

TUTORS APP/PLATFORM FOR ONLINE EDUCATION

by

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## **Author's Declaration**

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# iTUTORS APP/PLATFORM FOR AFFORDABLE LIVE EDUCATION

Master of Digital Media, 2020

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## **Abstract**

What does the iTUTORS App look like and what will make it different and unique in a realm of educational Apps everywhere in the world? The core idea of this project is to create a marketplace for free or affordable education, where students or learners can meet with teachers and tutors who speak their own language regardless of where they are living. This platform will help both of them; the students to get free or affordable tutoring and the teachers to earn extra income to improve their living cost particularly in the war zones or poor communities.

This project aims to build a new platform for providing online live tutoring for learners through a mobile phone App and make it accessible for anyone in the world. It will launch its first stage with free service in the Middle East, where many countries are suffering from armed conflicts. In Yemen and Syria, for example, this resulted in millions of students dropping from schools during the past few years. This project will create a platform in both forms of mobile Progressive Web App (PWA), compatible with Android and iOS devices, as well as a website to make it easy to access for any student or teacher by any device they have.

**Key words:**

iTutors | Online Tutoring | Remote Tutor | Virtual Tutoring | Virtual Classes | Online Education |  
e-Learning | Live Classes | Education Application | Free Education | Free Tutoring | one-on-one  
Tutor | Education for All

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## **Introduction**

Traditional education has become a very tough and big challenge, not only in war-torn countries in the Middle East, such as Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, but also in many other poor countries and communities or remote areas in the world as a huge amount of school-aged children are unable to gain access to schools. Yemen, for instance, where I am from, The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) states that out of 7 million school-aged children, more than 2 million are already out of school, and another 3.7 million are at risk of dropping out so far [1]. The education situation in Syria looks similar to Yemen, and possibly worse, as the UNICEF explains that nearly 3 million school-aged children don't have access to schools inside Syria and in the five neighboring host countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. This figure indicates that almost more than one-third of Syria's children are out of school and another 1.3 million children are at risk of dropping out [2]. The education situations in Iraq and in Libya are equally distressing. Syria, Yemen, and Libya have fallen into armed conflict since the post-Arab spring uprising of 2011, with Iraq living in turmoil and sporadic fighting for more than a decade.

The education situations in many other countries and continents such as Africa, southeastern and southwestern Asia, and Latin America are also grim, as many of these countries are facing either armed conflicts, sectarian fighting or political turmoil. Some other countries are not rich enough to tackle the education difficulties, as security and stability have affected students' ability to go to school. The United Nations researches points out that only four out of every 100 children in Africa are expected to enter a graduate and postgraduate institution, compared to 36 out of 100 in Latin America and 14 out of 100 kids in south and west Asia.

It shows that only 30% to 50% of secondary-school-aged children are attending school, while only 7% to 23% of tertiary-school-aged youth are enrolled. The strategic advisor for UNDP Africa Ms. Angela Lusigi, confirms that “This varies by sub-region, with the lowest levels being in Central and Eastern Africa and the highest enrolment levels in Southern and Northern Africa” [3]. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Statistics Institute (UIS)’s report concludes that more than 617 million children and teenagers globally don’t even a minimum proficiency in reading and basic education, as there is no inclusive and quality education or lifelong learning opportunities for all [4].

This MRP will be a contribution to solving the traditional problem of getting access to education in these countries and in many others, wherever they are in the world, by innovative means of online education. This project is an app to create a platform for live (real-time) tutoring to make the education accessible and affordable for all children, as the plan is to offer services for free in the Middle East, as a first phase, then Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. It will act as a kind of marketplace for listing professional teachers who showed their interest and applied to provide online education/tutoring for students in the war zones, poor communities, and remote areas. This platform will also be for teachers everywhere in the world in many local languages and for local curricula.

The iTUTORS app is an ambitious project to bridge the gap in the field of education in war zones and poor societies.

## Literature Review

### Background

When it comes to the existing online education service, it is generally assumed to be a kind of business that earns money from providing online education, tutoring, mentoring, or instructing, more than providing a free or affordable service for vulnerable learners. The online educational service started piecemeal two decades ago with the advancement of the Internet and communication services worldwide. When you Google or scan the Internet, you will find hundreds of online platforms or apps worldwide providing online education, and trying to attract students or learners to apply or to buy this service from them. These websites or apps provide a variety of educational materials, general tutoring, one-on-one tutoring, or an on-call or on-demand instruction service to help students pass their exams or get better grades in subject that are tough for them.

All of these websites or apps provide paid services, in which most of the students or learners are unable to pay as it is more than their family's budget, or it is in a different language and in specific topics or countries, all of which don't help the majority of global students gain access to these kinds of online educational services. The current online education services focus on wealthy families as valuable paying customers and are not treating education as a valuable mission.

