

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

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Inspiring Great Minds



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

EDUPLANT
PROGRAMME
FOR LEARNERS

By Thulisa Mangcotywa

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We speak to Bharati Tugh, EduPlant Manager and Education Associate at Food & Trees For Africa about their school gardens initiatives which also serves as a career guidance opportunity for participating learners

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At just 14 years old, Rabia Ghoor started a makeup brand in her bedroom in Pretoria. With just two products, an Instagram page and the teen entrepreneur's determination to launch an innovative digital makeup brand, Switch Beauty was born

ENTREPRENEUR
SPOTLIGHT

By Nicole Holmes

EDUPLANT SCHOOL GARDENING

INTERVIEW WITH BHARATI TUGH

By Thulisa Mangcotywa



RSCE: WHAT TYPE OF RESOURCES AND MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED DURING THE WORKSHOPS, AND HOW THEY ARE TAILORED TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS OR LEARNING LEVELS?

Bharati Tugh: Educational materials include a manual on permaculture, posters on the various permaculture principles and application, learner activity books, tools, trees, herbs, seeds and seedlings. Lesson plans and differentiated assessments are shared with the teachers to ensure that the content is aligned with subjects from grade R to 12. The complexity of content and practical activities will differ from grade to grade.

RSCE: COULD YOU SHARE SOME SUCCESS STORIES OR EXAMPLES OF HOW LEARNERS HAVE TAKEN THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE EDUPLANT PROGRAMME TO INFLUENCE THEIR HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES

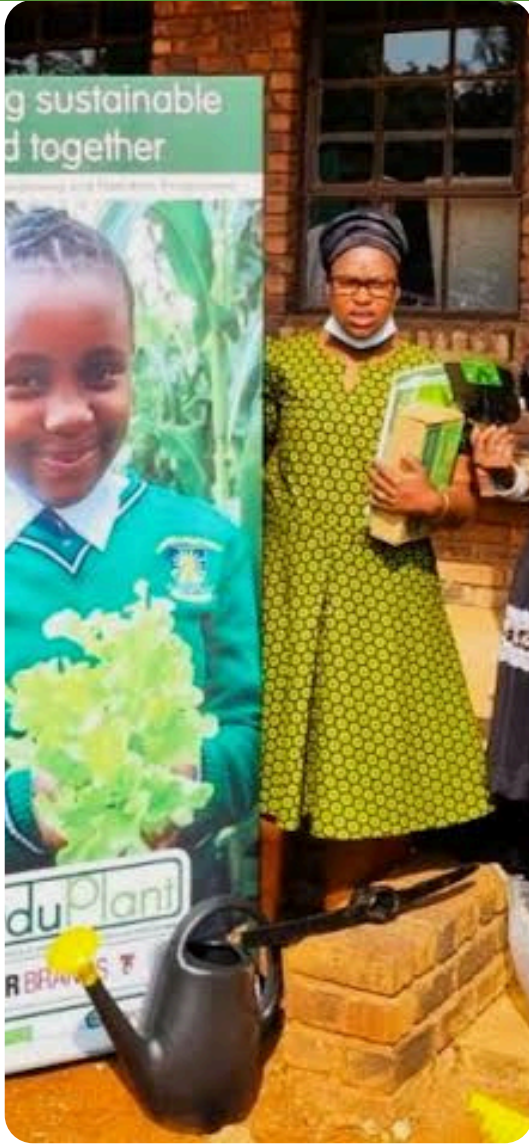
Bharati Tugh: The Eduplant Programme's investment in school-going children will continue to deliver value and upscale the interest in food security and environmentally conscious living. The impact is life-changing. A number of schools are producing adequate food to supplement the feeding schemes and to distribute to indigent learners.(Evidence of quantities is provided by the harvest records). We have records of learners who have set up homestead gardens after attending the workshops and transferred the skills to their parents and siblings.



RSCE: HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THE EDUPLANT PROGRAMME IN BOTH SCHOOLS AND THEIR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF FOOD SECURITY?

Bharati Tugh: During each workshop the schools present a portfolio of evidence. The POE provides us with details of progress at each school, which include the cross curricular impact. There are lessons plans from various grades to ensure that permaculture topics which align to the curriculum are taught, photographs of the gardens highlight the practical implementation of concepts taught, harvest records and evidence of usage of vegetable during meal preparation is an indication of flourishing gardens. During our visits to the schools, engagement with learners, community members and teachers, and the pictures we receive, heightens the fact that when learners are involved in learning fundamental gardening skills they become instrumental in their education and development. They are being encouraged to use the newly acquired gardening skills at home to encourage healthy diets, quality lifestyles and beautify the living area. In this way the families and communities truly "grow" together.





