

DataKirk: Upskilling ethnic minority groups in data

Case Study



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empowering young people
adults with data litera
analytics skills for the
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DataKirk

Founded in 2019, DataKirk aims to close the racial data divide and increase the representation of disadvantaged groups in the data economy. We spoke with Fash Fasoro, Founder of DataKirk and one of our TDL MSc alums, about how The Data Lab has supported them.

The Challenge

In 2015, Fash was among the first students to receive data sector-specific employability and skills training in The Data Lab's MSc programme.

A few years later, he founded DataKirk to address the data divide he witnessed whilst working in the homelessness sector – which was far behind other sectors like banking in providing digital solutions.

“The Data Lab was well aware of the societal issues and the barriers we are facing in the [black] community.”

Black ethnic minorities are deeply rooted in care and support work, often in jobs at risk of redundancy from automation.

Fash wanted to ensure that future generations were included in the changing world of work and created an after-school club to empower children to gain the data literacy skills needed to be part of the digital economy.

However, he also received interest from parents, so he created short courses.

The Solution

The Data Lab supported DataKirk to expand their reach by getting the courses officially accredited. Ensuring their courses were SQA accredited would help raise their profile and improve the employability of those who complete the course.

The Outcomes

DataKirk is now delivering SQA-accredited data skills training to ethnic minority groups as part of our Data Skills for Work outreach programme.

As well as funding an MSc placement with DataKirk, Scottish Government SME Impact Funding enabled us to support DataKirk in delivering a Data Analytics for Business Decision-Making course.

This provided 17 learners from BAME communities living and working in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Falkirk, West Lothian, and Stirling, who were underemployed or earning below £24,000, to participate in the training.

“We wouldn't be able to have a smooth running organisation without the influence and support of The Data Lab”



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Get in touch
+44 (0) 131 651 4905
info@thedatalab.com
thedatalab.com