

BAGAMOYO TRIP - REPORT

INTRODUCTIONS

The Babawatoto Center through its project Fit for Life organized a training workshop (Study Tour) for six days in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, with the aim of increasing knowledge and skills to the children and their teachers in these areas; this is part of the activities of Fit for Life project. Babawatoto Center collaborated with the institute which is working to foster young children's talents; SHADA GROUP, located in Bagamoyo by preparing workshops that involved the children from these two institutes to make them learn together and exchange experiences in Acrobatics and Samba Reggae Music.

Shada Group is a group of art for children and youth located in Bagamoyo District in the Coast Region. This group is owned by Mr. Issa Tambwe who is a tutor in the field of acrobatics in the Institute of Arts and Culture in Bagamoyo (Taasisi ya Sanaa na Utamaduni Bagamoyo - TASUBA). Shada Group has been established since 2004, become committed in the field of acrobatics, traditional dance and the music. The group still has no sponsor but for now it has been granted a space at Bagamoyo College of Arts (TASUBA). The aim of establishing this group has been to promote and develop children's talents in an effort of building a conducive financial environment and confidence in their lives.

Therefore, since the Shada Group is having similar goals to Babawatoto Center; Babawatoto decided to make cooperation so as to empower the group's Local Trainers together with the children.

The workshop was divided into four categories namely; Acrobatics, Juggling, Trapezes as well as percussion (Terra-Brazil).

The trip started on Friday at nine during a day and arrives in Bagamoyo at eleventh in the evening, with a total of 20 people; among them were 5 Local trainers and 15 children, of whom 6 were girls and 14 boys. We found our hosts and they received us well, we had time together to offload the equipments from the vehicle and take them to a place prepared for that. Thereafter we had an introductions session trying to get to know each other, and then together we shared the goals of the workshop. There were other instructions that provided concerning the meals and how classes shall be held each day. We all gathered in a place where the workshops were going to be held, with a total number of 41 participants among them 6 were teachers and 35 children, of whom

12 were girls and 29 boys. We started the workshop at 9:00am for teachers looking at the ability of the participants, then we divided the participants into groups; the group of the circus had 10 participants; tinkering with different materials, small balls and diabolos had 8 participants; Trapezes had 8 participants and Dance had 9 participants. By 10:00am all participants went to get breakfast (Drink some Tea), while by 10:30am, participants returned to the respective areas and all cooperated to organize and set the Trapezes equipment. Thereafter, each trainer took his group to the relevant section assigned to begin the workshop. The workshops started well because there were no any problem emerged. By 14:00pm we had a break and all participants went for lunch, then the day was called off and the participants went to rest.

THE WORKSHOPS TIMETABLE

The workshops was conducted for six days and each day the groups trained for five hours (5)

Trapeze

This class was facilitated by Said Charles, consisting of 3 children from Babawatoto Centre and 5 children from Shada Group. They started with simple exercises and then learn how to climb in Trapeze equipment while Babawatoto children knew it and were showing how to play Trapezes. The Shada children in collaboration with the Babawatoto kids learnt different styles of tinkering with Trapeze in pairs and as a single player. In the beginning, the children were very eager to climb the trapeze equipment but after a day, they got used to it and wanted to learn more and not just to be able to climb the equipment, but with skills. In fact the trainers Mr. Issa and Mr. Mkude, collaborated very well to ensure the children are preparing a nice performance for the Bagamoyo International Festival.

Circus

This class began to practice acrobatics with 10 participants; five from Shada and other five from FFL. This class was facilitated by Shomari Said and Mr. Issa himself. This class did not have many challenges since almost all the children were very skilled in acrobatics and in creating different shapes. Shada Group were preparing a performance to show to the Bagamoyo International Festival, so, all the kids showed competence, skills and creativity in every move they made under their trainer Mr. Issa. They created

different shapes and moves that they were going to perform in the Festival. This class was practically using a lot of energy and concentration since this was the main class which was preparing the main piece for the Festival.

