

Conference Name: 2026 EdTec – International Conference on Education & Learning Technology, 13-14 September, Rome
Conference Dates: 13-Sep- 2026 to 14-Sep- 2026
Conference Venue: Courtyard by Marriott Rome Central Park, Via Moscati 7 •00168 Rome • Italy
Appears in: PUPIL: International Journal of Teaching, Education and Learning (ISSN 2457-0648)
Publication year: 2026

Umar Abubakar Sserunjogi, 2026

Volume 2026, pp. 313-314

DOI- <https://doi.org/10.20319/ictel.2026.313314>

This paper can be cited as: Sserunjogi, U.A. (2026). From Lived Experience to Learning Impact: A Youth-Led Framework for Educational Inclusion in Rural Uganda. 2026 EdTec – International Conference on Education & Learning Technology, 13-14 September, Rome. Proceedings of Teaching & Education Research Association (TERA), 2026, 313-314

FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE TO LEARNING IMPACT: A YOUTH-LED FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION IN RURAL UGANDA

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Abstract

Educational inequality remains one of the greatest barriers to social mobility in many rural communities across Sub-Saharan Africa. This presentation introduces a youth-led framework for educational inclusion developed through the work of the Al Karam Charitable Foundation, a grassroots organization founded by a former scholarship recipient and double orphan who transformed personal adversity into community action. Drawing on lived experience and direct engagement with underserved populations, the foundation addresses barriers to learning by providing scholastic materials, educational support, and community-based interventions for vulnerable children, widows, and families in remote areas of Uganda. The presentation explores how local knowledge, combined with digital communication tools, data management practices, and ICT-driven coordination, can strengthen the identification of educational needs and improve resource distribution where institutional support is limited. The session presents a practical model

of sustainable social impact in which educational initiatives are funded through international employment income and managed through transparent, technology-enabled processes. Particular attention is given to how youth leaders can leverage digital tools to mobilize resources, monitor outcomes, engage stakeholders, and expand access to learning opportunities in marginalized communities. Through this case study, participants will gain insights into the role of lived experience in educational leadership, the potential of grassroots innovation to complement formal educational systems, and the importance of empowering young people as active contributors to educational development. The presentation concludes by proposing a scalable framework for community-driven educational inclusion that can be adapted across low-resource settings worldwide.

Keywords:

Educational Inclusion, Youth Leadership, Learning Equity, Community Development, Educational Technology, Rural Uganda

Expected Contribution: This presentation contributes a unique perspective on how personal resilience, youth leadership, and accessible technology can be integrated to advance educational equity and create sustainable learning opportunities for vulnerable populations.