

SHAK JUNIOR SCHOOL



A BREIF NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF OUR JOURNEY WITH THE SE MR. KLAUS GRESSER WHEN HE VISITED OUR SCHOOL FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

This compilation gives a reflection on the technical support visit of Mr. Klaus Gresser to Shak Junior School from 8th February to 6th March 2020.



A welcome Meal: Shak staff sharing a meal with the SE as a welcome gesture. This moment was organised to introduce the SE to all staff and set the ground for the smooth roll out of the program. It was a critical moment of initiating the visitor into the SHAK School family.



Here the SE attended for the first time the school morning assembly (normally held every Monday morning). It was a very exciting moment for the learners to have interface with a European visitor.

In a bid to get a practical basis for his technical support, The SE embarked on a task of analysing and assessing the situation at the school. This involved visits in the various classrooms to watch the flow of the teaching processes. This was aimed at helping him to identify areas of strength and gaps to be technically filled for better performance.



Here the SE had paid a visit to the Primary 2 class.



Here the SE shares an observational moment in the Primary 1 class with teachers Scovia and Abdu Karim.



The SE is taking a moment to observe the dynamics of the school transport system. There is a section of learners from distant areas who are carried by the school van from home to school and vice versa. The number is quite overwhelming and the learners have to squeeze themselves in the small Noah car that is currently available. The SE promised to give a hand in supporting the school to secure a second van to curb this problem.



Here the SE continues with his analytical visits to class rooms. This time in the Primary 4 class during a science lesson.

“The Future” Workshop

After that the SE conducted engaged the management and staff into a reflective workshop code-named “The Future Workshop” basically to scan through the institutional future prospects and reflect on the prerequisites to attaining the dreams by looking at the internal strengths and treasures, opportunities within the internal and external environment as well as stumbling blocks that might hinder the smooth attainment of the dreams. **This workshop was a GREAT EYE OPENER** and greatly helped to unlock the minds of both staff and management for better performance.



The SE Mr. Klaus facilitating the Future workshop for teachers and School Directors

Practical Mentorship and Coaching

Now the SE embarked on delivering practical classroom sessions in the different classes as a way of mentoring the local staff on better teaching approaches and methodologies. He emphasized the notion of the morning circle where teachers should kickstart the day with a simple musical moment or a story telling as an ice-breaker to prepare the minds of the learners for the normal lessons. As a skilled guitarist, he always used his guitar play very interesting melodies for the learners and this proved to be so nice to them. They enjoyed songs like: Salibonani, hello good morning, Amen Si ya kudumisa, A ram sam sam, Wasuzoty-a-good morning-buenos sias-carimera.....among others.



Here the SE is facilitating a musical morning circle in the P2 class(Left) and Baby Class(Right)



Here the SE is holding a morning circle with the P3 class teaching them how to make music with local instruments like tins, small jerricans, pens/sticks and simple shakers. It was very interesting for the class to set up their own music band with local instruments



Away from class learners also enjoyed musical moments by the SE during general school assemblies.

Such moments were so motivational!!!

The Physical exercise sessions: this was another activity where the SE involved himself with great zeal. The driving force behind this was discovered later when the SE disclosed that he was primarily a physical education teacher



In the above picture, the SE joins hands with the nursery teachers to conduct a PE session during one of the mornings.

Putting God first....



The SE rhymed well with the cardinal school values of God fearing:

As a practising Christian, he would find time to attend church services at the nearby catholic church.

This picture depicts the SE attentively listening to the sermon delivered by the female priest at Bulabakulu catholic church on one of the Sundays.

