A MUST READ FOR STUDENTS

mastering your studies

a guide on how to learn better



EBRAHIM MOOLLA

believe in yourself

hope & happiness



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Study is a skill, and it can be improved by practice like any other skill.



Success isn't a destination; it's a mindset.



It's not about the information; it's about the transformation.



Life is short, so is this book.

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- reviews of the book -

“As a lecturer, I highly recommend this book to high school students as well as to students in tertiary education. It is an easy read filled with great guidance, it doesn’t contain jargon where students would struggle to understand the message the author is trying to get across, and is therefore perfect for students.”

Z Ally - Lecturer

“This book is a game-changer for high school students. It's practical, insightful, and offers effective strategies for improving study habits and achieving academic success. It's a valuable resource for anyone aiming to maximise their potential.”

M Khan - High school student

“What a most wonderful book you wrote!! It’s inspiring, personal, easy to read & full of the best practical advice that anyone can relate to. Well done!! ; it’s just absolutely fabulous”.

E Christopher - mother of a student

“The book is written in simple English, which encourages younger kids to read and understand. I like the fact that you recap from the previous chapters. This relates to the empowering factor. Encouraging people (students) to believe in themselves, which is a real motivation to keep on going and pursue their dreams”.

Rio - father and former School Governing Body chairman

“This book not only provides a roadmap to academic success, but it also inspires a mindset for academic excellence, continuous improvement and self-belief. “

T Khan - B. Ed Foundation Phase Educator (with distinction); Postgraduate Student; Published Researcher.

"I enjoyed your book, I like your relaxed youthful style and I think it makes it more readable. The recap after each chapter is also great. And I like your personal example at the beginning and at the end."

GG Alcock - Entrepreneur and author

- foreward-

I've known Ebrahim (Ebie) for close onto two decades now and have always marvelled at his zest for acquiring knowledge and his love for teaching.

From humble beginnings to phenomenal successes in the education, academic and professional spheres, Ebie continues to inspire those around him.

With his calm demeanour and analytical mind he has become the perfect soundboard to me and serves as a wonderful mentor to many others.

'Mastering your Studies' is a fantastic instrument that Ebie has created. He has given students amazing tools and guidance to help them succeed against all odds.

Well done and kudos to a brilliant mind!

Dr Mohammed Moosajee

- Former Team Manager and Doctor of the Proteas National Cricket Team
- Head Physician of Kaizer Chiefs FC
- Medical Doctor based in Lenasia

1. the outcomes

"The book "mastering your studies" by Ebrahim (Ebie) has not only provided a roadmap to academic success, but it also inspires a mindset for academic excellence, continuous improvement and self-belief. His encouragement to embrace curiosity and cultivate a love for learning has been transformative in my own educational journey.

Beyond his expertise in finance and the education sector, Ebie's passion for empowering students shines through in every chapter. His writing is clear, engaging and is filled with anecdotes that further illustrate the effectiveness of his techniques. I have found myself looking at this book time and again, each time discovering new and innovative strategies that enhance my learning experience.

Despite Ebie's professional achievements, his approachability and genuine care for his readers are evident in every chapter. He embodies the qualities of a mentor who not only imparts knowledge but also instils confidence and resilience in those he guides.

This book is so much more than just a guidebook, it is a testament to his love, dedication, wisdom and unwavering commitment to student's success. I am exceptionally grateful for the privilege of learning from his expertise, and I recommend this book to anyone striving to excel academically."

Ms.T. Khan- B. Ed Foundation Phase Educator (with distinction); Postgraduate Student; Published Researcher.

“Thinking back to the days when Ebrahim, or Ebie as he was fondly called by all his students, brings back a lot of memorable moments. He created an environment where everyone felt welcomed and no one felt stupid (even if he did call us out on it from time to time - I say this jokingly), and classes were always fun and energetic. He always gave us the confidence that we could achieve our goals and the constant reminders that we were more intelligent than we believed.

Ebie has a remarkable ability to connect with each of his students on an individual level and is what made him stand out from any other tutor I had.