Some of these educational websites just work to receive requests for providing on-call or on-demand tutoring service by a variety of teachers, who are conducting tutoring in remote or by in-person methods. These platforms have hired many teachers in various subjects to conduct this tutoring once they get customers' requests. This service is usually offered in some tough subjects

of secondary education such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, and languages of the specific country, mostly the US, Canada, and the EU. The payment for these services is calculated according to the time consumed in tutoring, as it is counted per minute.

Other models of tutoring websites provide online tutoring services, as they have a collection of teachers who conduct only remote tutoring. This tutoring takes place for some of the tougher subjects in the curriculum in their region or country and in one language. Tutors get paid per online class or per hour.

Many other platforms have hired tutors to teach their customers (learners) to provide them online learning in a variety of curriculum subjects or skills in two options of tutoring: on a one-on-one basis or in a group. Payment is calculated according to the selected option.

Some other online educational websites or apps are registered as non-profit organizations supported by such affluent families or wealthy personalities as Salman Khan in the US, who founded Khan Academy platform and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed, leader of Dubai, UAE, who funded Madrasa website and app. Both of these platforms provide free online education, but they are restricted by geography, language, and limited materials. The majority of online educational websites or apps provide their services in English only, or a few others provide services in one or two local languages, according to their region or country. As non-profit platforms, not one of them has an international dimension with curricula or languages local to the areas they service.

To be clear, so far, there is no online learning platform that has live, online educational services for several countries in a variety of local languages within local curricula, as well as no local teachers to provide this live, online tutoring, for free.

## **Models of Online Educational Platforms**

There is a huge amount of online educational platforms, worldwide, taking various types of business models and conducting their services with different methods, languages, and topics, but the majority of them are paid-service platforms targeting only wealthy customers. Following this section are some examples of those paid platforms from various regions. In order to get a general background on them, what they provide, what they do and how they work, I will give a synopsis of each platform's approach to service, particularly those that have a similar style of tutoring to our project, iTUTORS, which is a combination of all of them in one place with the advantage of providing the service for free.

The American *Good Housekeeping* magazine website, which reviews mostly lifestyle sites, illustrates that 15 Best Online Tutoring Websites in the US [5]. Some of them are good examples to compare this project to the other available tutoring platforms. There are also some different models from other sources. This comparison is used to shed some light on these tutoring platforms that provide online education from the primary and secondary level of education to college and university levels. The examples of those online education platforms include:

### **1: CHEGG Tutors**

The CHEGG Tutors website states that provides educational material in innovative and simple ways for kids and learners. It has a variety of online educational products and services, including Cheap Textbooks, Chegg Coupon, Chegg Play, Chegg Study Help, College Textbooks, eTextbooks, Chegg Math Solver, and Mobile apps. The Chegg platform provides paid educational services, such as \$6.95US for one on-demand help

chat lesson with a Chegg tutor. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Otherwise, you have to subscribe to the monthly service that costs \$14.95US for unlimited chats, receiving help in the subjects of accounting, algebra, biology, calculus, chemistry, economics, finance, physics, and statistics. CHEGG also has a monthly plan that costs \$30US for an hour-long virtual live audio/video tutoring session once a month in any subject [6].

## **2: Tutor.com**

This is a US paid tutoring website that has a variety of on-call tutors who conduct virtual, on-demand tutoring 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tutor.com has positioned itself as a platform for helping students do their homework and gain a better understanding of their school subjects so they can get better grades in primary or secondary schools. The Tutor.com website explains that this service is designated to perform in the United States only, as its tutors are teaching some subjects of an American curriculum, such as mathematics, chemistry, physics, anatomy, psychology, languages, accounting and finance, in English only. The platform does not have the capacity to provide this service in other countries with other curriculums and other languages. Tutor.com's tutoring style as a paid service provides services to individuals, groups, public and private corporations. The payment varies according to the contract and type of service they provide [7].

## **3: Club Z**

Club Z is an American tutoring website and platform that brings teachers and students online together for paid virtual tutoring. Club Z website indicates that it provides special offers for students to chat in advance with tutors before they book an appointment to ensure that the tutor they pick is perfect and meets the requirements they need. This website's service includes some American school subjects, some languages and artistic skills such as music. Club Z provides tutoring methods both in-home and remotely in some 300 subjects and skills in the United States and Canada. The basic tutoring plan on this platform starts at \$242 for four hours only [8], which is too expensive for the majority of families on a budget.

#### **4: Learn To Be**

Learn To Be is a local nonprofit, online educational platform that offers low-cost or free-of-charge one-on-one tutoring services for students who are in need of its services in Los Angeles. Learn To Be website explains that they have supported more than 2,000 secondary school students since its beginning in 2012. The payment depends on the parents' financial ability. Learn To Be caters to what the parents can pay, as they choose the option that is suitable for their income on the enrolment form they need to fill out before their child begins learning [9].