Equipments; Juggling, Diabolos and One Tyre Bike

Mwanaidi Salehe facilitated this class with seven children that include three girls and four boys. The class learnt how to concentrate and understand ways and procedures of throwing the balls and juggling. The class trained in various styles, and the children of this class showed greater competition in the games of throwing the balls and tinkering with a one tyre bike which the trainer Mr.Issa helped Abdallah and Zalin to learn how to drive with full concentration and with different styles. Mwanaidi made sure the children are doing exercises at the beginning and at the end of the classroom to help the children have a proportion of their hands.

Samba Reggae

Shabo Makota had a big job to make sure the new kids understand these drumming since this are the only art that was new to the children and the entire Bagamoyo community. This class used to attract many spectators came during the session. This class had 3 children from Babawatoto and 6 of the Shada Group. The children learned lighter beats so that they can keep the tempo. So they have had learned a half of an hour creating beats on the floor before applying those beats to the actual drums in every morning and at the end of the class sessions. The children showed great skills in drumming, preparing themselves different beats that they were going to play during the festival for the acrobatics performance. Jasmini, Mwajuma and Said were always very close to the children of Shada Group even after training in order to assist them in drumming.



Samba Reggae Workshop

On the fourth day, this was a very important day for Shada Group who had lost two artists to a car accident when they were coming from rehearsals last month. But the schedule went on as usual, and after the class sessions and lunch in the noon hours, all the kids went to join the relatives of their late fellow brothers accomplishing the funeral, that was 3:00pm and they spent an hour in that funeral. After the final prayer to pray for the deceased end, the children returned to rehearse for the festival for an hour too and then the children and the local trainers we all went to the Bagamoyo College of Arts Theatre Hall to attend the Opening of the Bagamoyo International Arts Festival. For our kids, this was their first time to attend and witness such a big art festival, so they were very surprised and enjoyed a lot every performance presented there.

This day was a great day, as it was the day to appear and perform for the first time in the Bagamoyo International Arts Festival, the children were very eager to preparing themselves in making sure they do well in front of a crowd of people who came to watch them perform. The training was conducted as usual while focusing on the performance that they were going to perform later, so we divided them in their classes

for two hours after lunch, we met again to practice together from the beginning to the end, then all the children were allowed to shower and relax. By 7:00pm in the evening we met with all the children on the stage and organize ourselves to see how are we going to make it on stage together; we discussed how to enter and leave the stage, then we all left the stage and wait for our performance time which was 9:00pm. When reached our time to perform, the kids and Local trainers were all gathered back stage for the preparation to enter the stage. The performance was very successfully even though there were some small errors from the children, but they worked hard to make sure they perform with great skills. The audience was surprised by the rhythms and drumming of samba reggae while others do circus. The performance was only for a half of an hour and after then we finished with a very commendable applauses. The children went back to bed at 10:30pm at night.



Festival Performance

Even after the Bagamoyo International Festival performances, we still continued with our training as a way of getting feedbacks from the children and local trainers but also continue to learn in one way or another. The children had physical exercises together and then divided into their classes. Local trainers continued to instruct the kids reflecting what the kids have performed in the Festival. Many of the children have seen gaining confidence immediately after the main performance they had in the festival,

and they were very happy while believing that they can very far artistically if they can keep considering what have been instructed by their trainers. One of the kids, Adam Seleman spoke; *"I am very pleased to get an opportunity to perform in the International Art Festival like this, Art is very good. Babawatoto is a very good center; I believe I can be a great artist later"*. Another one who's Hamisi, also observed very happy for the opportunity to perform in the International Arts Festival, although when asked he said; *"I am very happy to come to Bagamoyo to train and work with children of Shada Group. I have found new friends here already"*. This day was the final day of training, for the following day they planned to visit the Ruins and Kaole Monuments.

Children in their normal schedule as usual, they gathered early and drank tea together; they parted with their fellow kids from Shada Groups. Before going back to Dar es Salaam, the Babawatoto kids together with their leaders went to the Crocodile Well and Kaole Ruins. The children were all very happy to see the historical sites in Bagamoyo, and then the trip back to Dar es Salaam started. We arrived at the Babawatoto Center in Dar es Salaam at 4:00pm and Mr. Mkude Kilosa with a help from the local trainers returned each child and handed to his/her parent.



Kaole Ruins

WORKSHOPS RESULTS

Children were able to learn at a very highest level of understanding almost everything they were taught by their teachers in classes, to the extent on the fourth day the children already accustomed to climb and play with Trapeze equipments and playing the rhythms of Samba Reggae.

