

# **REPORT BY KWALITEX ART AND CRAFT CO – OPERATIVE**

**2010**

## **ABSTRACT:**

I was an Administrative Officer of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) who oversee staff at the District Office of the Commission. Amongst, the objectives of the NCCE, we have been mandated to educate the populace about their rights and civic responsibilities.

I benefited from a scholarship awarded by the Israeli government in the framework of the MASHAV training programme in the 1998 and pursued International Course on Local Economic Development.

As an artist (textiles technologist), I thought I was going to study art and adult education to learn Israeli technology and the rudiment of education to add more scales to my profession than the stated course. In fact, I was confused at the initial stage of the training programme. Later, the programme was interesting and transcend boundaries. During our study tours, to small – scale industries, it came to realization that Israel is a “**tiny giant**”\_in all aspect of development. They are self – dependent, hard working and accommodate all cultures. With this philosophy I established the Kwalitex Art and Craft Co- operative while working with the National Commission for Civic Education in a capacity as Assistant Civic Education Officer, Administration and a consultant to various charitable organizations.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Founded on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2003, Kwalitex Art and Craft Cooperative is a community – based charitable art and craft group, which seeks to improve on the well – being of the people through art, technology transfer and exchange programme. It has grown rapidly to become the leading registered charity that works exclusively for the deprived children, young and adult artist who are most marginalized and discriminated against within society but have rich talent.

## **AIMS / OBJECTIVES**

- To create a world where the poor are able to develop their own income generating activity in order to reach better nutrition, health, educational standards and self – sustainability
- Creating a dynamic financial, entrepreneurial and social development co – operatives which provides economic opportunities to people living in deprived urban areas.

## **TARGET**

Our research has revealed that there are over 1,200 children and young people trafficked including disables from the districts to labour in cocoa growing areas and some for fishing. Most are under 13 years.

They are made to work as fishermen and farmers, living and working in miserable conditions where they are denied their most basic rights. The use of human – being through child labour, trafficking is no longer permitted world wild and we believe that the same ban should be applied to the employment of children. We are rescuing these marginalized people and bringing them to the cities for skills training in; tie – and- dye, batik, silk – screen printing, painting, sculpture, graphics etc. The rehabilitation of all marginalized is vital so that they can reintegrated into

society in skills that will enable them become self – sufficient. On this basis vocational skills is an ideal option.

## **PROBLEMS**

The construction of dams by the government to generate electricity resulted in loss opportunities for most of the communities. The lucrative jobs of farming, fishing and especially oyster picking which is the prerogative of the women folk were gone forever due to the invasion of aquatic weeds in the Volta river due to climatic change impacts. The land become degraded and dried up, and also are vulnerable especially the women in the communities. Hence, Kwalitex Art and Craft Co – operative deemed it necessary to concentrate its activities in these communities.

## **ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED**

Notwithstanding the desire to meet the foretasted target group, the Kwalitex Art and Craft was able to accomplish its task in the following areas;

a. **Advocacy on the benefit in art /craft**

Public education was organized in the communities; the populace were psych – up about the benefits in art and craft production.

b. **Education on Disabilities**

Education was carried in the communities on the right of the disabled, their mainstreaming and their general rehabilitation to give them hope. Further, data has been compiled on them to design projects for them.

c. **Workshop**

Workshops have been organized for artist mobilized from the communities and its environs. They were thought modern technology in tie – and – dye, silk – screen printing, sculpture, painting, proposal writing, planning, cost accounting, financial management, monitoring and evaluation.

d. **Education on Micro Finance**

The purpose was to train the deprived artists, disabled, women, within the target communities, who would then act as Focal Persons in their slum communities to empower themselves and others to make informed decisions to better their lives.

The participants were lectured on family planning, entrepreneurship, record keeping, financial management, planning, formulating business plan, staff development, problem solving, monitoring and evaluation.

Kwalitex Art and Craft Cooperative is committed to ensure that local communities reaped the economic benefits from its projects.

Baseline survey revealed that many artists /tradesmen in the communities had been at the receiving end of some of the company’s corporate social responsibility in area including health,

education and the environment, all aimed at improving the well – being of local artist. We have mentioned the performance and the potential of the target and they have proved to be an assets.

### **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An impact assessment done by the organization indicated that its projects made positive impacts on the lives of artists, women, most of whom were from slum communities.

### **CHALLENGES**

Some of the setbacks facing the organization are;

- a. Inadequate capacity building for Manpower development for the artist as the financial position of the organization is weak.
- b. No opportunities to export our products (art work)
- c. Lack of funds to implement Action Plan.
- d. Parents are not willing to release their young children contracted for child labour for skills training.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- a. Although we envisioned sensitizing the people and implementing project, we still need additional training for Art and industries, vocational skill training, development studies for innovation as technology is changing everyday for effective service delivery.
- b. The organization would like to expand its activities in the few years, but because of the inadequacy of funds, this has resulted in most of our activities restricted.
- c. We would be very grateful if you could use your good offices to link our organization to any organizations with similar aims e.g. Kibbutz for export and import of art works, exchange programme and partnership.