#### **5: Khan Academy**

Khan Academy platform shows that it is a 100-percent free-of-charge tutoring platform providing free online education for school-aged children, in accordance with the

American curriculum. It started its online educational service in 2008 when Salman Khan created its non-profit organizational identity in the US [10]. Khan Academy provides pre-recorded and ready-to-go educational materials to watch and learn right away after students sign up on the website, without any restrictions or requirements. Khan Academy produces short video lessons in the and posts them on its platform for students to watch and learn any subject in which they are interested. The educational materials include some supplementary practice exercises, in which all materials are ready and available to students on both the website and Khan Academy's smartphone app. The majority of the content of Khan Academy's educational materials of is offered in the English language, with some exceptions that are offered in specific Indian languages. All of its educational services are pre-recorded materials; there is no live or one-on-one tutoring service.

## **6: Madrasa**

Madrasa (the word 'school' in Arabic) is a local non-profit educational online platform in the Arabic language, by one of Dubai leaders Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's global initiatives (MBRGI). Madrasa confirms that it provides its educational service in the form of pre-recorded video materials for some tough subjects in the United Arab Emirates' curriculum, such as mathematics, general science, physics, chemistry, and biology. Its content contains more than 5,000 educational video lessons, covering various educational levels, ranging from kindergarten to Grade 12. Moreover, the site also offers some exercises and applications of different scientific subjects to help in making the content a little easier for children [11].

Even though the wealthy ruling leader of Dubai created Madrasa, the site does not provide any live educational services and does not cover other countries other than UAE. It doesn't provide its service in other languages or curriculum, thereby excluding poor countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

## **7: Technical Skills Platforms**

There are a lot of platforms providing online Technical Skills learning in various languages and Languages Courses in many advanced countries, but they target only adults, and most of them are paid platforms, in which any learner interested in applying for any course will need to pay in advance, which might be more than their budget. While the price might be reasonable for western countries, it's not for developing countries where people are unable to cover the just the cost of living. However, these platforms also provide their service in the form of recorded video materials with some unique offers for live or one-on-one tutoring but at a very high cost.

The bottom line is that some of these platforms have received a high rating in their field, in terms of content and excellent service, but they are still targeting the elite and wealthy learners in North America, but they don't help the residents of the poor countries in South America. The majority of them are paid platforms; a handful of them are free platforms. But none of the tutoring sites can be defined as a global platform for all learners in various languages and be affordable for all, regardless of their capabilities and wherever they live.

These obstacles and limitations made the project of iTUTORS unique in the field of online education as it's dedicated to bridge the gap that other platforms seemingly have ignored in terms of cost, languages, local curricula, technical skills and more. iTUTORS is a combination

of all the good aspects of these platforms with a new business model, which makes it a marketplace for worldwide tutors who teach in local languages free of charge or at an affordable cost.

## **iTUTORS App/Platform**

### **iTUTORS as an Innovative App**

There are dozens of existing tutoring apps or educational platforms globally. Each of them are focused on a specific country or region, on certain subjects, or conducted through a local language. Most of them are paid platforms, which is not accessible for low-income people, in particular. These obstacles mark them as platforms for either the elite or wealthy only.

iTUTORS app/platform takes advantage of the limitations and shortcomings of the current apps and platforms to build a comprehensive and innovative app in the field of online tutoring. iTUTORS is an app that is a combination of all the good aspects of those other platforms that works on a global basis, for all people regardless of their economic situation, their language or country. It meets the needs of all people, poor and rich learners. The poor can get access to its service for free, and the wealthy can get access to it with low-cost fees. And even the payment of the wealthy students is considered a symbiotic contribution to cover the cost of the tutoring of the poor learners. This app is an innovative means to make online education free for all and keeps pace with all the technical developments in education so the people in the targeted communities and countries can have affordable online teaching worldwide. It is a big

project and, at first, seems to be unachievable, but with ambition, everything is possible and “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

### **Mission and Vision of iTUTORS**

- The Mission of iTUTORS is to create an affordable educational platform for learners and teachers all over the world to make the dream of *education for all* come true.
- The Vision of iTUTORS is to be the Number 1 app of all the online educational apps and platforms, delivering its service for free in most languages and in most countries.

### **Goal and Objectives of iTUTORS**

The main goal of iTUTORS is to provide free and affordable educational services to vulnerable children and learners everywhere in the world, in their own languages, within their specific curriculum and with no costly requirements.

The Objectives of iTUTORS are as follows:

- To create a global, live and online platform for a comprehensive free/affordable education.
- To provide a variety of online educational services, including local curriculum, technical skills, and academic education.
- To bring together students and teachers via this platform/app to make it as a teachers' marketplace where they can show off their skills and abilities for teaching online.
- To help students and learners get access to education and to support teachers to get additional income to cover their daily expenses.

- To create an international educational platform that breaks the barriers of language by delivering tutoring in local languages.

