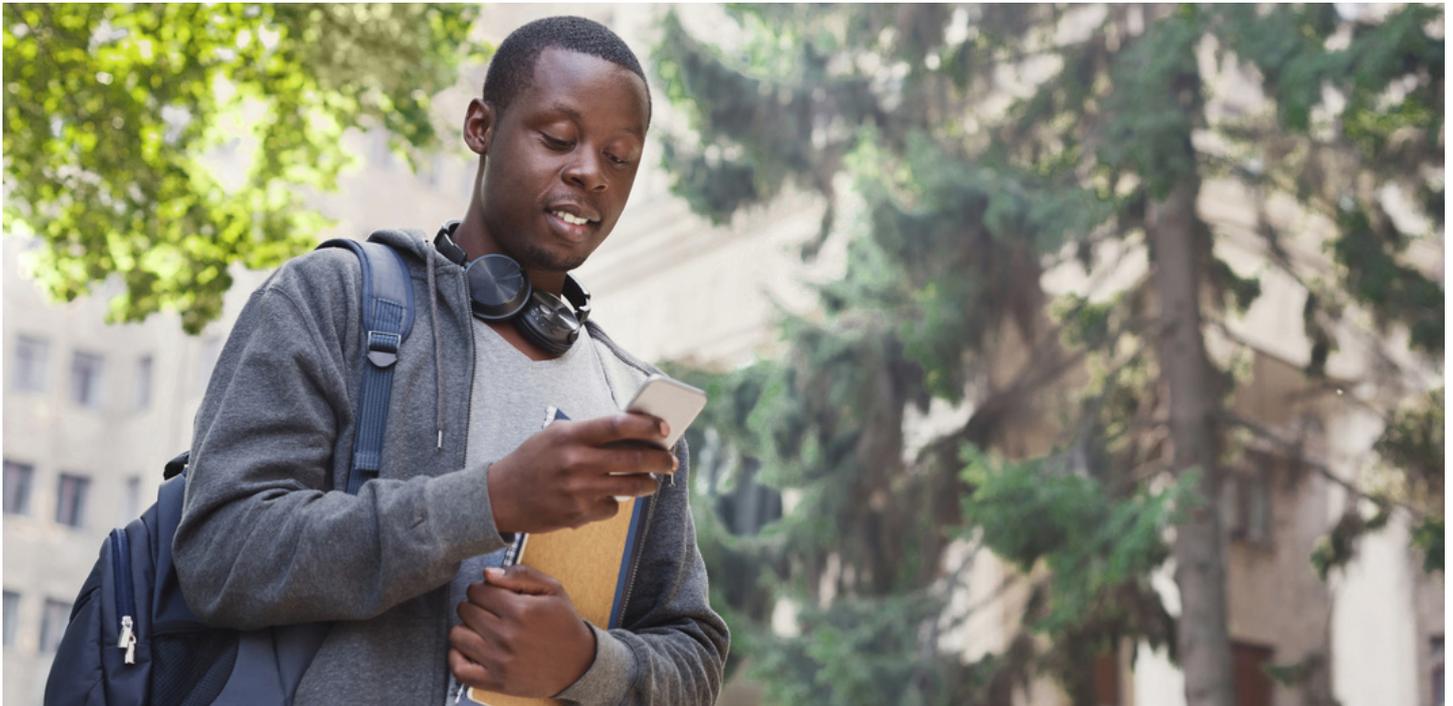


FUNZI / BOLAND COLLEGE PILOT PROJECT SHOWS BENEFITS OF BLENDED LEARNING

Students and teachers see great potential benefits in combining online courses with traditional in-class instruction



ESPOO, Finland (May 23, 2022) Funzi Oy, together with its partner Excel, Inc., set up a pilot project with Boland College in South Africa to test the effectiveness of combining an online Funzi course with traditional in-class instruction. Students and teachers praised the blended learning method and hoped it would soon be widely implemented in their school.

The students, learning from Funzi's 'Get that Job' course, found the content useful, interesting, and beneficial to helping them secure a job. This is in line with recently published research from the University of Gothenburg that showed that taking the 'Get that job' course provided learners with the job-seeking skills, knowledge, and motivation that they need to find work.

One teacher said, 'This course was helpful in preparing students for their job search and guiding them through the process of applying for work. I could also relate the course content to their lives through real-world examples of challenges they have faced in their job search.'

A particularly encouraging result was that the blended learning method worked just as well for the disabled students in the group as for the non-disabled students. Disabled students in many countries are often marginalised, disadvantaged, and not given equal learning opportunities. This suggests that digital courses like Funzi's will be a real driver for equity in education.

Teachers praised the flexibility and structure that blended learning afforded them. The course guides and discussion questions provided by Funzi helped them steer the discussions and discover the content the students found most useful. As students needed only their phones and an internet connection, the set-up for the training was effortless and a much cheaper alternative to textbooks. The teachers also saved time and money by not having to print out the material. Finally, load-shedding wasn't a problem, as it often is in South Africa, as students were able to use a mobile hotspot as an internet connection.

The success of the Funzi/Boland College pilot study shows how blended learning can improve the quality of education for learning institutions in developing countries. This may be especially true when developing 21st-century soft skills to supplement the technical skills students traditionally receive through their colleges. It's an effective way to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' - in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 as set out by the United Nations General Assembly.

'We are very happy with the results of the pilot with Boland College. We have been developing a blended learning pedagogy for Funzi courses for a few years and are slowly starting to use it in broader implementations. The feedback from Boland College shows us that we are on the right track and that mobile learning can actually empower the flipped classroom approach.'

- Aape Pohjavirta, Funzi's Founder and President

More information about Funzi

Funzi is a digital consumer product and a leader in mobile learning. Its scalable mobile service enables the delivery of mobile courses for billions of people, making learning accessible, easy, and impactful. Funzi uses robust mobile technology to facilitate access to its service anywhere in the world with any mobile device. By using a learning method that is unique, innovative, and scientifically proven, it makes learning complex matters easy. Funzi transforms existing high-quality learning content into inspiring mobile courses.