Reshma Patel
Executive Director, Impact Network

About Reshma

Reshma Patel is the Executive Director of Impact Network, a non-profit organization that provides quality education for over 6,000 kids in rural Zambia. Under Reshma’s leadership, Impact Network has grown from 9 to 44 schools in just five years. These schools cost less than $5 a month per student, and cost 70% less than government schools to maintain.

Reshma is an expert in education, taking programs to scale and measuring and evaluating impact. She has spoken from DC to Zurich, tackling issues related to technology, teacher training, and the importance of community building. Before Impact Network, Reshma worked at MDRC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan social policy research firm, dedicated to finding solutions to improve the lives of low-income communities, with a particular focus on education. Prior to MDRC, Reshma was a pension risk analyst at Morgan Stanley. She has a Bachelor of Math from the University of Waterloo and is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Why International Education?

In her own words:

“My father was a Ugandan refugee, who left everything behind when he fled to Canada in 1972. Along the way, many of his belongings were stolen, but he arrived in Canada with two important things. The first, was $2 that the Canadian government had given him. The second, was his diploma.

From these two things, he was able to build a new life from himself and his family. He believed then, as I believe now, that what was in his brain was more valuable than any amount in his pocket could ever be. And that from nothing, or nearly nothing, you could start over, and succeed, as long as you had an education.

Fundamentally, this is what drives our work at Impact Network.”

Key Presentations & Papers

Global Schools Forum, 2018 (Invited): Using Technology Across the Value Chain

mEducation, 2017: Using Tablets, Training and Biometric Technology to Improve Education in Rural Zambia

World Bank, 2017 (Invited): Are low-cost private schools helping achieve quality education for all in Africa (link)

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), 2014 (Invited): Quality Education for All: Are Low-Cost Private Schools the Answer?

MDRC: Designing Scholarships to Improve College Success, and other reports (link)

Areas of Expertise

Technology and Education, Taking Programs to Scale, How to Measure and Evaluate Impact, Using Technology to Improve Education in Rural Environments

To book, contact speaking@impactnetwork.org