- Children also expressed good level of discipline in their classes and they respected each other.
- The performances were organized well while involving the Local trainers, Mkude Kilosa and the trainer Mr. Issa.
- The trainers (Local Trainer) added some skill in training the children, this is because they met new children in the new area, so, they added some creativity to make sure the children understand and be able to produce a nice performance for the International Art Festival. They were also ready to receive expertise from new children and the trainer Mr. Issa as well.
- Participants were able to learn different new things from other artist's performances that performed during the International Art Festival but also the festival have motivated them to do acrobatics and music of samba reggae with great effort in the festival.
- The Local Trainers and the children were also very happy to get a certificate of participation from the 33rd Bagamoyo International Art Festival.

CHANGAMOTO

- ❖ Although the days were few but the local trainers and the children were able to produce a wonderful performance for the Bagamoyo International Art Festival.
- ❖ We also had to regard the time that was arranged by our host based on the location of the rehearsals, because it was Bagamoyo College of Arts and the College were in a serious preparation for their International Art Festival which they host.
- ❖ Still juvenile kids were recognized in some of the classes though their trainers Mr. Issa and Mr. Mkude managed to control them all and make them listen and follow the programs.

RECOMANDATION

- There are must be a preparations of good Costumes for International Art Festival, this will increase motivation to the kids but also even for the audience, so our Costume Designers should use this opportunity to promote their works.
- The number of days for the workshops should be increased so that the local trainers can have enough time to assess their work.
- There should be a good documentation almost in every study tour, so that the centre can be able to keep good records for future use.

WORKSHOP TRAINING TIMETABLE

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sept. 20 th , 2014	Saturday	8:30am - 9:00am	Arriving at the Rehearsing Place
		9:00am - 10:00am	Introduction to the Workshop Participants, Physical Exercises
		10:00am - 10:30am	Tea Break
		10:30am - 11:00am	Divided into groups
		11:00am - 2:00pm	Conducting Workshops into groups
		2:00pm - 3:00pm	Lunch and Closing a day
Sept. 21 st , 2014	Sunday	8:30am - 9:00am	Arriving at the Workshop Place
		9:00am - 9:30am	Physical Exercises

		9:30am - 10:00am	Participants dispersing into their respective groups
		10:00am - 10:30am	Tea Break
		10:30am - 2:00pm	Performance Preparations for each group
		2:00pm - 3:00pm	Lunch and Closing the Workshop
Sept. 22 nd , 2014	Monday	8:30am - 9:00am	Arriving at the Workshop Place
		9:00am - 10:00am	Physical Exercises and Participants dispersing into their respective groups
		10:00am - 10:30am	Tea Break
		10:30am - 2:00am	The divided groups improving their performances
		2:00pm - 3:00pm	Lunch and Closing the Workshop
Sept. 23 rd , 2014	Tuesday	8:30am - 9:00am	Arriving at the Workshop Place
		9:00am - 10:00am	Physical Exercises and Participants dispersing into their respective groups
		10:00am - 10:30am	Tea Break
		10:30am - 13:00am	The divided groups improving their performances
		1:00pm - 2:00pm	Lunch Break
		2:00pm - 6:00pm	Finalizing Performance Preparations (Pre-Production) and the Performance

Sept. 24th, 2014	Wednesday	9:00am - 10:00am	Arriving at the Workshop Place
		10:00am - 11:00am	Tea Break
		11:00am - 1:00pm	Performance's Postmortem Meeting
		2:00pm - 6:00pm	Attending Performances in the Festival
Sept. 25th, 2014	Thursday	8:30am - 9:00am	Arriving at the Workshop Place
		9:00am - 10:00am	Physical Exercises and Participants dispersing into their respective groups
		10:00am - 10:30am	Tea Break
		10:30am - 1:00pm	Performance's Postmortem Meeting
		1:00pm - 2:00pm	Lunch Break
		2:00pm - 6:00pm	Workshop Training
Sept. 26th, 2014	Friday	9:00am - 10:00am	Farewell Breakfast
		10:00am - 2:00pm	Kaole Ruins & Monuments
		2:00pm - 6:00pm	Babawatoto Centre Dar es Salaam