He not only educated and prepared me for school examinations but also imparted valuable knowledge and life lessons that I carry on 20 years later. My success not only during my schooling years, but also in life after, is testament to the belief and confidence that he instilled in me and in all of his students.

Ebie was not only a tutor but most importantly a mentor, brother and confidant.

Mr. Z. Adam - former learner

“Thank you for being an inspiration in my academic journey! Your dedication, expertise, and encouragement has made a significant impact on my educational journey. Your guidance helped me navigate challenges and achieve my goals.

I'm grateful for the time you spent with me, explaining concepts, and building my confidence. Your influence has extended beyond academics, inspiring me to reach for my dreams.

Thank you for being an exceptional tutor and mentor. I'm honoured to have had the privilege of learning from you."

Mr. M. Daya - former learner

"The first time I heard of Ebie's tuition was through my sister, who was one of his students and she thoroughly enjoyed being tutored by him. At the end of grade 9, I had decided to choose Accounting as one of my subjects for grade 10-12, not sure if I was going to enjoy it. I started my Accounting tuition with Ebie in grade 10 and initially I had thought that it was just going to be like other tuition centres, where the tutor tries to do every question on the face of the earth, but to my surprise it was the complete opposite, and a completely different experience to other tuition centres.

Our tuition was scheduled for a Saturday and instead of dreading it, I would actually look forward to it all week. The atmosphere which he created was conducive to learning and he created a safe space for learners. Ebie's energy was consistent throughout the lesson, from starting the lesson with some comedy to finishing off the lesson with some inspiration.

The lessons were fun and focused on quality over quantity.

It was through his tutoring methods that I became the best version of myself and really created a fondness for Accounting,

wherein I obtained a distinction for Accounting in matric and completed my undergraduate degree in BComm Accounting. I am presently enrolled for a PhD in Auditing, and I am lecturing Accounting to second year BComm Accounting students at one of the biggest universities in South Africa.

If you would have asked me in high school whether I would lecture in front of 700 students at a time, I would have laughed and told you that you're crazy, because I am an introvert, but today that is exactly what I do on a weekly basis.

I try to follow the methods which Ebie used in his classes, as his tutoring methods really brought me out of my shell, inspired me and really opened my mind to what I could achieve, and this is exactly what I would like to achieve with my students.

Mr. Z. Ally - lecturer and former learner

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Ebrahim Moolla, whose guidance and support has been instrumental throughout my academic journey. He has not only imparted knowledge but also inspired me to strive for excellence.

Ebrahim's passion for education is contagious, and he has a unique ability to make complex concepts understandable. His dedication to my learning, evident in his patience and encouragement, has truly made a profound impact on my life and my educational experience.

Beyond academics, Ebrahim has been a mentor and a source of inspiration. He has taught me the importance of perseverance,

critical thinking, and continuous improvement. His unwavering belief in my potential has instilled in me the confidence to pursue my goals fearlessly.

I am truly grateful for the time and effort Ebrahim had invested and continues to invest in my growth, both as a student and as an individual.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. - Nelson Mandela.

Thank you Ebrahim”

Mr. Z. Shaikjee - entrepreneur and former learner

2. setting the scene

“Please help my child, she is struggling. We’re doing all we can to help; she is in matric (Grade 12), and needs to get good grades. Nothing has worked out so far and we are worried. Currently, her Accounting mark is 14%.⚠️(yip, you read correct). We know it’s already February, but if you can just get her to pass, we will be so grateful.” These were the words of concerned parents.

Fast forward to December that year, and their daughter did the unthinkable. Her Accounting mark was 72% . From an F to a B in 9 months!!🙌🏽

A 414% jump in performance in less than a year, when it really mattered!!!

She passed, got accepted into University to study BComm (she transformed from hating the subject to pursuing it as a career).

Was this a miracle? A once off?

Short answer? No.

This is one real life example of the results obtained during my tutoring days.

From 14% to 72? - How did this happen?

It happened because I transformed her mindset, her outlook, and her purpose.

“Can I get the same outcome” you might ask? I don't know. I do know that what I used to help learners with was impactful and I would like to share this with you in this book.

