

Case Study: Making AI Her Regular Helper

Name of the Story teller: Janeth Nyaulingo

Project: AI TEACHERS: Improving Teacher's Competencies Through an AI-Driven Assessment Program

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Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the educational landscape by offering data-driven insights, personalized learning experiences, and streamlined assessments. This case study examines the behaviors, perceptions, and challenges teachers face when integrating AI into their teaching practices. The case study focuses on the experience of Janeth Nyaulingo, a Standard 1 teacher at Mtambani Primary School in Tanzania, who has engaged with AI-powered tools to enhance her teaching and improve student numeracy skills.

Image 1: Teacher Janeth accessing the AI Teachers dashboard



Initial Engagement: Starting with a Smartphone

Janeth was already comfy with tech before the project started. She used her smartphone all the time to check word pronunciations and find teaching ideas online. When Teacher Kidevu showed up, she started using it regular to pick up new teaching methodology. Using the teacher’s dashboard, she was getting the information about the student’s engagement with the app and took what she learnt to improve her teaching to students. On the project, she also supervised students to learn digitally from Shule Direct Kids, a learning app for primary school students.

Beliefs and Attitudes: Loving AI’s Support

Janeth is all smiles about AI. “It’s very useful,” she says happily. She loves how Teacher Kidevu gives her new teaching ideas and ways to check what her students know. She’s not worried about AI taking over her job. “It’s not a threat,” she explains. “It’s a helper for us teachers!” She thinks kids still need her to show them how to use these tools, so she feels safe and excited. Janeth believes AI can make her students better at numeracy because it’s full of cool stuff like examples and games. She also thinks it could fit in local culture and needs, which would make her lessons even more special. What’s neat is that Janeth isn’t scared of losing the personal touch with her students—she just says “No” when asked if technology can replace teachers. She sees AI as a friend that works with her, not against her. Her fellow teachers feel the same way—they’re excited about Teacher Kidevu and ready to try it too!

Behavioral Shifts: Using technology frequently

Janeth doesn’t just dabble with technology—she uses it frequently! With a new curriculum and many new Standard 1 students, she says, ‘I need new skills to keep the class running smoothly.’ She has observed her students improving their numeracy skills—recognizing big and small numbers and arranging them in order. Additionally, they are excited to use the kids’ app to enhance their learning. Janeth is a teacher who is always ready to try something new to help her students succeed.

Barriers: Making Do with Less

Things aren’t perfect, though. Janeth’s school doesn’t always have a steady electricity supply or reliable internet access. There also aren’t enough tablets, and she wishes she had a projector to enhance her lessons with technology. She’d love more hands-on training, too. But despite these challenges, she remains unfazed—making the most of what she has while hoping for more tools to bring her lessons to life.



Community Echoes: Everyone's on Board

Janeth's teaching community has embraced AI-powered platforms positively. Her colleagues are particularly interested in "Teacher Kidevu" as it provides valuable insights into pedagogy and student assessments. The acceptance of AI in her school is largely influenced by the perceived benefits and the supportive nature of the AI platform in addressing teacher needs, and the government's encouragement to use technology in education.

Long-Term Vision: A Lighter, Brighter Future

Looking ahead, Janeth envisions AI as a fundamental tool in education, capable of reducing the workload of teachers while enhancing student learning outcomes. However, she emphasizes the need for regulated access to learning platforms to prevent distractions and ensure students engage strictly with educational content. To fully harness AI's potential in education, she suggests expanded teacher training on AI integration, provision of digital resources to facilitate smooth implementation and development of AI tools tailored to local cultural contexts to enhance relevance and effectiveness.

Conclusion

Janeth's journey with AI in education highlights the power of technology to support teachers rather than replace them. Despite challenges like limited resources and unreliable infrastructure, she remains enthusiastic and determined to make the most of AI-driven tools. With proper training and more resources, she believes AI can transform both teaching and learning, making classrooms more engaging and effective. Her story reflects a broader shift towards technology-driven education, where AI becomes a trusted ally in shaping brighter futures for students and teachers alike.