



MicroEnterprise: Strategy toward Youth Self-Reliance

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Elusive Definition of Youth

- Organizational or national definition
- Life circumstances:
 - Married
 - Working
 - Independent
- Individuals in Transition
- For presentation: 13-25 yrs



Initiation Ceremony





Youth Empowerment

- Development concern
- Process by which youth
 - Gain greater access and control over material, financial and intellectual resources



Income from local materials



Local carpentry workshop



Youth Empowerment (cont)

- Ensure improved livelihood for themselves and their communities



Janet attending to a shop

Milk for diet / income





Youth Empowerment (cont)

- Must challenge societal ideologies



Substantial Challenges

- Efforts to empower youth face several challenges
 - Lack of access to emerging knowledge and information
 - Absence of adequate linkage with potential funders
 - Absence of strong and sustainable networks and partnerships
 - Low literacy levels



Access to Internet at FDNC



Students reading a local newspaper



Substantial Challenges (cont.)

- Efforts to empower youth face several challenges
 - Lack of enabling policies
 - Dependence on mentor organization to gain access to linkages
 - Designing appropriate interventions for people in transition
 - Youth lack of self-worth, impatience, attitudes toward work, peer influence



Beneficiaries interacting with partner



Leaders & youth after workshop



Solutions

- Promote micro enterprise as a viable strategic tool for empowering youth



After training at FDNC, Cyrus opened a tailoring workshop



Former student in her garment shop



Solutions (cont.)

- Develop an integrated approach that addresses multiple needs simultaneously
- Build multi-sectoral partnerships and networks to solve problems collaboratively



FDNC Humble Beginnings

- Strategy: traditional vocational school



FDNC Vocational Skills Training Center



Tailoring Department



FDNC Humble Beginnings

- Developed technical skills, but lacked
 - Tools



Band Performing



Agriculture student transplanting seedlings



FDNC Humble Beginnings

- Entrepreneurship skills
 - Confidence and motivation



Entrepreneurship Training Workshop



Bread Making



FDNC Humble Beginnings

- Real-world experience



Quarrying Site



Cross-cultural interaction at work



Training Beyond the Classroom

- Focus on practical skills, rather than theory.



Site Training



Former students in their local workshop



Training Beyond the Classroom

- Support site visits



Joshua trains former students on entrepreneurship

FDNC Community Health worker meeting the youth



Training Beyond the Classroom (cont)

- Minimize barriers through community partnerships:
 - Enroll all willing students, regardless of educational background or family income

Without formal education, Khaukha is now employed with MOWM construction company





Training Beyond the Classroom (cont)

-Offer work-study programs, sponsorships, scholarships, and micro-loan programs to support the most needy

- Provide hostels and meals for those who need it
- Operate an on-site health and nutrition clinic

FDNC Nurse





Training Beyond the Classroom

- Provide kit of starter tools
- Include entrepreneurship training, including participation in a student-run canteen, Internet café, and African crafts studio
- Establish satellite centers that cater to internships and field placements
- Build resilience through relationships (“I have”), enabling activities (“I can”), and spirituality (“I am”)



Student managing school canteen



Satellite center at Mulatsi



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