But **why** would I do this?

Because I care. And I saw firsthand how learners transformed themselves from existing, to becoming the best versions of themselves. I am an eternal student and I want to make a difference.

I look forward to taking you on this journey and am confident that this book will assist in making a difference and bring out the best in you.

I use simple English in this book to make it as easy as possible to follow and understand. I couldn’t stand Mr. Shakespeare’s English in any case, and I will try to make this book as informative yet as real as possible.

Some of the information is science backed and others life backed. And what I share with you has worked!

So let’s get started shall we? Allow me to introduce myself.

3. about me

My name is Ebrahim; people call me Ebie for short.

I am a Chartered Accountant CA(SA) by qualification, and have some post graduate qualifications too. Not bad for someone who didn't take up Accounting in high school hey?

I had to teach myself in 5 months what other Accounting students in University had learned in 3 years of schooling, and my methods worked.

I am ever so grateful to my mother for giving me all she could to make it possible for my sister and I to obtain professional qualifications.

This very same education saved us from a life of poverty.

My dad passed on when I was 8 years old and there were life's challenges along the way, one of them being the financial constraints we had since my widowed mom was a full time mom.

But we persevered, focused and hustled to get by, and obtained great learnings from the University of life too.

It was during the hustling / survival stage of my life when I turned my focus and energy to tutoring kids, as the only asset I had back then was my knowledge. I was at University at the time and decided to invest in myself and help others at the same time too.

I was young and naive, which was a blessing, as many people told me back then that since I am competing against seasoned teachers and tutors, I had no chance of succeeding. "Why would anyone send their child to you?" they would ask me. I listened to

them respectfully, but, my ambition and purpose to make a difference inspired me to go ahead nonetheless.

I started with my neighbours children. That would be 2 learners lol😆, and that was all I needed, as this was the beginning of the tuition business. The business grew exponentially and soon we hired an entire school block as the venue for our business.

> don't let other people's opinion about you become your reality

The learning model we used included:

- Quality over Quantity.
- Don't motivate learners; inspire them.
- Create a safe space for learners.
- Tap into their amazing energy and channel it.
- Laugh and make them laugh too.
- Learn from the learners.
- Be real and authentic.
- Help them become the best version of themselves.
- Create systems and techniques they can use.
- Teach them:
  - exam techniques
  - how to deal with stress and anxiety
  - how to cope with pressure
  - how to dream big
  - about healthy eating
  - about the need to exercise

- about the benefits of sleep
- about the power of
    - focus
    - consistency
    - perseverance
    - persistance

The results were humbling yet massive; we built a student base of over 140 in number per year. Each session was for a total of 2 hours with adequate breaks in between. And classes were held once a week on a Saturday. Learners would choose to spend the entire day with us, doing homework if they were not attending a tuition class.

It was a community of unity, of care and of wonder. To push each other to new heights and to learn from each other.

Some of the parents were stunned by their child's enthusiasm to want to learn on a Saturday. To make a day out of hanging around a tuition centre and feel good about it.

I witnessed so many learners transform themselves from having no confidence, to taking on life's challenges and winning. They went on to pursue their dreams and it filled my heart with joy seeing their success. I want the same for you!

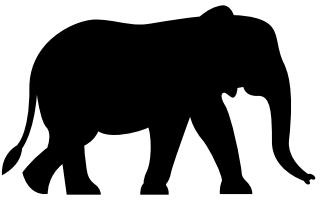
I moved on to pursue my career and became a Chartered Accountant CA(SA). I worked for some of the biggest financial institutions in the world, creating new products and industries along the way.

But I always made time to learn and help others in obtaining knowledge. My tutoring experiences occurred before the advent of social media etc, and when I hear the struggles of today's learners, it felt right to avail myself and to offer my experiences and expertise once again.

I see myself as a student for life and continue to learn, be it from a recognised institution or from reading books.

In this book, I will share lessons of what I learnt from these resources and will also provide you with the source of my learnings. Please feel free to contact me, if need be.

