

FIRST QUARTER REPORTS ON YOUTH BICYCLE SKILL TRAINING CENTRE



**FROM:
NORTHERN SECTOR ACTION ON AWARENESS CENTRE
(NORSAAC)**

**SUBMITTED TO:
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(A UK BASED NGO)**

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Introduction

Daily livelihood is very essential to every individual regardless of nationality, tribe, social status and age. However, surprising as it may sound, some people are unable to meet their basic needs due to what may be described as “hard core poverty”. Such is the case of northern Ghana. Northern region according to Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) document is third to Upper East and West respectively, with seven out of every ten being poor, that is living under one dollar a day.

The situation therefore makes it uneasy for parents who strive hard out of their already scarce resources to make ends meet for their families, to educate their wards to higher levels. As such school drop outs is on the high side, and without any intervention this could continue in a vicious cycle.

It is in this regard that NORSAAC through the benevolent support from Tools for Self Reliance seeks to ease or better still curb the consequences.

This project which is aimed at ensuring a better livelihood when implemented successfully will help create self employment without necessarily idling with the excuse of lack of jobs, ease unnecessary economic challenges, and improve the economic status of the youth within the beneficiary communities and thus reduce poverty.

Mode of selection

From the onset of the project so many people showed interest, however with previous experience from our current trainees which we would not want to repeat itself, it was thought relevant to seek a new direction regarding the selection procedure.

This time round a meeting was held with stake holders of various communities to discuss the issue at stake to be assured of their maximum support regarding the project. Upon their assurances, they were tasked to identify school drop outs and those who were not in school but interested in the skills training.

Thorough screening was made to pick a member each from the communities. This was to ensure the absence of biases and willingness of the beneficiaries to put in their best without falling off along the training.

At the end of the screening, we came up with seven people. Unfortunately we could not get girls to take part in the first batch but we hope to at least get one girl in the next batch of trainees.

The following people were recruited into the centre.

Name	Age	Community	Educational level
Yussif Sulemana	24	Katariga	Junior High School
Alhassan Yussif	24	Mashegu	Senior High School
Iddi Fuseini	26	Nyerezie	Junior High School
Matinu Adam	18	Tuunaayili	Junior High School
Abdullai Mohammed	18	Gbanyamni	Junior High School
Fuseini Abdul Somed	20	Gumani	Primary school.

Trainees at workshop

In the second week of September almost all the selected trainees reported at the workshop for training. Parents of the trainees came with them to the centre to know where their wards were going to be trained. It was a happy moment for NORSAAC since it was a sign of interest and commitment. How good it was to see all the trainees working at the centre.



Functional literacy

Education they say is expensive and that is why most people in the North and most especially in the rural areas are not able to afford it. Trainees at the centre are however privileged to have a bit of what they lost in school. A facilitator has been contracted to teach the trainees basic numeracy and keeping of records.

Quarterly review meeting

Every successful project has a good beginning as such this project is not an exception. There was a review meeting to discuss the challenges, achievements and the way forward for the next quarter. Those present at the meeting were the project coordinator, the programmes coordinator, the Director and the supervisor at the centre.

Monitoring

For every body to be on his/her toes there is the need for check ups. There has been effective monitoring to keep the trainees and the supervisor on the right path. All trainees are punctual. However the project officer is not left out as the programmes coordinator also makes sure she follows her work plan.

Challenges

There is no way one can find every thing smooth and thus the following were the problems faced in the first quarter of the project:

- ❖ Delay of transfer of funds resulting to delay in starting the project.
- ❖ Inability of the organisation to develop its permit site to accommodate trainees from rural districts.
- ❖ Lack of means of transport to travel to communities; this also contributed to delay of the start of the project.

Achievements

- ❖ The main agenda for the first quarter was to get trainees for the centre. As such this has been one of the achievements so far in the quarter.
- ❖ Trainees were able to use 6months to successfully undergo the training programme.
- ❖ Communities and parents of trainees supporting the project; this shows sustainability of the project.
- ❖ A land has been secured to be developed as a permanent site for the project.

Way forward

With the commitment shown by NORSAAC and all stakeholders (community chairmen, parents and trainees), the first batch of trainees will successfully pass out in February, 2010.

SUCCESS STORY

Alhassan Abdul Rashid is a graduate from the training centre and narrates his story. I am Abdul Rashid from Sugashee. Am twenty-one years of age and live with my uncle in this village. I was farming with my uncle in the village where I live. When NORSAAC announced to train people at the centre, my uncle applied for me and fortunately I was picked.

Since I came to Norsaac for the training, I learnt so much from the centre. I can buy bicycle parts in the market even though I cannot read and write. I learnt all these from Norsaac.

Since my graduation from the centre, my life has completely changed. I can boast of my daily chop money because I get work over here. I even give my younger ones who are in school some money for feeding. Thanks to Norsaac for the good work they are doing.

What I want Norsaac to do for other trainees is to add improve functional literacy, motor repair and welding to the training centre.

Conclusion

The beginning of this project shows a bright success for the project as one can see from the zealous trainees working hard at the centre to get the necessary skills. It is obvious that they can pass out in six months time.