill themselves with dreams, wisdom, and knowledge eagerly and quickly. By helping these students in the impossible task of raising money for university education we are encouraging them to have an open spirit; one that can dream impossible things and then achieve that dream.