1. Choose a number between 1 and 9.
2. Now multiply this by 9.
3. You should have a 2 digit number. Add those 2 digits up.
4. Now subtract 4 from this number you have in step 3.
5. You should have one digit now.
6. Assign a letter of the alphabet to this number. (Example, the digit you have from step 4 is 2; hence the second letter of the alphabet is B. That's your letter).
7. Now think of an animal that starts with the letter you have selected.
8. Is the animal you have in mind an elephant?



Did I just read your mind? 🤯

don't quit!



4. preface

One Saturday morning, around 7:30am, my business partner (Dr. Mohammed Variava, who is now a qualified nephrologist) and I started to make our way to the tuition venue. Their gardener and his son were busy attending to the garden at the time. As we walked past and greeted them, Mohammed asked the son, whose name is Cedric, how he's doing and what grade he was studying at school.

Cedric mentioned that he was in Grade 10. And we probed further to ask him why is he working so early on a weekend. Cedric responded that he was trying to earn pocket money so that he could afford to attend Math tuition at the end of the year.

Mohammed immediately looked at me and we telepathically agreed that Cedric join our Math classes every Saturday for free. We told his dad, we referred to him as *Malume* (vernacular for uncle), that from the following week, Cedric won't be working in the garden and instead will be attending Math classes. Malume agreed and Cedric embarked on his 2.5 year math journey with us.

He was a shy and respectful young man, and all the other students befriended him and he became part of us.

It was lovely to have them all.

He passed Grade 12 with exemption and after thanking us again, he set off to pursue his purpose.

Fast forward 8 years later and I heard a voice call out my name as I entered a restaurant for lunch. It was a distinct greeting. “Hello Mr Ebie” said this voice. As I turned, I see this familiar face. It was Cedric, smiling at me with the same high school smile he had. He told me I have greyed since the last time we saw each other.🙄

After a good laugh 😆, he insisted on introducing me to his wife. To which I agreed. As we got to the table, he introduced me to his wife: “ This is Mr. Ebie I have been telling you about. This man changed my life”.

I was so humbled.

Introductions done, I asked Cedric about his dad. He told me his dad was now retired and that he looked after him. I then asked him what was he doing with his life. His response blew me away.

Cedric owns his own IT software company !!!

Goosebumps!!!!🤩

I was so proud of him. From trying to earn pocket money to attend extra math lessons, to an owner of his own company.

He thanked me again for all we had done for him and for opening his mind to the world of opportunities. He also thanked me for being a mentor to him, for empowering and inspiring him and to give him belief that he can achieve anything he puts his mind, energy and focus into.

Cedric is one of many students who achieved their goals and purpose. Over the years we have met some of our other students and received word that they too achieved their goals.

Another story is that of Zaakir. He was one of my Accounting learners. He was shy and introverted when he joined my class. I met him the other day and he told me he is lecturing Accounting and supervising postgraduate students at one of the biggest universities in South Africa. Better still, he is now doing his PhD in Auditing. When I asked him why he did this, he told me that my methods opened his mind to what he could achieve, and that he felt a connection to the subject of Accounting. Not only did he learn about the subject, but he also learnt about his strengths and became the best version of himself. To the point that he is now standing in front of 700 students delivering lectures. From an introvert to a lecturer! 🙌🏽

Other students went on to become:

- Doctors
- Lawyers
- Chartered Accountants
- Physicians
- Maxillofacial surgeon
- Speech and hearing therapists
- Entrepreneurs
- Physiotherapists
- Actuaries
- Teachers
- Pilot

- Fashion designer
- Plumbers
- Electricians

I share these outcomes with you to inform you that the process we used, worked. And so did the learners.

We worked with learners from different walks of life and with different talents. They all had their own challenges and obstacles, but they didn't let this stop them from being the best version of themselves. Some learnt by candle light; others had personal issues to deal with. But we believed in them and made them know that we did. We unleashed their genius by introducing them to the methods and techniques you will find in this book.

We worked hard and we worked smart. We taught them to compete with themselves but to dominate the competition. And they did just that.

In the pages that follow, I share with you what we did and how we did it.

Enjoy the read.... Let's go! 🙌🏽

5. the beginning