### **iTUTORS' Area of Focus**

The iTUTORS project takes Yemen and Syria as its area of focus and a model for its first stage of implementing the free online education. Both are countries in the Middle East suffering from the problem of access to schools, as they are caught in ongoing wars, where education was the first victim of the armed conflicts.

The UNICEF emphasizes that since the armed conflict broke out in Yemen in March 2015, education infrastructure, schoolchildren and teachers have been deeply affected. The fighting has had a devastating impact on Yemen's education system and on the chances of millions of children to get access to education. In addition to safety and war atmosphere issues, the largest challenge facing Yemeni education is the lack of funds to pay the teachers' salaries, which has a profound effect on the continuation of their job and accessibility of education to children. The UNICEF confirmed that "Nearly three-quarters of public schoolteachers in 11 governorates have not been paid for over two school years, which has disrupted schooling of around 3.7 million children in these governorates," [12].

The education situation in Syria is also deeply affected by the armed conflict with devastating effects on access to education. At least 7,000 schools were either destroyed or damaged during the war years, which forced more than 2 million school-aged children to drop out of school. Most of these children became the most vulnerable and were displaced by insecurity situations in Syria, where a whole generation has never enrolled in school and will

face serious difficulties and hardship in the future as they grow older without getting access to formal education. The UNICEF further points out that “The combination of displacement, lack of learning spaces, economic hardship and protection concerns remain obstacles and barriers for the fulfillment of the right to education for children in Syria” [13].

### **iTUTORS importance as a part of solution**

The importance of iTUTORS comes from this complex educational situation in Yemen, Syria and many other countries in the Middle East, and beyond. Since the digitization of everything, including education and technical development, is growing fast, the iTUTORS project can be a part of the solution for the problems of lack of access to traditional education. It is a free and affordable platform to contribute in resolving the difficulties and obstacles of education, by not just digitizing the educational materials but also by making online virtual tutoring very similar to the traditional actual classes, as the iTUTORS platform uses a live-class tutoring model. The app will break out and overcome the obstacles of access to schools as it will be available for everyone in the targeted countries or in any place in the world, by safe, easy and affordable means. It will give children a chance to study in their home countries, or in the countries in which they've been displaced or made refugees. It will help teachers who lost their jobs or have not received salaries to get appropriate income, regardless of where they live, particularly after tens of thousands of teachers were forced to leave their home cities or countries in pursuit of safety. iTUTORS will solve the problems of both, the children and the teachers, and will be the destination of choice for students and teachers all around the world. It could be a preferred educational platform in the future for those children and teachers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and even in the developed countries. After that, it could be a means for remote education for the Indigenous and First Nations communities in the US, Canada, and Europe.

## **The Components of iTUTORS**

iTUTORS consists of app and website platform that can be used by all devices of iOS, Android and Windows. It currently has ready mobile app and website platform as a model to show what it looks like and how it works. Once it gets enough funding to start working, it will have its own iconic and professional app and platform.

The main components of iTUTORS are as follows:

- A. Main menu of five portions of its service, which includes three types of education provided by iTUTORS, including curriculum, technical skills, and academic courses, in addition to buttons for students and teachers where they can click to apply.
- B. The homepage consists of a registration button for students who are interested in having online live education through iTUTORS, as well as an application button for teachers who are interesting in having an opportunity to be a paid online tutor or to volunteer to be an online tutor.
- C. It includes a space for a marketplace of various teachers who will offer paid or volunteer online tutoring to give students the opportunity to select the appropriate tutors, according to the subject or course in which they need tutoring or according to their location and/or language.
- D. Methods of supporting and funding the iTUTORS so it can providing free and affordable service for all consist of a direct donation button from the public, buying iTUTORS gift cards for poor students to have free tutoring, and also offering volunteer services.
- E. Showcase for the three types of online education that iTUTORS delivers through its app/platform, which are curriculum, technical skills and academic courses.

F. The guidelines of how iTUTORS works, which include six easy steps describing how to use the app/platform, step by step, for easy functioning by any users with a rudimentary understanding of technical devices, even those illiterate in technical devices.

G. The methods of iTUTORS to deliver free online education as follows:

- First is to get grants or fundraising monies from international organizations or from governments that are interested in supporting this project.
- Second is to get online donations from the public or any beneficiaries.
- Third is the use of the fees of high-income students who apply for TUTORs and put that money into support for free tutoring for low-income students.
- Fourth is the revenue of selling the iTUTORS gift cards.
- Fifth is from those who offer to volunteer teach online through iTUTORS.

H. It includes a language switcher for navigating its app/platform, which is currently available in six languages, including English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, and Portuguese. In the future, there will be more languages added, but the app as it is currently is just a prototype. The classes will be held in the students' local language because they will be delivered orally.

I. It consists of a currency convertor to give applicable students an option to pay a tutoring fee in their currency or in any prefer currency available in iTUTORS.

