

QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT

Goal Cycle -2

MATIBI NOOK HUB

MWENEZI, ZIMBABWE



2023



Matibi Community

The Nook is located in a remote area MWENEZI, with high political influence surrounding the community which has embraced the Nook concept.

The community is currently experiencing low rainfalls which is now reliant mostly on government and donor food aid support and also on their relatives living in the neighboring countries. The remoteness of the Nook's location it has implications on access to many materials and tools essential for projects. This causes frequent delays in project completion. Despite learners' interest in relocating close to the Nook, the lack of accommodation facilities or rented houses in the community has posed a challenge for them. Many learners have taken up Odd jobs to be able to pay for accommodation at the nearby shops where they have currently found accommodation. This is still is a challenge for most of them to dedicate more time to their projects as they carry the burden of finding money so that they can pay for accommodation at the nearby shops.

The Project

Project Start Date : 16/09/2022

Current Phase : Design phase,
Learners have finished prototyping and
the materials have arrived for Goal
Cycle - 3



Pedagogical Impacts

As observed by Gilbert Rupere, our Innovation Lead at the Nook

1. What makes the learners come to the nook again and again? What do they like the most?

Besides doing their projects and exploring, some learners came back because of the **exposure** and how it helps them **connect**. This might be through personal **interactions** with other people, or being connected to the **whole world through the internet**, since Nook is the only place with access to the internet.

2. How do they feel about how the learners interact with each other? Is there a change?

Yes, most of them when they joined they were very reserved and shy. But as time went on, through the Nook process which allows one to **explore**, they became free and their interaction improved, although some are still not comfortable, they will be.

3. Do we see a change in what they feel about learning? Do learners enjoy It?

Yes. One of the biggest impact the Nook has had among the learners is giving them the **confidence** to say they can **learn anything** if they want to. The **unconventional** way of learning makes the learning process **enjoyable**.

Pedagogical Impacts

As observed by Gilbert Rupere, our Innovation Lead at the Nook

4. How is the articulation? Are they able to share what they think? Do they feel safe to share their problems? What could we improve?

Considering that we are in an isolated community where **very few have dreams** and those with dreams aren't given enough **encouragement**, many find it difficult to share at times. We recently held PSS camp targeting this area among other things. They don't feel safe sharing their problems in larger group, though one on one **they share**.

5. Do they feel they can learn things that they don't know much about? Are they trying to get out of comfort zones to some extent?

Yes, most of them. However, if they are not interested enough, they barely learn anything. They do get out of their comfort zones when pushed, maybe this is because they have never before been given such a **platform**.

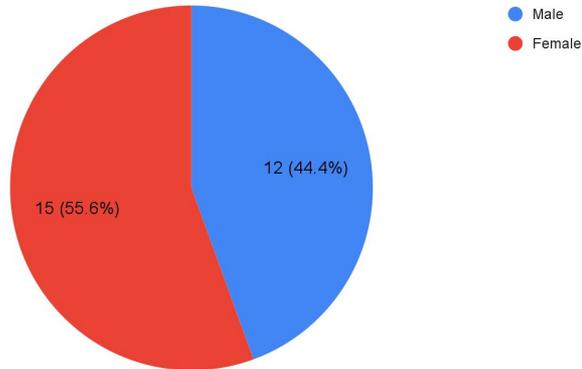
Usage during Goal Cycle - 2

No. of registered learners since inception = 66

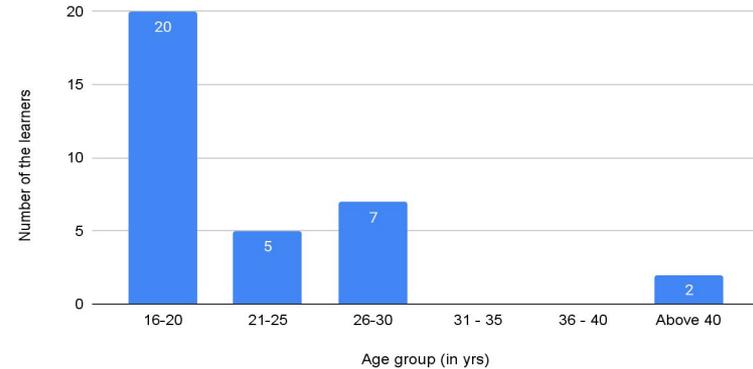
No. of learners in the 2nd Cycle = 28

No. of active learners this month = 15

2nd Cycle



Number of the learners vs. Age group (in yrs)



Since the Nook started, we have noticed we receive more youths (16-25) than any other age group. This is partially due to the fact that most community members above 18 need to earn money for their families. Another reason is the long tradition which has always been there that only certain age groups should be in school. This discourages some of the older learners.

