

DIVULGE OF ZAINA FOUNDATIONS' DIGITAL RIGHTS CLUB IN TANZANIA



Background and Context

The 2022 Tanzania Population and Housing Census reveals that 60% of the population is comprised of young people aged 0-21. A large portion of this demographic, including students in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and universities, actively uses the internet for education, information, and entertainment. Despite the benefits, it has raised concerns about Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) which poses serious threat to the safety and well-being of young people particularly girls. According to the Ministry of Gender, Women, Children, and People with Disabilities, 67% of children aged 12-17 in Tanzania are internet users, and many have experienced online sexual harassment.

The leading causes include lack of the knowledge and skills on avoiding Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) and lacking proper platforms to learn and exchange knowledge about digital rights.

In January 2022, Zaina Foundation launched the Digital Rights Clubs initiative, conducting sessions at primary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. To date, the initiative has empowered over 2,300 young people with knowledge and skills in emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital safety for children, the integration of IT in learning, and combating OGBV in educational institutions.

As a result of these milestones, Zaina Foundation is committed on expanding its program in seven regions including Arusha, Dar es salaam, Dodoma, Tanga, Morogoro, Mtwara and Coast Region/Pwani. Zaina Foundation is committed to implementing this initiative with a goal to create a knowledgeable, informed, responsible and resilient young digital citizens in Tanzania.



Goal

The Digital Rights Clubs aim to empower students, from primary to university level in Tanzania, by providing knowledge and skills on emerging technologies, promoting responsible internet use, and raising awareness about digital rights and the prevention of Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV)

Objectives

- i. To expand knowledge and skills of digital rights at Primary schools, Secondary schools, Colleges and Universities.
- ii. To build awareness on how to avoid Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV).
- iii. To integrate emerging technology in education system by creating innovative solutions in education sector.
- iv. To improve students' academic performance.

Beneficiaries

The initiative is tailored to address the needs of students ranging from primary schools through university, as they are the ones beginning to use the internet and represent the largest group of frequent internet users.

Inputs

These will include:

- i. Conducting technology skills training to students from primary schools through universities and cover topics including Digital Safety for Children, Integration of ICT in Education Sector in Tanzania, Fact-checking, Machine Learning, Online Privacy and Security, Digital Etiquette, Digital Well-being, Parental control,
- ii. Providing peer support such as psychosocial support for OGBV victims at colleges and universities.
- iii. Host events and dialogues including but not limited to; School of Internet Governance, Commemoration of UN International Days which are Cyber Security Awareness Month and International Day of Access to Information.
- iv. Lead training on Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies.
- v. Lead discussions on Digital Rights legal frameworks from National, Regional and Global perspectives to shape advocacy design on digital rights and inclusion.
- vi. Create meaningful connections between club members, civil societies, government, technologists and private sector during forums like Net Rights Forum.

Outcomes

Since 2022, the Digital Rights Clubs in Tanzania have established a network of young digital rights activists, fostering a generation that is well-informed and prepared to advocate for their rights. The Digital Rights Clubs have contributed to a notable improvement in academic performance at Kondo Secondary School, where the pass rate for the 2023 Form Four Examinations increased to 80%, up from the previous year, thanks to the integration of IT into students' academic lives. Enhanced critical thinking and innovations in education institutions in Tanzania and Created awareness ending Online Gender Based Violence by using innovations in Tanzania. Last but not least, it contributed to the increased participation of young women in online discussions without fear.



Special Thanks

Zaina Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to all Digital Rights Club members, teachers, instructors, lecturers, development partners, and other stakeholders for their unwavering support in ensuring that the Digital Rights Clubs remain valuable platforms within schools, colleges, and universities across Tanzania.

If you have any feedback from this report or interested in partnership and support, please email us through:

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