J. It also contains testimonials and messages from students, teachers and partners in support of this project, financially or academically.

K. The iTUTORS platform also consists of essential information, such as About Us (who are we?), Policies/Terms of Use and Privacy Policy, as well as Contact Us (our address and contact information).

## **How Does iTUTORS Work?**

It could be used on any iOS, Android or Windows device, tablet or computer, with one requirement only - to be connected to the Internet. iTUTORS is designed to be very clear and has a user-friendly design platform that is easy to use by any user, regardless their age, education level or literacy of using technical devices. The app and platform homepage consist of tutorial guidelines for students on how to use the app, as well as guidelines for teachers on how to use it.

Those easy step-by-step guidelines are below:

- a) Step 1: Teacher registers, and includes a detailed background about her-/himself. Then, they're on the list to offer tutoring.
- b) Step 2: Student applies and selects tutor with a plan and number of classes required.
- c) Step 3: Student pays the tutoring fee, if applicable.
- d) Step 4: Student has to wait for teacher to set up tutoring schedule of classes.
- e) Step 5: Student starts live tutoring via appropriate video app, such as Zoom or Google Meet.
- f) Step 6: Teacher provides a recorded copy of the tutoring class to each student after the class.

## **Why is iTUTORS Unique?**

There are hundreds of online educational and tutoring apps and platforms, but their business model and the purpose of most of them is to earn money through their platforms. They are kind of investment business platforms, not an affordable service for

everyone, and they deliver their service in limited languages or solely for specific courses or subjects. The qualifications and justifications that make iTUTORS special and unique in its field are as follows:

1. Its service will be delivered for free or at an affordable cost.
2. Its main focus is to provide teaching of students' local curricula.
3. It will deliver its tutoring in local languages as much as possible.
4. It will include a wide range of subjects and courses from a primary curriculum to academic courses.
5. Its service will not be pre-recorded materials, but will be live and streaming educational tutoring classes.
6. It will be a global app/platform and will deliver its services worldwide.
7. It will include three levels of educational service: local curricula, technical skills and academics courses.
8. It will target poor communities and low-income people first, while all other platforms focus on wealthy people.
9. It is a combination of a social service and business model, which can serve all people and affluent or poor communities.

### **iTUTORS as a Marketplace**

It has a variety of choices for selecting tutors from among the collection of teachers, subjects and courses. It works like a marketplace, where tutors show their qualifications, experiences, subjects and skills in which they are qualified to tutor through iTUTORS, and

where students can search for any desired teachers. It is a virtual online store where both teachers and students can meet and be matched, in terms of language, location and subject(s) or course(s).

### **iTUTORS' Partnership with Others**

This project will work hard from the beginning to create a strong connection with other local, regional and international educational and financial organizations to get support for its plans and programs, particularly the free plan of online education for war-torn countries in the Middle East. The priority of partnership will be with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO, Ryerson University, Humber College, and the European Union, which is the major supporter for development projects in Yemen and Syria. The partnership will be expanded worldwide with major non-profit organizations and foundations, particularly the American, Canadian and European organizations that are active in funding education and social projects in developing countries. The iTUTORS project plans to be funded and supported jointly by governments and international organizations, to be the strongest platform and project for online, worldwide education, to be able to offer free online education for all around the world—not only for those in war-zone or poor communities.

### **iTUTORS as Self-Financed**

To ensure and guarantee the sustainability of its educational service, iTUTORS has designed its plans of service to vary between free and paid plans, to depend on its own sources first, then to look for funds from other donors to cover the cost of the free plan. This business model of iTUTORS was made to guarantee that it's sustainable and to keep it working and

surviving during all circumstances. By using this business model, it will be able to avoid any problems in funding that it may not get or if financial support from other donors be terminated at any point. The paid plans that target wealthy students and learners can cover the operating costs of the platform and may cover part of the free plan.

## **Methodology**

As a new model in the field of online tutoring, the methodology used for the purpose of fulfilling this project is the primary and secondary data analyses and archival data, as well as designing and customizing the website platform and the Progressive Web App (PWA). The primary data was collected from sources on the ground, direct observations, while the secondary data was gathered from other various sources. The methodology of implementing this project passed through several stages, which were as follows:

1. The first stage was generating the idea by collecting primary data firsthand about the tough situation of education in the war-zone countries, poor communities, and remote areas, particularly in the targeted regions.
2. The second was to start thinking about how to contribute in solving this big problem for millions of children and learners in these countries.
3. The third was to start searching and collecting data about the former and current ways and styles of online education, in general.
4. The fourth was picking and selecting some well-known models of online education and tutoring, which look similar in some parts to the style of this project.

