

## Quarterly Newsletter 1-2019

The first quarter of 2019 came with so much warmth and excitement. The enthusiasm displayed by the children, their parents, community leaders, and every other person involved in this adventure has been simply amazing! Not just that, every time the “Bramble Idea” is shared, it has fallen on receptive and interested hearts that are wowed at the endless possibilities that Bramble offers and the solution it would bring into the education space of the country.

Since pilot learning space at Beere community of Ibadan started, we have recorded little but notable transformations with the children and this is a great source of encouragement to us as it already paints a picture of what the future would look like regardless of the present challenges. One of those transformations is with a 9year old boy named Azeez; the first child to walk into our learning space. He came in dirty and half clothed, fond of using vulgar words. He had picked up these uncouth behaviours from the environment where he was raised, and temper tantrums were quite a common display in his first week. One week into the program, he had become less aggressive and smiled frequently. He even displays leadership attributes by leading the group for the collection of plastics, old tyres and other materials that would be used to facilitate their learning.

Dear readers, thank you for your interest in our first ever newsletter. We are glad to take you through all that we have done these past months. And so, this is us formally welcoming you to [Bramble](#). At Bramble, we create alternative learning spaces where children in rural and marginalised communities can find their passion for learning through the use of play and creative resources. Enjoy as we take you through it all.



Odunayo, founder of Bramble and some children after a learning activity



Some children during our community awareness program in Beere community

### Community Awareness Program

An awareness program tagged Ibadan Children Hangout was organised for the Beere community; arguably one of the most marginalised communities in Ibadan, Nigeria. Beere was selected to host Bramble’s pilot alternative learning space. The 1st phase of the awareness was a house to house interaction with both parents and children on the importance of education and also to invite them for a general session. At the 2nd phase, the children who were well over 90 in number from ages 6-15 gathered were engaged with different activities (singing, verbal games, and so

on) and they were spoken to about education and life in general. The parents (about 15) who had also come together were required to proffer solutions to the education related challenges in the community. This participatory approach was employed to make them know that their opinion mattered so much and that the proposed project was theirs and not forced on them. To read a full report of this awareness program [Click Here](#)



A Bramble volunteer taking selfie with some children during the awareness program



Odunayo, taking notes during participatory learning with parents at awareness program



With some community leaders during awareness program



Highlight: There is a dire need for spaces where children can have access to quality learning

## Volunteers Training

Training was organised for volunteers who showed interest in being a part of the Ibadan Children Hangout. This training held at Mellanby hall, University of Ibadan for about 2 hours. There was also a virtual training session for those who could not be present. They were taught on how to engage the community, how to catch and retain the children's attention among other things. Branded t-shirts were given to each volunteer to be worn for the program.



Some of the Volunteers for 'Ibadan Children Hangout'



Group picture with volunteers after the community awareness program

## Breakfast Weekend Program at Impact Africa Television

Our founder, Odunayo, was invited to speak about Bramble on a Breakfast Show at the Impact Africa Television (IATV). IATV is the television arm of Metropolitan Broadcasting Network which also runs Nigeria's first business radio. This program had two anchors who asked about her inspiration, challenges and projections. It was a good platform to expose what we do and their positive feedbacks was great source of encouragement.



Odunayo, speaking on the education of children in marginalised communities on IATV

Odunayo, speaking on the education of children in marginalised communities on IATV

## Baseline survey

A survey team consisting of four persons who are quite familiar with the study area was set up. Pre-set questions that served as an interview guide was drafted and this covered for both the parents and the children. The children were asked about their age, school, skill and behavioural pattern, education interest and their perspective about the community. While parents were asked questions on their occupation, family role, educational interest for their children, and the social perspective they have about the community. The baseline result provided data that is very useful in measuring the success of our intervention and provided detailed insight into the community.

## Community mapping

Ibadan has eleven local government areas scattered across 3080km land mass. In order to identify the suitable location for our Bramble residential learning space, we conducted a thorough mapping exercise in rural communities across Ibadan. During the Community Mapping exercise, we collected data which helped us gain insight into the existing assets and resources within selected rural communities. We have been able to map 9 communities altogether. These include Abule Oderemi, Aba Asipa, Abule Gbengbin, Aba Patako, Abule Apotipopo, Aba Faomi, Abule Aremu, Aba Araba, and Ejioku. [Click here to read more](#)



Bramble Team and a community guide during community mapping



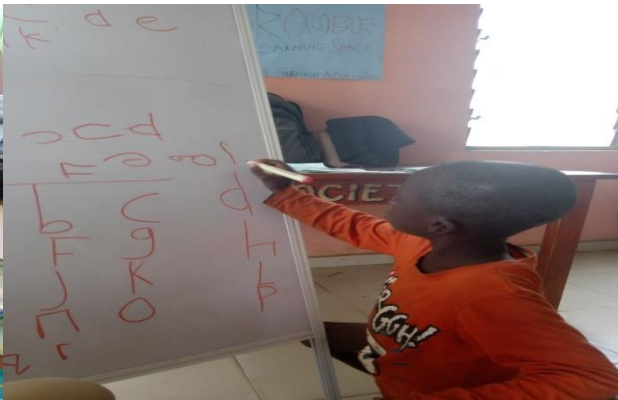
Ido Local Government, Ibadan Nigeria. One of the several communities we have mapped

## Pilot Learning Space in Beere

We launched the Pilot Learning Space in Beere on March 19, 2019. We have gradually grown from six (6) children who attended the first session to 10 children. We witnessed notable transformations in each of these children; ranging from improved literacy skills to positive change in behaviour. [Click here to read more](#)



Children engaged in an activity at our learning space in Beere



One of our children learning to recognise letters

## Bramble in the media:

- Impact Africa Television: Education of Children in marginalised communities
- NGO Podcast: Bramble Learning Space

## Donations

- Bookshelves and table from Tenposs Ltd
- Children Books from Friends in India and Thailand

## Some of Our Plans for the second Quarter 2019

- Buy a piece of land for Bramble residential learning space.
- Conduct mid-line evaluation for Pilot project.
- A child with a dream; an exposure trip program for 10 children in Beere learning space.
- Conduct training sessions for educators who have showed interest in joining Bramble network of educator.

## ***Dear Friends and supporters,***

*Without your help we would not have been able to achieve this much in the first quarter of 2019. Our gratitude goes to **The Pollination Project and our individual sponsors.** Therefore, on behalf of all our children and the Bramble Team, we say a very big thank you for your continuous support. Do help share this newsletter among your network of friends and associates. **Welcome to the second quarter of the year!***

*Warm regards,  
Odunayo, and the entire Bramble Team.*

If you wish to support the work of Bramble, please [Click Here](#)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

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