



Qudwa 2017 – Global Teachers' Forum Coffeehouse Sessions

"Don't Eat the Laptops"
Nathan Atkins
Saturday, October 7, 2017

Nathan's school did not have the budget to provide meals to the students. Realizing the amount of food wasted at food markets every day, Nathan approached wholesalers. They donated their unsold bread and other food products to Nathan, who succeeded in feeding his students toast every day.

By offering food items to students, Nathan managed to protect the feelings of vulnerable, poor students, as well as create an economy at the school that is not based on money. He emailed other schools asking them how many they wanted him to feed. On September 28, 2015, he managed to feed 1,000 students.

Nathan's initiative saved more than 28 tons of food to go to waste. He now works with 50 schools in Leeds. The education budget in Leeds is aligned with Nathan's program.

Safety is very important for students. Nathan makes sure that they are safe, fed, and get enough sleep. Everything is driven by education. Education is the heart of everything. Nathan reasserted the importance of reengaging the community.

Nathan's program faced some challenges, namely food expiry and food inspection.

Nathan asked: "Are we ready to learn and invest in long-term solutions? How do we take care of our children?" Participants answered:

- Empower children. The choices and decisions you take will make a difference throughout a child's life.
- Tables should be filled with food.
- Social interaction is powerful.
- Create a change and empower the people to do it.