5. The fifth was analyzing the similarities and differences between those models and the iTUTORS idea.
6. The sixth was studying, analyzing and understanding the weaknesses and strengths of each model.
7. The seventh was consolidating all the positive aspects of each of those existing models to create a comprehensive and unique model, which has resulted in this project.
8. The eighth was implementing this project in a shape of the website platform and the PWA to be a tangible result for this project, showing what it will look like, as well as its components, divisions, windows, and essential menus and components.
9. The ninth stage was hosting and landing the website, as well as the PWA, which became available online to the public at the website address <https://itutors.org>, where users can navigating it and install its app to any of their iOS and Android devices at no cost, low storage, low Internet speed and easy access from anywhere in the world.

This project used a Canadian company service for hosting the platform of iTUTORS, which is on the top list of global hosting companies for online stores, to provide all the technical support for this kind of website and to be ready for providing its service from this moment.

## **Evaluation**

The indicators of success of this project are very high, if it gets an opportunity to be implemented as planned, with all requirements and gets enough funding. There are two main challenges that this project could face. The first challenge is having enough funds to run its

platform and cover the costs of its free plan, and the second is Internet accessibility in remote areas. These two factors could affect the achievement of this project.

Those challenges were presented when this project was an idea, and solutions were found. The solution for the first challenge is to make partnerships and create connections with international donors, as well as to get our own sources of funds from the activity of the platform by selling tutoring services to learners in affluent countries and families. The solution for the second challenge of Internet accessibility could be bit harder to remedy than the first one, but group calls and virtual meetings through Zoom and Google Meet apps work in war zones, such as Yemen and Syria. The users there have access to the Internet with their mobile phones or by WiFi in their residential areas. In some countries, the Internet speed is not strong enough to make video calls or live videoconferences, but iTUTORS solved this problem by recording the live tutoring class in case some students are unable to follow the class live.

## **Conclusion**

Generally, the iTUTORS platform of tutoring services will succeed in solving the challenges it may face and definitely will bridge the gap of inaccessible education in a wide range of countries. Maybe this platform will take time to be a reality, but in the end, it will achieve its goals and objectives in providing free or affordable online education for all targeted countries and beneficiaries.

## Summary

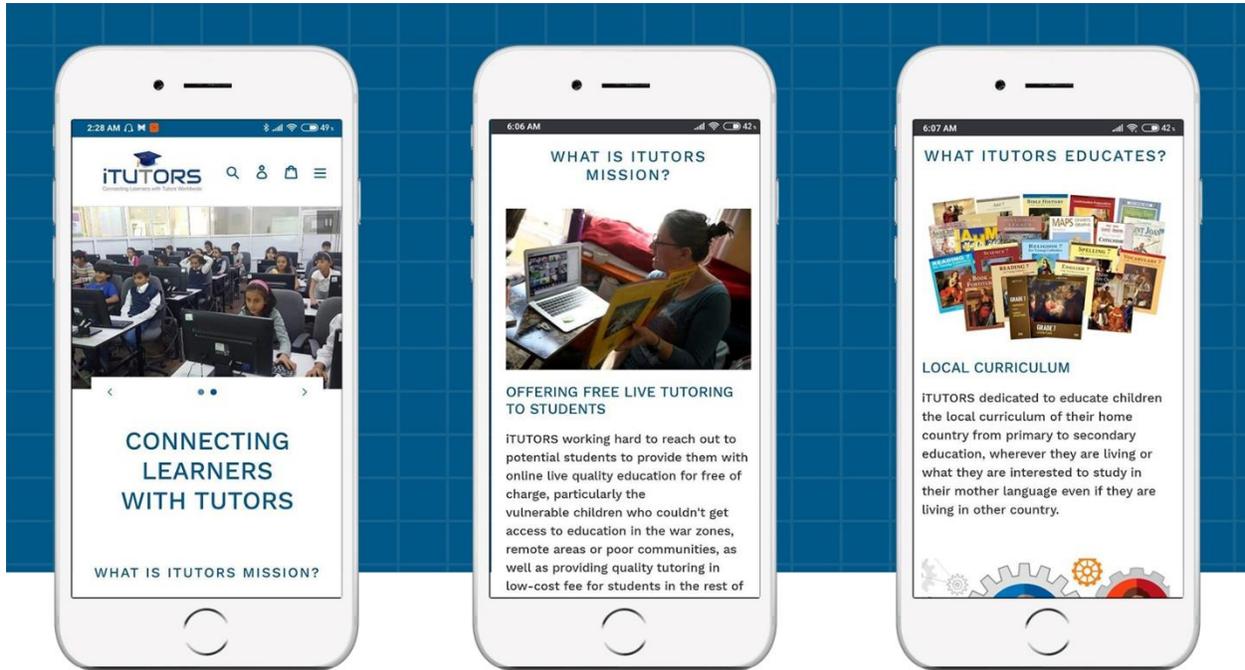
Traditional education has become a very tough and big challenge, not only in the war-zone countries in the Middle East, such as Yemen, Syria and Iraq but also in many other poor communities or remote areas in the world, as a large amount of school-aged children are unable to get access to their communities' schools.