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# **ANNUAL REPORT BY HELPER AID FOUNDATION ON ITS ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR – 2010**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Helper Aid Foundation is a community – based charitable organization incorporated by Registrar General Department and Department Social Welfare in year 1998 to render selfless voluntary services.

## **ARMS / OBJECTIVES**

- Contributing towards the socio – economic development of deprived communities through formal, informal and non – formal education.
- Supporting gender issues, primary health care, family planning, sex education, sanitation and income generating activities and new appropriate technology.
- Undertaking relevant research and giving advisory services.
- Promoting and supporting cultural practices that foster peace and development, amongst all.
- Creating a dynamic financial, entrepreneurial and social development co – operatives which provides economic opportunities to people living deprived urban areas.

## **TARGET**

Target beneficiaries are the deprived and marginalized in society especially females. Our activities are centered presenting within the lower Volta basin of Ghana, an area which was once endowed with rich farmlands for cropping, animal grazing and fishing.

## **PROBLEMS**

The construction of dams by the government to generate electricity resulted in loss opportunities for most of the communities. The lucrative jobs of farming, fishing and especially oyster picking which was the prerogative of the women folk were gone forever due to the invasion aquatic weeds in the Volta River due to climatic change impact. The land become degraded and dried up; and also are vulnerable especially the women in the communities. Hence, Helper Aid Foundation deemed it necessary to concentrate its activities in these communities.

## **ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED**

Not withstand the desire to meet the afore stated target groups, the Helper Aid Foundation was able to accomplish its task in the following areas;

### a. **EDUCATION ON HIV/AIDS**

Advocacy on the curbing of the HIV/AIDS, prevention and control was carried in the mosque and churches. The public education brought to light that the target communities was going a process of stigmatization and discrimination.

### b. **COMMUNITY DURBARS**

Two (2) successful community durbars were organized at Mepe in the North Tonga, Volta Region to lobby the opinion leaders to contribute support towards voluntary projects.

### c. **EDUCATION ON DISABILITIES**

Public education was carried on at communities on the rights of the disabled and their mainstreaming into society. Further, data has been compiled on them to design projects for their rehabilitation.

### d. **WATER MANAGEMENT**

The organization drew a tentative public education and sensitized the communities on the activities of the people living at the bank of the river Volta and the impact of the climate change and water management.

The target also learnt from the programme, benefit they can be deprived from the water / river like aquaculture, water reclamation etc.

e. **EDUCATION ON MICRO – FINANCE**

The organization mobilized tradesmen, petty traders and industries for a one – day seminar. The purpose was to train women within the target community, who would then be as focal persons in their slum communities to empower themselves and others to make informed decisions to better their lives.

The participants (women) were lectured on family planning, entrepreneurship, record keeping, financial management, planning, formulating business plan, monitoring, evaluation etc.

Helper Aid Foundation is committed to ensure that local communities reap the economic benefits from its projects.

Baseline survey revealed that many communities in the communities had been at the receiving end of some of the company's corporate social responsibility in areas including health, education and the environment, all aimed at improving the well – being of local communities.

We have monitored the performance and the potential of the target and they have proved to be an assets.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- a. The level of their thinking has been raised to protect themselves from illicit sex that HIV/AIDS is not been contracted as a spell cast on anyone
- b. The citizenry within the beneficiary communities are ready to contribute to any project initiated by Helper Aid Foundation.
- c. The perception of the target change positively through education on microfinance, credit facilities and to support economic ventures.
- d. With the recent spat of women abuses, it is envisaged the civic education component have given the women at the target communities their rightful place in society.

**FINANCIAL BACKGROUND**

The Helper Aid Foundation is been supported by individual dues and fundraising. For the sake of accountability and probity, the organization is operating banking account.

Meanwhile the financial background cannot adequately support candidate for training programmers.

**CHALLENGES**

The setbacks our organization is facing are;

- a. Inadequate capacity building for Manpower development for the staff as the financial position of the organization is not strong to meet the financial commitments.
- b. Lack of funds to Implement Planned Activities
- c. People are not ready to accommodate the HIV/AIDS patience while stigmatization is well pronounced.
- d.

**PUBLIC REACTION**

The target beneficiaries communities posed various questions and the Resource persons of the Helper Aid Foundation furnished them with the requested answers.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Although we envisioned sensitizing the people and implementing projects, we still need additional training for our staff for effective service delivery.
2. The organization would like to expand its activities but because of the inadequacy of funds, this has resulted in most of our activities restricted. We therefore are looking for support elsewhere to replicate our goal.

### **CONCLUSION**

Helper Aid Foundation has dedicated itself to rendering selfless services to the deprived in society, with the view to improve their socio – economic well – being. It is our hope that with support, the lives of the people will greatly improve.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**HELPER AID FOUNDATION ORGANIZATIONAL  
STRUCTURE**

