



**THE  
TECHHER  
SCHOOL  
TOUR**



# THE TECHHER SCHOOL TOUR PROJECT

*Young Techsters, we innovate!*

## Context

Today, more than ever, technology is the primary driver for work and play, fuelling our needs, globalising our processes and solutions, and enhancing our lives. Digital skills - whether baseline or specific - are now the air we breathe and are required across the spectrum of the labour market. In the light of this reality, the question remains: are our youth equipped to compete?

Nigeria has a high illiteracy rate rising as high as 40% as of 2018 (62.02% literacy rate). According to Statista 2018, the literacy rate among men living in rural areas of Nigeria reached roughly 60%, whereas female literacy rates in the same regions were as low as 35%. Education, where it is available, is woeful, meaning that an average Nigerian child is exposed to a system in continuous decline between the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

In November 2019, TechHer, through her Digital Literacy Programme, launched the secondary school digital literacy training tours. The tours were premised on TechHer's mission to reduce technological inequalities by creating digital literate communities among disadvantaged groups, including women and youth groups, through her Digital literacy pillar. The school tour project was designed to reach children attending Local Education Authority (LEA) schools in peri-urban areas and provide them with:



## Why Digital Literacy School Tours?

1. Enhance students' access in local education authority schools in Nigeria to basic technological principles, despite infrastructural deficits.
2. Reduce the opportunity divide by opening them up to careers in technology & other opportunities in/via technology.
3. Teach students the basics of online safety, clearly recognising & reporting harmful online behaviours (trolling, bullying, predatory activity).

## Our Approach

Education is the cornerstone of our Digital Literacy Pillar, informing our engagement with students in hard-to-reach, local education authority schools.

Our research threw up the absence of infrastructure within most Local Education Authority schools (electricity, computers, etc.). Out of about 400 children that we engaged, less than 10% of them had access to any technology. This meant that their knowledge of even the rudimentary technological principles was lacking.

These findings inspired us to think of innovative, sustainable ways to pass across Tech knowledge to students. With the introduction of playing cards, we achieved gamification of learning for the children who could learn about digital literacy and play simultaneously. These playing cards were designed from scratch. Each of the 52 cards in every deck contains information broken down into basic online safety tips, fun facts about Nigeria, Nigerian heroes and heroines, and careers in technology. It was essential to ensure that the necessary details the children needed to play the game remained but were modified to deliver information in concise & straightforward language.



Furthermore, to effectively engage students, we developed a training curriculum and other media training products across selected modules and topics essential to meet our target demographic's basic digital literacy needs. The curriculum covers Basic Digital Literacy and ICT, Digital Citizenship & Online Safety and Careers in Technology.

## Impact

- The formation of a network of trained volunteers creates an avenue for individuals to contribute to their communities through the School Tour Project.
- Technologically disadvantaged students, especially girls in Local Education Authority Schools in Abuja, now learn about digital literacy through the TechHer School Tour Whot Cards.
- As a response to the alarming trend of skill-dearth/mismatch and the consequential declining employability of many young Nigerian graduates in Nigeria. The TechHer School tour has upscaled its activities to cover students in tertiary organisations, with a pilot training phase underway in Nasarawa State University.

## The TechHer School Tour Project in Numbers

**3** years of impact

**19** schools reached in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

**1,210+** Students introduced to basic digital literacy, online safety & careers in tech

**Over 60%** trained through the School Tour are girls

## How Can You Support the TechHer School Tour Project?

**Strategic Collaborations with Local/Private Education Authorities:** Schools and appropriate education authorities need to treat digital literacy as an essential complementary educational requirement for all students. The project hopes to extensively collaborate with these authorities to include digital literacy topics within school curriculums.

**Cross-Sector Partnerships:** To enhance access to quality education and tech opportunities for young people, Nigeria must focus on the failing education system, particularly in underserved communities. There is an urgent need to equip its teeming young demographic with technical and digital skills to compete with global educational and economic standards.

**Expansion:** Expanding our digital literacy school tour programme beyond secondary schools to other young Nigerians has become necessary. This move is to respond to the alarming trend of skill-dearth/mismatch and the consequential declining employability of young Nigerian graduates. To pilot this, TechHer has signed a partnership agreement with the Nasarawa State University to begin digital literacy education training with its students. Private Tech organisations that teach/organise learning programmes/camps for young people can partner with the School Tour Project to train their beneficiaries in Tech and related fields.

## About TechHer

TechHer is a community of learning, support & collaboration, supporting women and girls while promoting social development and providing skills that strengthen their voices and foster economic growth. TechHer's main strands of work revolve around Tech for Governance, Community & Digital Literacy.

To Partner with us or for other services, please contact us via the details below:

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