Goals we achieved:

	Goal	Feedback/ Comments
1	Creating a belt, a wallet and a pair of sandals using leather made from goat hides	The next step for the learners is to develop a business model centered around tanning. The community was impressed and purchased some products
2	To make a shona idioms quiz game which focuses on primary level shona to help students prepare for their ZIMSEC shona exams.	This projects was completed. While the demo is available, it is not yet on the Play Store
3	To manufacture and brand home cleaning detergents, shampoo and bubble bath	This project was completed. It was one with the most sales. A business idea had been developed and getting massive positive feedback from the business community
4	To manufacture bags using natural fibers eg sisal, banana	This project was completed and one of the bags was bought.the learner is making more bags to be ready for market in the end of next cycle

Goals we achieved:

5	To manufacture and brand cookies using local ingredients such as peanut butter, bananas	This project was completed though the learners couldn't make it for exhibition due to family commitments.
6	To design and weld a folding sliding gate for Matibi Nook Hub entrance	This project was completed though the gate has not been mounted on the wall.
7	To design and build a greenhouse which grow button mushrooms	This project was not completed, the learners dropped out due to family commitment.
8	To bake 2 cakes, one with a bedroom layout and another in a shape of a handbag with a bible inside	This project was completed and the learners have joined hands with previous learners in the same field in trying to create a business that they will do in the community
9	To make 3 types of healthy milkshakes using local flavours	This project was not completed due to learners dropping out.

Goals we couldn't achieve:

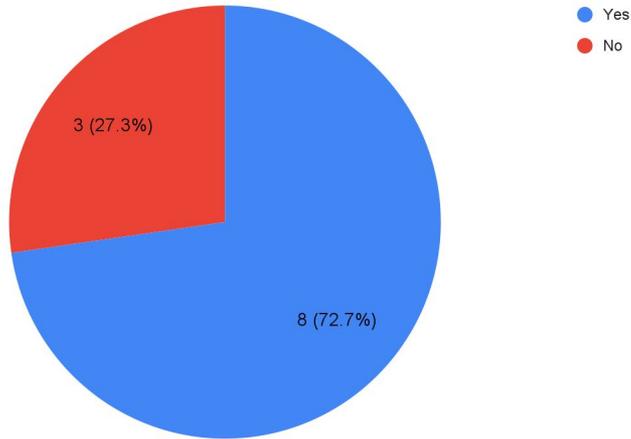
	Goal	Feedback/ Comments
10	To sew an African outfit coupled with matching clutch bags	This project was completed though the learner was absent for exhibition. During the cycle, this learner showed a lot of resilience. This was her first cycle but she managed the whole process alone without any group member. So we say its incomplete.
11	To design and make a website for Matibi Nook Hub which will showcase past and present projects and learner stories.	This project was not completed. This learner got an opportunity to work in Bulawayo so he relocated there and is now part of Bulawayo Nook Hub. and we hope they continue to learn and flourish.