The iTUTORS app project will contribute to solving the problems of getting access to education in war-zone, remote areas or poor communities worldwide, by innovative means of online education. This project is an app/platform for live, online tutoring to make education accessible and affordable for all children and learners. It plans to be offered for free in the Middle East, as a first phase, then Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It will be a kind of marketplace for listing professional teachers who have shown their interest and applied for providing online education/tutoring for students in war zones, poor communities, and remote areas or elsewhere. This platform will also financially support teachers everywhere in the world who can deliver tutoring in many local languages and local curricula. The iTUTORS platform is an ambitious project to bridge the gap between children, learners and access to education via online worldwide tutoring.

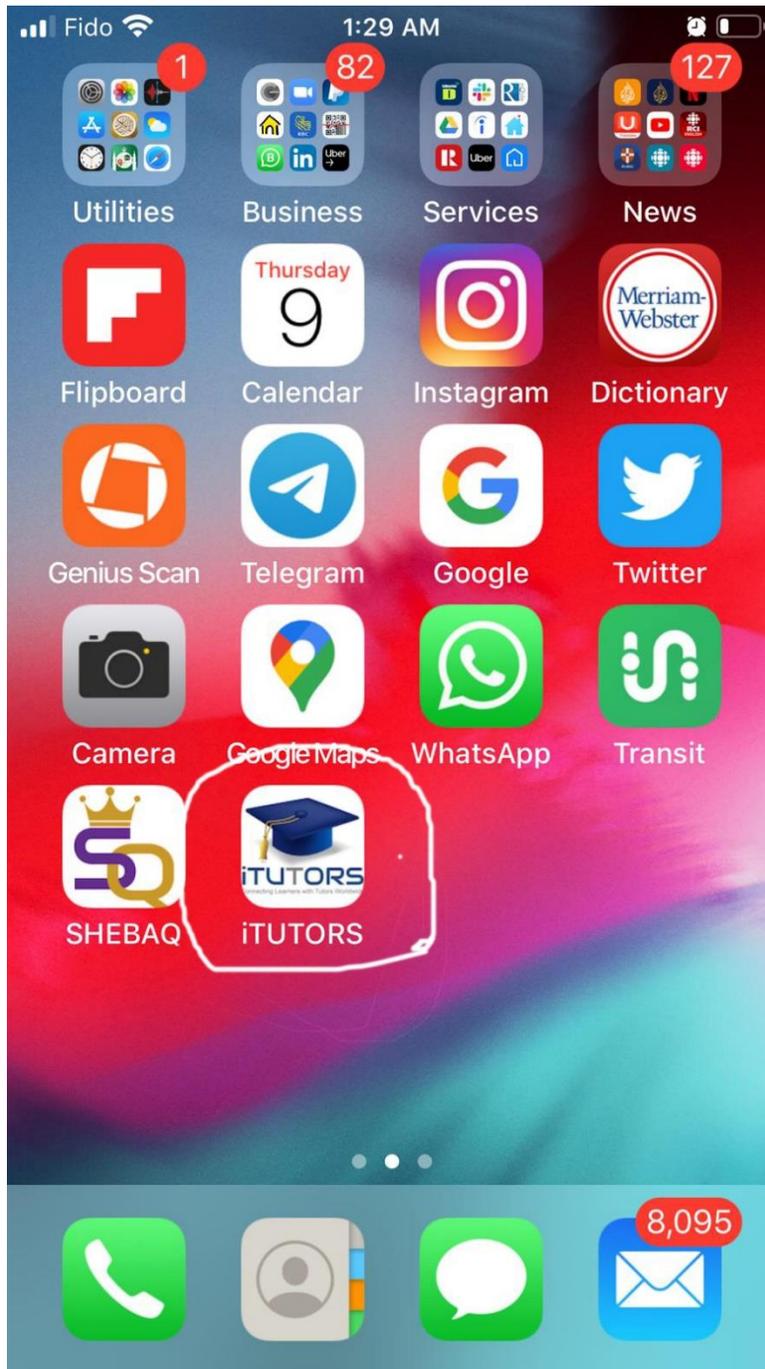
The iTUTORS App/platform web address is: <https://itutors.org/>

