

Issachar Club: Bridging the gap in education

Tshwane, South Africa Tshwane, South Africa

Ivor Mbatha

Year Founded:

2014

Organization type:

for profit

Project Stage:

Idea

Budget:

\$10,000 - \$50,000

 [SHARE](#)

- [Education](#)
- [Education reform](#)
- [Youth development](#)
- [Youth leadership](#)

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

The Issachar club aims to address the educational challenges faced in South Africa, especially amongst students immediately leaving high school and prospective first year university / college students. Our goal is to increase the number of students qualifying for university with the right skills.

WHAT IF - Inspiration: Write one sentence that describes a way that your project dares to ask, "WHAT IF?"

What if matriculated students who needed mathematics or science in South Africa for tertiary education didn't have to wait for a year/s after ma

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

In South Africa many students don't qualify for tertiary education because of the the low mathematics and science skills in the country.South Africa offers amongst the best tertiary education in the world but not enough students are enjoying this reality.That is the problem the Issachar Club will solve because the same students become a burden to the government and ultimately the world's.The current system is long and leaves students demotivated.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

The solution is to make it possible for students who didn't do well to rewrite their finals in half the time, providing all the necessary mathematical and science skills for tertiary. The Issachar club will run a 6 months programme where students attend full time after which the Umalusi will mark the scripts giving students enough time to re/apply at a university. This allows students time to apply for bursaries if they need financial assistance or have done exceptionally well. Students who didn't do well in high school don't necessarily need to go back and repeat the process (it leaves them demotivated), they need strengthening of skills for their tertiary level of education. This will give them a competitive advantage globally.

Impact: How does it Work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

In South Africa students who didn't perform well in matric have two options: 1. Upgrade part time and rewrite their finals in November 2. Register to rewrite their finals in November. Provided the above solutions, not very encouraging to someone who didn't do well. The Issachar club then reaches out to these students offering them an opportunity to change their destiny. They attend the programme and in 6 months have a better matric certificate, providing them with the reality of tertiary education. The great thing about this is the enthusiasm it builds for going after education, even when they might have made a mistake the first time around. It will save money, contribute to nation building and encourage young people to be educated.

Impact: What is the impact of the work to date? Also describe the projected future impact for the coming years.

The impact the Issachar Club will make is formidable because it is the bridge between matric and university. Currently there is no organisation in South Africa making such an offer. In 2012 only 6% of students who wrote mathematics final exam got over 60%, in 2013 over 50% of the students that wrote the nbt got less than 34% in mathematics meaning they can't get into university. The Issachar club will serve as a 'refining department' for students, strengthening their skills especially in Maths and science. While making students compatible to study towards a tertiary education. It gives everyone a chance even when they now are parents at a young age, they can be persuaded to go after education, instead of looking for a job without an education. In the Future we will be looking to tailoring effective programmes in maths and science for students starting in grade 10.

Spread Strategies: Moving forward, what are the main strategies for scaling impact?

We will start in Gauteng Pretoria, South Africa and work towards serving the whole of Gauteng over a period of 3years. In 5 to 10 years we aim to provide our services to the whole of South Africa, with centres in every province. To achieve the desired impact, we will hire qualified dynamic teachers and offer career support and motivation and leadership seminars as part of the programme. We will also apply for accreditation with Umalusi and work in conjunction with the and the department of Education. Ultimately the pass mark for mathematics and science will increase from 40% -50% for Matric.

Sustainability

Financial Sustainability Plan: What is this solution's plan to ensure financial sustainability?

The Financing of the project will be from our clients: parents/guardians/sponsors of students who will be enrolled in the programme. Other resources will be sourced from businesses and foundations that are interested in improving the lives and education of students in South Africa by presenting our vision and idea to them (Market). We will also apply for subsidies from National government, as this project will be contributing to nation building.

Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

The department of education addresses this problem through offering supplementary exams which are written from late Jan-Mar. The difference with the Issachar Club is it will provide the student with more time to prepare for the exams and also the students will engage in better understanding a subject while attending the programme on a full-time basis. The other major difference with the Issachar Club is that it will build the individual academically, psychologically and socially. The market place for this programme is all over South Africa where there is a student who didn't do well in matric.

Team

Founding Story

On my way to my uncle's house I met one of the students I was in matric with, my goodness I was so excited. So we got to talking, the usual stuff after not seeing someone you went to school with... how are doing? What are you doing now? Where is everybody? He answered all of the questions, but the answer to the last one raised my concerns. "Most of them are working" he said. I knew that they had no tertiary education, so when he left his words stayed with me. A few days later while I was praying, Eureka, it just hit me. They had to work because of family challenges and because they didn't do well in matric , going back to school seems too long and besides they have already done the work before. "Offer them a programme to HELP and give HOPE"

Team

Board Members Full-time Advisor: Magdeline Masilela ; Mother Part-time Advisor: Mrs Prinsloo; Private School Principal, Has a vast knowledge of the educational processes in South Africa. Financial Director: Serveronio Masilela; Bcom (Economics) undergraduate As the project grows I plan to add more roles and qualified personnel, to better equipped the Issachar Club to handle operations in the whole of South Africa.

Source URL: <https://www.changemakers.com/node306408/entries/issachar-club-0>