Goal Achievement

Total No. of Goals created = 11

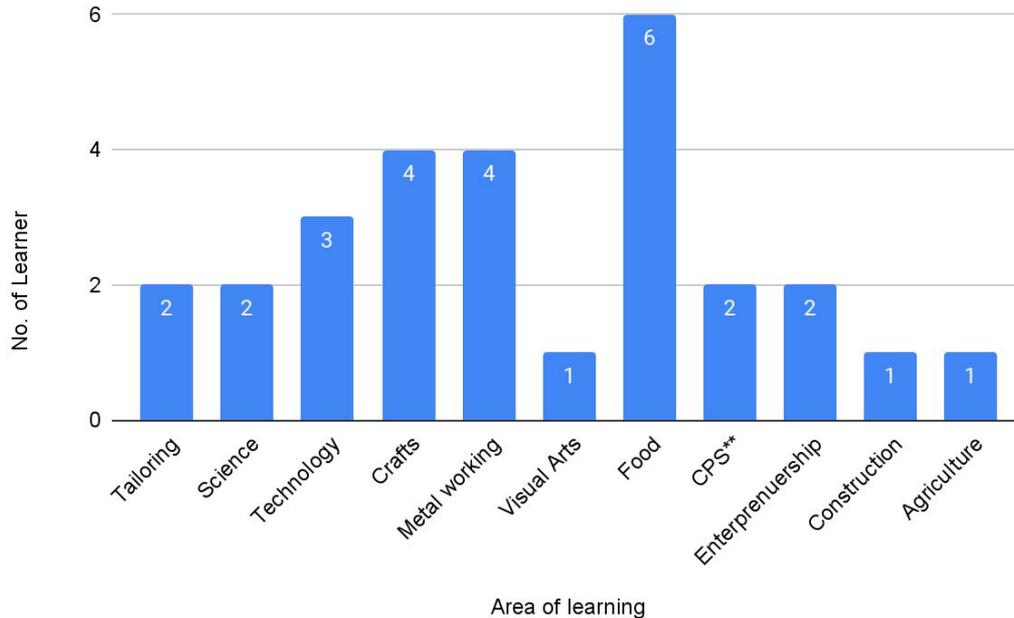
No. of Goals achieved = 8

No. of Learners who set the Goal = 25



Areas of Learning vs No. Learners

No. of Learner vs. Area of learning



Note: A learner may choose upto three areas. Hence, the total number of learners here does not demarcate the actual total number of learners.

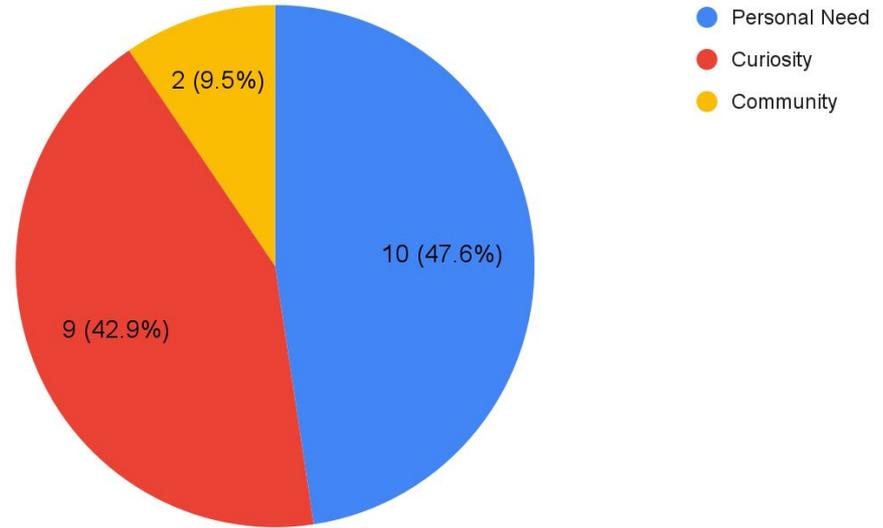
** Community
Problem Solving

Contextual Learning

Percentage of learners who have created goals based on their life, community or curiosity:



Motivation for Selection



Learner Story: Gaming Traveller Charles Chidari (26).

I am the youngest in a family of five. I reside in Masogwe village which is located about **50 kms from the Matibi Nook Hub**. I stay in an orphanage with 41 other children and young youths. It's not easy growing up in such an environment. I got to know about the Nook project through one of the community workers under the Ministry of Women Affairs in Mwenezi district. After several attempts to get hold of the Nook Fellows, I decided to visit the place. To my surprise there were a lot of young and older people working on different projects which made me more curious to join and see if I can learn something. At first it took time for me to understand the concept and there were difficulties in understanding parts of the English language being used. During the course of the last two cycles I have made an Android Shona Quiz game. I built this by learning programming through an online tutorial. This has been one of the hardest things for me to learn on my own without being told what to do and how to do it. There was a lot of negative feedback from the community who were discouraging me from continuing working on my project as there is a mindset that people from our community will never make it in life no matter what we do. I feel excited knowing that I managed to create something of my own which challenged and encouraged people around to want to join the Nook program themselves.

