

# BRAMBLE

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## BRAMBLE LEARNING SPACE

Bramble learning space is an open learning community located in the heart of Arikanki village, at the outskirts of Ibadan, Nigeria.



# PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH



**Bramble is the  
place to be!**

When I was asked to write a speech as the president of this learning space, just then I looked back and I was amazed at how much I have grown. I wondered if I was able to do this two years ago. I had just resumed the learning space a few months when I was elected to be the president.

Assuming this leadership position is one of the best things that has happened to me in these few months of joining Bramble. I remembered when we had to do the election on the 15th of January, 2020, the election was just like when we are conducting an election for the position of the president of Nigeria. It was a strict election, but God has His way. I would love to appreciate the Director, Bramble Learning Space, the Catalysts, our sponsors and partners, my other SRC(Students' Representative Council) committees, and all the learners. Believe me, you all are awe-amazing.

Bramble Learning Space is the first Alternative school in Nigeria where learning is used to raise creative and critical thinkers and the world's biggest problem solvers. In my few months in office as the President, my confidence has been built, some of my dreams are becoming a reality. We have been able to relate with children outside and within the country using our laptops (we appreciate everyone who sees to it that we have laptops to ourselves, we appreciate **Eridan** for all have they done for us at Bramble and many who have been supportive). We have been able to hold a meeting discussing how we can build the community and build ourselves. Our family meetings has been impactful. The fact that we got to learn different topics on community relationships makes me always pray for the next day to come in a wink of an eye. There is no doubt that with what I have been exposed to here in Bramble, I am going out into the world to solve the biggest problems. We are the World's biggest problem solvers!

Bramble is the best place to be! It shouldn't be a surprise to you when you see us at the top.  
Bramble to the World!

**Paul ThankGod**  
President, SRC



"There is no doubt that with what I have been exposed to here in Bramble, I am going out into the world to solve the biggest problem. We are the world's biggest problem solvers"



# DIRECTOR'S SPEECH

## Important Days!

Relocated to Arikanki village

-August 4, 2019

Opened Bramble Learning space

-September 16, 2019

and many more anniversaries to follow!



## The Chronicles of Bramble

By Odunayo Aliu

Every journey starts with planning. The plan and strategies bring the purpose of the journey to reality. Our journey has been rooted in learning; about ourselves and what we thought we knew.

Every idea we had about education when we started has been tested and proved. The key component of our growth is flexibility.

Daily, our heart is ripped off-track stereotypical thinking to function in a multi-dimension way. We have created an avenue not for our learners alone but for everyone who is part of the journey to find what is true.

Life is generous, it presents solutions for every problem we face. Howbeit, they come disguised in form of another problem. Only the persistent can crack the nut.

A core of the journey is our beautiful natural environment. It welcomes us with confidence every morning. Our learning environment harmonizes our experiences both from the basic daily living and the complex professional trainings.

There is a constant hope and strong belief that our dream is attainable.

We keep learning and growing irrespective of the hurdles.

# BRAMBLE

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## WHAT DOES THE NAME BRAMBLE MEAN?

Bramble is a plant that has torn and grows in difficult places. It usually does not produce fruit in its first stage of development, but when it finally does, it is difficult to destroy. For us, it symbolizes the life of children living in rural communities.



## WHAT DOES BRAMBLE DO?

Bramble focuses on the physical, emotional, mental, and social development of every child living in the rural communities of Nigeria. Looking at the present disparity between children raised by middle or high-income families in the city and others raised in the village by a low-income; there seems to be no hope for an equal society. We believe education is a tool for social integration and if delivered in a manner that makes learning fun and engaging; it changes the status of every child.



# VISION

Our vision is for an equitable African society where every child has the right to quality, accessible, and affordable, learning opportunities thus becoming creative thinkers, solving the world's biggest challenges.

# MISSION

Our mission is to create alternative learning spaces for children living in rural and marginalized communities.



## WHY IN THE VILLAGE?

It is widely known that schools in rural communities are characterized by poor facilities, inadequate teachers and uninspiring learning experience. What is the fate of children living in these regions?

Bramble established her first learning space in a village known as Arikanki located at the outskirts of Ibadan, Oyo State. We want to build a world where every child have access to quality education irrespective of their geographic location or socioeconomic background.