The teacher training workshop on Classroom Management

Following the first analysis phase and the various sessions conducted with teachers at class level, the SE now had an evidence-based ground to organize and conduct a teacher training workshop which focused on the dynamics and techniques for Classroom Management and control. It covered such aspects like ensuring tranquillity in class by minimising noise, learners behaviour management using the colour coded behaviour traffic light, control of learner movements using tools like the toilet traffic light, setting classroom rules, organizing schedules for daily class activities, using the reward system to influence classroom manners and using class names to entrench some norms and cultures at class level. The workshop had very enormous impact on the side of staff and efforts are underway



to implement the new innovations that were adopted from the training as we strive to transform into a modern school and a centre of excellence,

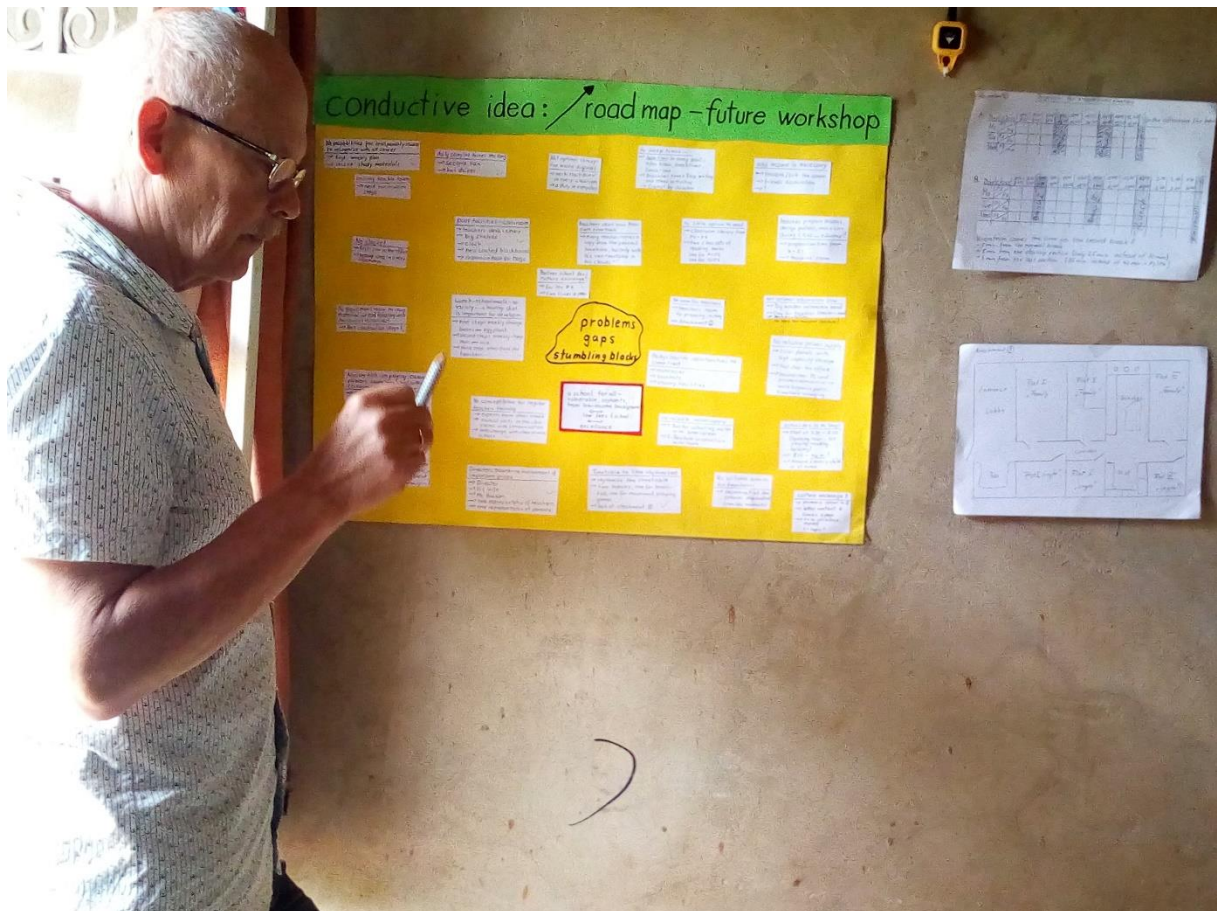
SE Mr. Klaus conducting a teacher training workshop. He philosophically organised the whole process as a "General Store" for people to "shop" practical ideas that would in turn be used to improve performance at classroom level.