I think as time goes by I will be able to sustain myself and the people around with the skills I have gained for free by just coming to the Nook. Through the Nook exhibitions, people come to see what we have created. I hope to get an opportunity to travel around the country showing people my work too



Learner Stories: Baking Life (Shalom Shumba, 19)

I heard about the Nook from my friends but did not register as I had other commitments at the time. However, I used to go to the Nook whenever I got time. So when I officially joined at the end of First Cycle, this familiarity with the Nook helped me settle quickly. I also had a slightly better understanding of how the Nook worked compared to my peers. During my time at the Nook, I got a chance to help my friends who were already working on their projects. I always wanted to try out baking, so when my cycle officially started, that's what I pursued.

I began to do samples and learn how to bake stuff little by little. In the beginning, I struggled a lot because I was learning but I kept repeating things and learning more until I managed to bake something better. As for now, I can say I have learned a lot at Matibi Nook Hub with the help of others. And now I can bake birthday cakes, regular cakes, pies and muffins. I can also bake cream donuts, samosas and puffs. With all the knowledge I have collected and learned at the Nook Hub, I am desiring to start a baking business for myself. I want this because I have learnt that the Nook Hub is there to teach youths like me how to do business and how to take care of our families and also to get good things, rather than taking drugs or getting married at a young age.



Stories on Learning Projects: Seeds for growth

One of the projects which was not completed was the greenhouse project. Brian had undergone training on farming which was conducted by an organization working in ward 3 under smallholder farmers revitalisation program . Since it was his second cycle, Brian worked on this project alone with hopes of putting to practice what he had learnt. He went as far as constructing the greenhouse though he wasn't able to plant. Brian's idea was to do mushrooms which he felt its something that is not done in the community although several attempts were made by community members to discourage him from doing that he still pushed hard it was his dream to do so, unfortunately he left the Nook due to family responsibilities and couldn't carry on. The structure which he was working is going to be used as a fowl run. This fowl run will act as an income generating project for the Nook and its future learners through providing relish, fertilizer for the Nook garden etc.



Project Exhibition

The second exhibition was held on the 9th Of February 2023. Unlike the first exhibition, the second exhibition was a walk-in event. Parents, community members and stakeholders went around all the stalls seeing what the learners were working on. Those who were willing stayed for a bit longer interacting with the learners.

Since it was the second time, learners were much more comfortable and confident in talking about their work. Some even showcased 2 projects. For the online guests, videos of completed projects were on playback for the duration of the exhibition to view and give feedback. . Those interested and with questions got to interact with the learners by request. Stakeholders invited were from the Zimbabwe Leather Commission, Game developers, local authorities, local business community and individuals on an international showed interest to support learners doing leather tanning, fiber sisal bag and the android quiz game.



Pictures from Project Exhibition



Leather Tanning Project



Sisal Fiber Bags

Pictures from Project Exhibition



Foldable Gate



Detergent Hamper



Baking & Confectionery

Project Exhibition

During the exhibition, parents and stakeholders asked questions about the program and how it has impacted the learners since its inception as some of them have been there since 2021 and gave feedback on the learner's projects which was positive as they made projects which are ready for market and be able to generate funds. This years exhibition was aimed at larners earning income for themselves. Most of the projects were products which were sellable. During exhibition, some learners managed to sell their products, some even selling out. Products on sale included indigenous cookies, leather products and detergents. Unlike the previous exhibition this time we had a walk-in program which allowed all the guest to have time to interact with learners at length.

Several orders have also been made since then and business models have been developed around these areas which have shown potential in being sustainable.



Testimonials from the Parents, Community Members and Guest

As a representative of the disabled people in ward 3 we are so much impressed with how the Nook is working although it saddens me that most disabled people are not taking part at the Nook, i would like to invite the Nook fellows to participate more in our community meetings and sensitize them more on how best they can take part as there also part of this community. Most of the people i represent have little or no skills that can help them to survive without depending on the outside support which is why they should enroll at the Nook. I will also continue advocating for them to participate in more of what is happening at the Nook.