FOOD & TREES FOR AFRICA HAS BEEN MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITIES SINCE 1994



RSCE: HOW HAS EDUPLANT PROGRAMME EVOLVED SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1994, AND WHAT SPECIFIC MILESTONES HIGHLIGHT ITS GROWTH AND IMPACT IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Bharati Tugh: The programme initially engaged with schools nationally by offering a one day introductory workshop on permaculture. Attendees at the workshop received educational materials and guidance on setting up school based food gardens. A competition was held annually to identify the best school food gardening programme. Since its inception, the programme has been constantly evolving to align with the dynamic nature of education and societal needs.

Since 2012 the programme is conducted over a 2 Year cycle and the objectives:

Distributing valuable resources during the termly workshops

- Creating school-linked food security clusters in under-resourced communities.
- Establishing and improving 300 school gardens in 45 districts in all nine provinces
- Creating awareness amongst educators of food security programmes
- Align content presented to the school curriculum
- Unpacking career opportunities in the agricultural industry
- Assisting schools to support the nutrition programme with fresh vegetables from their gardens
- Developing confidence / presentation skills in the lead-up to the competition finals
- Have learners understand Permaculture and environmental issues and replicate these practices at their homesteads and communities
- Enhancing nutrition and lifestyle choices

RSCE: CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THE ROLE OF PERMACULTURE WITHIN THE PROGRAMME AND HOW IT INFLUENCES BOTH THE GARDENING PRACTICES AND THE BROADER EDUCATIONAL GOAL?

The EduPlant Programme engages with Primary and High School learners. The programme content focuses on various topics that stimulate an interest in a variety of fields the agricultural industry. Learners learn about , forests, climate change, farming and food, water, urban activities, waste management, and energy. The concepts are foundational, but the seeds for career pathing are sown early. During their tree planting activities, they are taught about indigenous forests and plantations that contribute to functioning ecosystems and livelihoods and the provision of wood and by-products. The study options available in forestry include Forest Scientists, Bioengineers, Tree Feller Operators, etc

CAREER OPTIONS



South Africa is a water-scarce country, and learners are taught water management to ensure the availability and access to water for all. Water Quality Analysts, Water Resource Managers, Aquatic Biologists, Plumbers, and Water Treatment Plant Operators will be of value to ensure that we have access to clean drinking water and that water is used effectively for agriculture.

Food Security is a global priority. Therefore, the EduPlant Programme focuses on practicing Agroecology and permaculture principles. We look forward to learners pursuing careers in Agro-economy, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Scientists, Farm Managers, Extension Officers, Hydrologists, Biotechnologists, etc.

Upcycling, recycling, and repurposing of items are encouraged. In this space, there are opportunities for Chemical Engineers, Removal Workers, Waste Recycles, and Waste Management Practitioners.

EduPlant has exposed the youth to a greater understanding of their essential role in ensuring that South Africa's natural resources are conserved and supported for sustainable development. If they embark on careers in the field, they could contribute to new ways of sustainably producing diverse and nutritious food for all and promoting environmental health and wellbeing, and developing sustainable communities.



RABIA GHOOR

Founder of Switch Beauty

ENTREPRENEUR FEATURE

STARTING YOUNG

RABIA GHOOR'S ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY AT JUST 14 YEARS OLD, RABIA GHOOR TURNED HER PASSION INTO A BUSINESS. SHE STARTED SWITCH BEAUTY, A MAKEUP BRAND, FROM THE COMFORT OF HER BEDROOM IN PRETORIA WITH ONLY TWO PRODUCTS AND A SIMPLE INSTAGRAM PAGE. LITTLE DID SHE KNOW, THIS HUMBLE BEGINNING WOULD EVOLVE INTO A THRIVING BEAUTY EMPIRE

FROM BEDROOM TO BUSINESS

SINCE IT'S LAUNCH, SWITCH BEAUTY HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL INSTAGRAM PAGE TO A SUCCESSFUL ONLINE STORE. THE BRAND NOW OFFERS 14 PRODUCTS SPANNING BOTH COSMETICS AND SKINCARE, WITH OVER 100,000 FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM. GHOOR'S DRIVE HELPED HER EXPAND HER BUSINESS INTO PHYSICAL RETAIL SPACES, INCLUDING THE EGG STORE IN CAVENDISH SQUARE.



The Power of Perseverance: The Future Ahead

Rabia Ghoor's story is a testament to the power of perseverance. From starting small to becoming a Forbes award winner, she has proven that age is no barrier to success. With Switch Beauty's continued growth, the sky is the starting point for this inspiring young entrepreneur. Her journey shows us that with creativity, dedication, and a clear vision, you can create something truly special. It's a reminder that you don't have to wait to start your dreams—you can begin today, just like she did.

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