The Management Workshop

After the teachers workshop the SE now engaged the school director into a series of interviews basically to get an in-depth insight into the school's internal organizational systems and strategic aspects. Building on the outcomes of the 3-day interviews and the ideas generated from the future workshop, the SE was now able to organise an evidence-based session with the school directors to reflect on the strategic issues that would inform planning for the future development of the school and steer the institution to greatness.

The immediate outcome of this workshop was the development of a practical road map to future developments and this guided the directors to operationalize the road map by drawing a prioritized action plan for 2020-2021.



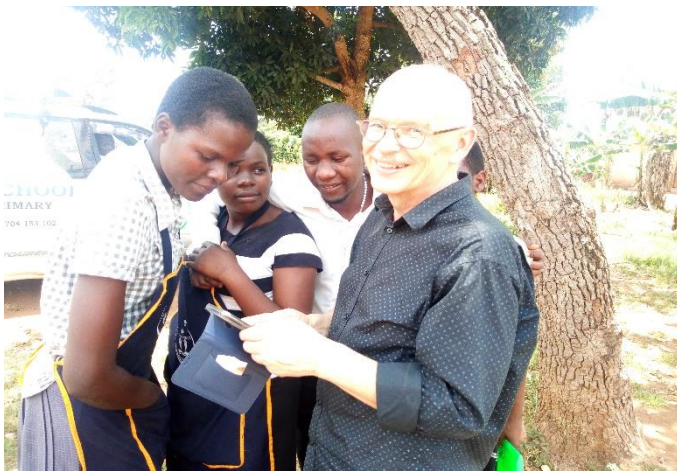
The SE while facilitating a session with the school directors on strategic development aspects.

Socialization

Away from formal assignments, the SE would find time to have light social moments with the members of the school community. He actually exhibited a very high degree of humility, kindness, friendliness, politeness and this was evidenced in the way he was so open to every one at school including children and adult members. The SE commanded a very simple life and toned himself down to the local circumstances much as these were honestly too far below the European standards.

He refuted any arrangements that would portray him as a special member of the school family. He would endure the local dishes even when that was not his best desired taste. I cant forget the pan cakes, the yellow bananas, porridge and the white posho which he always called maize and the beans that formed the daily meals at school. In light of all this. One would have every reason to describe the SE as a Hero!

The pictures below can help to bring out the social person in Mr. Klaus Gresser



The SE having light moments with the Directors and teachers

The Final Moments

Now the saying that “everything that has a beginning has as well got an end” came into a reality on the 6th of April 2020 when finally, the SE Mr. Klaus had to leave the SHAK Junior School to return to Germany to reunite with family members and fellow countrymen.

It was quite a tough moment to me as the School Director to say farewell to Mr. Klaus due to the brotherly bond that had developed between me and the SE. We had shared the same house and office and always had moments of one-on-one interactions through which he shared with me so many ideas and words of wisdom of course as an experienced educationist. If circumstances would allow, I would wish that the SE stayed for longer than the 4 weeks or even forever. However, the Lord, in His wisdom also had his own timing for his stay. ***And I have come to realise later that probably the time had come for the SE to leave Uganda before he could be caught up by the corona crisis which later turned out to be a big stampede to international travels.***



Here the SE is having his final/farewell meal with the SHAK school directors slightly before setting off for Entebbe Airport for his flight back to Germany



The SE posing with the directors as a farewell gesture slightly before boarding the school van to start his journey to back Germany

Finally we see our great friend off back to Germany.



It was about 1:00pm on Saturday the 7th of March 2020 when the SE Mr. Klaus arrived at Entebbe Airport on his way back to Germany accompanied by the Shak Junior School Director, Mr. Saad Luyinda and his wife Halima Namakula and Co-Director Hassan Matovu together with the Director's children; Hibaan, Albaab and Hakawaat.

The SE was ushered to the Airport authorities to go through the visa and related checks and finally left for German through Dubai by the Emirates Airlines.



Thanks to the Lord for the good time we had together and we pray that the lord continues to take good care of all of us until we meet again.



LONG LIVE MR. KLAUS. WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!!

AND YOU WILL REMAIN A GREAT MEMBER OF THE SHAK SCHOOL FAMILY

Compiled by:

Saad Luyinda

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