Mr Tawanda Chuma- Jairos Jiri Community Officer



Testimonials from the Parents, Community Members and Guest

The Nook hub was introduced into the community at a time most youths were roaming around without any set of skills for them to survive in future, with what we saw during the exhibition we foresee the Nook being a huge learning hub in the province.

Some of the projects exhibited will go a long way in preserving our culture through using technology, i was impressed by the android quiz game which can be a game change especially in our community as we lack reading book but most people own phones which can be used to assess the learning materials free of charger. I edge all our community stakeholders to join hands with the Nook in improving the concept to suite our context more

Kianos Mabhena (Murawi Primary School Headmaster)



Testimonials from the Parents, Community Members and Guest

It brings joy to see what the learners are able to do by themselves. As people we always underestimate and limit ourselves which is one of the thing that has caused our community to be backwards as we are so much ignorant about things that are of more value to us. We are not willing to explore and learn and if also we are more dependent on donors who just come to our community to give us food, now that we have a learning center hopefully things will change for the young generation and the entire Matibi Community. Wherever i will go i will try and promote this place as i see a bright future by bringing our youths to this place.

- Shimbani Mazivofa (Parent)



Testimonials from the Parents, Community Members and Guest

As a community member most of us it took us time to understand what was happening at the Nook and we used to discourage our children to attend as we thought it was sort of any benefit, but after being invited to attending the exhibition it was really an eye opening thing for most of us as we now fully aware that the Nook is in our community to empower community members we just hope more and more people get to understand how the Nook works and its benefits.

- Community member



Testimonials/Reflections from the Nook Fellows

Completing a goal cycle is something i will never get used to. It always feels like the first time over again. With the 2 exhibitions that have been done, a lot was learnt. Some of the lessons learnt are time management, patience. Also not being over ambitious and keeping in mind the learners capabilities. The Nook has helped me develop on a personal level and made me break out of my comfort zone.

Gilbert T. Rupere



Testimonials/Reflections from the Nook Fellows

This past cycle has been a journey with challenges and great opportunities. Like any other Nook, it takes a lot of energy and effort to make things happen. It is not an easy feat to start a revolution (educational in this case). Very few people understand but we had the privilege of having few people who quickly grasped the concept and now they help out to ease the load.

Sheldon S. Siziba



Challenges faced

- Some of the learners at Matibi Nook Hub end up dropping out because of pressure to earn some income and the space not offering any quick remedies to earn money.
- Transportation of tools and material for the Nook has been a major challenge as it costs much to do errands for the Nook due to unavailability of a project vehicle.
- Due to a lack of accommodation facilities or rented houses in the community, learners from far places could not shift near the Nook Hub and it still is a challenge for most of them to dedicate more time to their projects.
- As the Nook is located in a remote area, it is very hard for the learners and team members to get the materials needed for the projects and that delays timelines.
- Some of the learners have to carry the burden of finding money so that they can pay for accommodation at the nearby shops.

Learnings and Opportunities

In the period under review, the organisation has had a major shift in staffing, this was seen as the Coordinator of the organisation leaving and the Nook Hub Manager was appointed to replace him and also being the new FFM Manager.

Few learners had **opportunities to start income generating business through the projects which were made in the first and second goal cycle**. The opportunities came through the exhibition process which was conducted with some getting opportunities to get internship in Masvingo and Harare hence the need for them to provide self accommodation and bus fare becomes a challenge as they do not have relatives in big cities who can accommodate them at no cost.

During the course of the reporting period, it was seen that the Nook concept didn't fit the rural Zimbabwe context. What people needed more than skills was an income. This led to a slight change in the original DEFY Nook concept. The project has thus shifted from only providing a self learning space, to more of an innovation/production hub where people not only learn, but **make sellable products and establish businesses** for themselves.

The team of Matibi Nook Hub:



Sheldon S. Siziba
Nook Manager



Gilbert Rupere
Innovation Lead



Evelyn Mabhena
Keyholder



Florence Kadungure
Keyholder



Simbarashe
Mutandadzi Keyholder

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