## Appendices

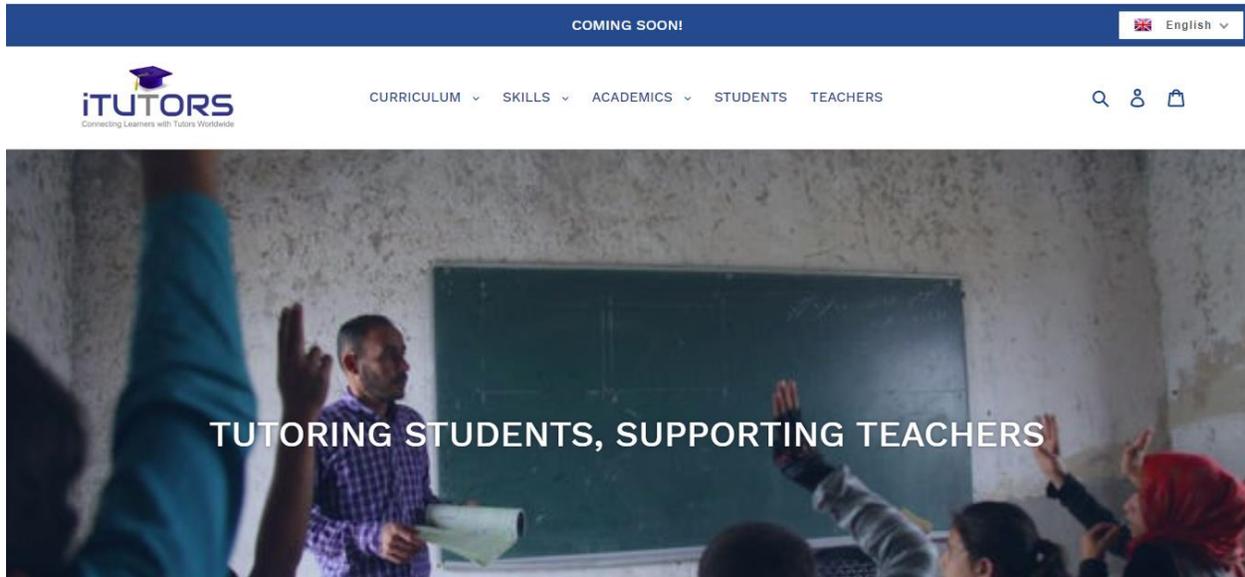
Appendix 1 – Samples of the shape of iTUTORS App at Cell phone screen:



Appendix 2 – The icon of iTUTORS App at Cell phone screen:



Appendix 3 – Sample of the shape of iTUTORS website platform homepage at computer screens:



Appendix 4 - Sample 1 of the shape of iTUTORS website platform homepage at computer screens:



#### OFFERING FREE LIVE TUTORING TO STUDENTS

iTUTORS working hard to reach out to potential students to provide them with online live quality education for free of charge, particularly the vulnerable children who couldn't get access to education in the war zones, remote areas or poor communities, as well as providing quality tutoring in low-cost fee for students in the rest of the world, and this fee will use to contribute in funding the free online tutoring.

[APPLY HERE AS STUDENT](#)



#### SUPPORTING QUALIFIED TEACHERS

iTUTORS connects qualified teachers with local students worldwide in a virtual classroom, in their own language, to support teachers getting income and helping students having tutoring for free in designated countries that affected by war or poverty or for a low-cost fee in the rest of the world. Each registered tutor will be paid US\$10 per hour of fulfilled online live virtual class.

[REGISTER HERE AS PAID TUTOR](#)

Appendix 5 – Sample 2 of the shape of iTUTORS website platform homepage at computer screens:

### WHAT SERVICES ITUTORS PROVIDES?



#### LOCAL CURRICULUM

iTUTORS dedicated to educate children the local curriculum of their home country from primary to secondary education, wherever they are living or what they are interested to study in their mother language even if they are living in other country.



#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

iTUTORS dedicated to educate young people technical skills, to prepare them for the labor market whether in their home country or in other countries where they moved to and living there, They get educated by native speaker of their mother language.



#### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

iTUTORS dedicated to support young students to get access to the higher education in colleges or universities in partnership with educational institutions in the advanced countries to get an accredited degrees online.

Appendix 6 – Sample 3 of the shape of iTUTORS website platform homepage at computer screens:



#### HOW iTUTORS WOKS?

**STEP 1:** TEACHER REGISTRATION FOR LISTING TO OFFER TUTORING WITH DETAILED BACKGROUND.

**STEP 2:** STUDENT APPLYING, SELECT TUTOR WITH A PLAN AND QUANTITY OF CLASSES.

**STEP 3:** STUDENT PAYING TUTORING FEE OR GETTING FREE PLAN IF APPLICABLE.

**STEP 4:** WAITING FOR SETTING UP SCHEDULE OF TUTORING CLASSES.

**STEP 4:** STARTING LIVE TUTORING VIA VIDEO APP LIKE ZOOM OR GMAIL MEET.

**STEP 6:** PROVIDING A RECORDED COPY OF TUTORING TO EACH STUDENT AFTER CLASS.

Appendix 7 – Sample 4 of the shape of iTUTORS website platform homepage at computer screens:

#### HOW FREE TUTORING FUNDED?

- 1- GRANTS AND FUND RAISING.
- 2- ONLINE PUBLIC DONATION.
- 3- PAYABLE FEES OF STUDENTS.
- 4- iTUTORS GIFT CARDS SELLING.
- 5-GETTING VOLUNTEER TUTORS.



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