



Final Project Report:

'Creating vocational education for self-employment and income generation'

Activities undertaken by the Shammah centre in Kangundo

Fundraising

The Centre has been fund raising in order to start a vocational centre which would train the learners computer skills, tailoring and baking among others which will follow later. Through the efforts of the Shammah board, parents, friends and community members the Centre has been able to raise 120,000 ksh over a period of 6 months. FAPADAG was raising as well money and applying for funding from organisations in the Netherlands and together we applied for a grant from Wilde Ganzen. In August Kangundo-Shammah Centre received an amount of 25.000€ to start furnishing the first two vocational rooms. However the process got delayed in implementation because most of the suppliers had closed their businesses due to fear of the election outcomes. Schools also closed and so the training was delayed but finally it started in September 2022. In January 2023 the centre received a second amount of 9500€. In total the centre received 34.500€ . (11595€ from Wilde Ganzen, 10905€ FAPADAG, 6000€ SPYN and 6000€ Wierda Baas)

Computer training:

The Centre purchased 38 computers which are being used in the vocational training and at the same time by 350 Shammah learners age 6-14 years who are being trained on how to use technology. In Kenya there has been a curriculum change, what means that in all subjects learners are expected to do research of what they have learned with the computer. It is also helping the learners to communicate with the world around them by writing emails and messages to their friends . Young mothers ,teenagers , people with special needs who are 17 years and above are learning computer skills as well, which will enable them to create job opportunities for themselves and others. The computer training is supposed to last 6 months to one year according to how the learner is able to master the skills. The first group that started to train apart from the school children were 30 learners, 12 teenage mothers , 10 youths who were school dropouts , 2 people with special needs and 6 people who wanted to learn computer skills so as to be able to digitize their business. Out of all the 30 trainees 3 have started their own playing stations and are earning from it, 10 have been employed in different cyber cafes 8 have secured jobs in supermarkets and 9 are still in training hoping soon to master the skills and secure an income out of the skills acquired.



Tailoring:

Shammah purchased 15 sewing machines with which they have set up a tailoring training. The training started on 1st October 2022 with 60 Shammah kids age 11 to 14 years who are also learning how to use the sewing machines during home-science class. The learners are supposed to learn sewing different types of stitches and make different types of outputs like making their own handkerchiefs, dolls, clothes among other items. The tailoring training is already equipping learners at the tender age with skills which they use during their lessons and in future they will be able to use the skills to earn a living . There are also 15 extra learners, who are 5 adolescents girls, 6 teenagers and 4 youths who are going for practice sewing. Their training has been made by using locally available materials like collecting old clothes and papers which they use to train with and soon they will be finishing their training and go and use the skills to earn a living.

The training is also a great investment to the community because they come to bring their torn clothes for repair and when the learners repair the clothes they are paid. People from the community also brought their children to be taken measurements by the learners to make uniforms for their children and pay for the services. Thus making the learners earn a living, use the money to run the tailoring workshop and pay for their teacher as well as getting some support for the feeding program of the school. The learners who have little knowledge help the trainer on training those who do not know anything and giving the teacher an easy time. The peers train their co-trainees simple tasks like threading the machines, starting the sewing machines, threading the bobbins among other small tasks in tailoring. Out of the 15 trainees 8 have secured jobs with uniform garments shop, 4 have their own machines and have started their own businesses and 3 are still training.

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Bakery

In the beginning of 2023 Shammah bought baking equipments. The bakery started on 1st March 2023 . The baking trainer is an added advantage to the vocational training because he had just retired from one of the biggest clubs in Kenya as a baker and he was among the best. Due to his baking skills he has been getting lots of orders for birthday cakes, wedding cakes among other baking products. This makes the baking exciting to the learners because they are able to learn how to bake different types of cakes for different occasions.

The beneficiaries are 80 Shammah children age 9-14 who are 45 girls and 35 boys. Other people who have enrolled for the baking classes are 30 teenage mothers, 30 adolescents 21 girls and 9 boys, 30 vulnerable youth 25 girls and 5 boys, 15 people living with disabilities 11 female and 4 men, 30 Shammah parents 22 female 8 male and 30 people (20 female and 10 male) who voluntary enrolled and pay for the services. Total 245 people 174 female and 71 male. The learners in the bakery are being trained on how to use different types of equipment like stoves , charcoal stoves, gas , and electric ovens so as to be able to use what they can afford in their homes once they complete their training. The training is supposed to take 6 months to one year. The baking training always carry the day because the products are edible and the smell of the products one can smell from far.

Bakery products being edible makes that, when the learners bake their products they already have a market whereby Shammah children who used to carry snacks for their breakfast now do not carry the snacks any more. Shammah parents, learners and the entire community are fully involved by supporting the baking training whereby they are in front line of purchasing the products of the baking products to use at home and for their children. All the money they were using before to purchase snacks

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is channelled in the bakery whereby they now buy their snacks in the bakery. This gives the vocational centre extra income which help to run it and also support Shammah Centre in feeding programme and paying some token to the Shammah volunteers.



The community is extremely happy, because the vocational training centre has brought hope to people who had lost hope in life.

There has been reduction of poverty because trainees who have been able to go through the training and completed, they have been able to create their own job opportunities and even created job opportunities for other people.

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There is also self-reliance whereby teenage mothers and adolescent girls who had dropped out of school due to lack of school fees or early pregnancy have been trained are able to use the skills to earn a living instead of doing prostitution.

Rate of crime and drug abuse has also gone down because most of the groups which were smuggling people enrolled in the vocational training. Some have already finished the training and started earning out the skills and others are busy with the training and have no time for planning evil.

Finally Jemmimah, the coordinator of the project likes to share a little story that have impressed her:

“ The best practice story which has impressed me is that if only people are given a second chance in life despite of their mistakes they could be the best productive people in the society because if they have life skills they use them to earn a living and even create job opportunities for themselves and others and be able to be independent.

I have watched two girls who had completely destroyed their lives with prostitution and drugs and upon enrolling them in the vocational training they have completely reformed and are continuing with learning both computer and tailoring skills. The girls are able to earn a living as they still train whereby they use the knowledge they have already to do some baking at their homes and sell the products to their neighbours.

The girls do not have their own sewing machines yet, but they go to their neighbours to collect torn clothes to repair them at a certain cost and carry the clothes to the sewing workshop. By the end of the day they pay for the services in the training and are left with some money for themselves.”

FAPADAG and the Shammah Centre like to thank all contributors to this project.

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