# MY JOURNEY THROUGH BRAMBLE



## A Story of an inspiring Journey

BY BOLADE AJIMISOGBE (BRAMBLE CATALYST)

Will anyone spend a day in Bramble and not have something to take home? Not even me, who has spent over a year in this space. Bramble is filled with wonders that makes me feel fulfilled at the end of each day. You just have to see these things for yourself. My experience in Bramble is definitely the beautiful days of my life.

Though, I have heard of the whole idea of the learning space while still an undergraduate. I was still left in awe when I came here. In Bramble, I have been exposed to so many knowledge including my strength and weakness.

The journey has stretched the limit of my capacity there is this awareness in me that "building foundation, especially the one that will take deep root is not always easily, it requires Surveying and digging before you start building and I also often remind myself that I am here for a purpose, to solve the world's most avoided problem and because of this, I gave myself to total drilling.

I remember the day I went to pick and presented our first laptop, in 2019. It was the first time the learners had access to a computer system. We celebrated that landmark and the joyful emotions are still fresh in my mind.



In March 2020, before the Covid-19 break we went for our first community project where we talked about hygiene, kindness, and happiness. The learners made presentations, and believe me, I could not hide my joy.

Unfortunately, when Covid came and we could not continue with our learning activities. That made us go on break from 20th of March 2020 till July, 2020. I missed my learners so much.



When we resumed back to the learning space in July 2020, I was so excited you will think I won a lottery. At this time, we now had more laptops in which one was assigned to me officially. The period of July through September was a hectic one because we needed to refresh relearn some topics I had previously facilitated.

Well, by then I was used to the working style in Bramble which required my heart and hands to be involved in interaction with learners. Shortly after we resumed, we had a new catalyst. I was assigned to be her mentor and every bit of our interaction was engaging. She is so teachable which is one of our values. I, on the other hand, had another opportunity to learn leadership.

*On the 10th of October, 2020, I organized the International Day of Girl Child themed 'My voice, an equal future'. That was a defining moment for me, I didn't believe that I could pull off such a massive event hosting over 50 girls from the village community. We have an incredible team of supportive people in Bramble. Now, I work confidently on my life purpose with the support of each of the team member.*

*We went on to host other programs including the End of the year Event, and a surprise trip to Agodi garden.*

# WHAT WE LEARNT FROM DOING CRAFT.

Ola Elizabeth, Ieorpargh Comfort and Otokpa Johnson (Bramble Learners)



## WHAT IS CRAFT?

When you hear the word Craft, what comes to mind? Shoemaking? Bead making? Well, they are more than what you can imagine. All works that put your hands, heart, and body into action is classified as a craft.

## PLANNING

Planning is one of the most important things in human life. This is one of the ability crafting is teaching us. We learn to plan our resources and time ahead.



## IMAGINATION

Each of the Craft we make is an an expression of our own imagination. We use this skill to beautifully illustrate different element of our ideas or feelings.



## CRITICAL THINKING

The process of making a Craft makes us think. You just want to know how or what other ways a particular object can be made. I think we should look into the importance of craft before we get lost in the definition of Craft.

## SELF-EXPRESSION

Every child has a craving for exploration and expression of his/her emotions. They want to share their difficulties, they want to know their strength and weakness even at their tender age. Crafting is one tool that help them to achieve these. It helps build courage and a healthy self-esteem.



## SOCIALIZATION

Craft activities bring us together. It helps an introverted child relate with other children, foster friendships and it also helps to develop an appreciation for each other. It builds a healthy communication among learners.

# ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

OLANIYAN EVELYN- CATALYST

Alternative education is an educational method or pedagogy that differs significantly from the traditional system of education. It involves a process of letting children take ownership of their own learning process and connecting what they are learning to real life experiences.

Alternative Education emphasize the importance of self-directed learning, social responsibility, and respect for every individual. Alternative education encourages collaborative and extensive governance among the learners, creation of co-learning spaces and co-supporting.



Alternative education fosters a healthy emotional development which is nurtured by conveying knowledge experientially.

Learning in Alternative education is an engaging voyage of discovery of the world and of oneself rather than just then mere acquisition of information. It works with both hands throughout the day, both in primary academic subjects and in a broad range of artistic handwork, music and craft activities.

Alternative education focuses on addressing the whole child. It helps to build a child artistic, academic and also develops the child's confidence and self-reliance.

# THANK YOU FOR READING!



## CONTACT US

### VISIT US

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