

BUTTERFLY YOUTH FOUNDATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH BABAWATOTO CENTRE

FIT FOR LIFE PROJECT

STUDY VISIT REPORT
11TH - 18TH DECEMBER, 2014

JANUARY 2015

Executive summary

This report entails particulars of the study visit activities that were conducted at Butterfly Youth Foundation (Uganda) with Babawatoto Centre (Tanzania) under Fit for Life project. The study objectives were basically to exchange ideas (share knowledge and skills), developing skills and expanding organisational network. The study visit commenced on 11th December and concluded on 18th December, 2014. Herein, a review of the successes, challenges and recommendations is availed. We thank you for the special commitment to fund this project which we think was successful and will yield more fruits.

1.0 Introduction

Babawatoto Centre (Tanzania) under Fit For Life Project visited Butterfly Youth Foundation (Uganda) and we had a collaborative study visit that run for 7 days. We had workshops running throughout the week and we were able to put up a final performance in the community at Kosovo slum. The performance which was more than successful included all participants from both sides of the two organizations.

2.0 Successes

- a. Arrival of visitors was safe and we were ready to receive them
- b. The concepts/methods used during trainings were great and applicable to the children. Thanks to Mkude who among others facilitators was most outstanding.
- c. Number of children was manageable
- d. Children were actively engaged in all the activities.
- e. Incorporation of daily morning activities (physical exercises) was a great idea and needs to be incorporated by both projects every time before workshops as it wakes up participants' minds.
- f. Participants from Butterfly ranked Samba-reggae as the most exciting among other workshops. The drums were a big attraction and motivation to our children.



Participants during samba-reggae workshops

- g. Another exciting workshop was that of Trapeze, it helped our children build confidence in climbing and hanging-upside down without any fear since trapeze are strong enough to hold any weight. They also added value to our local silk which they were used to.



Participants training silk under a trapeze stand

- h. It was great seeing our children interacting with other children from Tanzania. Sharing helps them to appreciate cultural diversities from different countries.
- i. The team from Tanzania came with almost all the equipment needed for all workshops which added beauty to our workshops i.e. presence of carpet and mattresses made it comfortable for capoeira, summersort, B-boy and other circus activities.



Swaymu and Theresia exhibiting their skills



Moses (BYF) during B-boy training



Participants led their workshops while supervised by their trainers

- j. The methods used by trainers were compatible with the nature of children we are working with combined with love and care more especially, which does not only give the children hope but also develop humanistic behaviours to help them create health relationships.
- k. Managers exhibited a high level of Honesty, dependability, Generosity, compassion and care for the less fortunate, responsibility and fair play.
- l. Children appreciated Theresia, Swaum, Adam, Mwajabu and ‘Mapengo’ among other participants as more friendly, good performers and very good team players.
- m. High energy from both trainers and children was appreciated as there were no blurs from the beginning until the end throughout all the workshops.
- n. We did not register any illness cases. We had healthy participants and no accidents were reported.
- o. We did not register any immoral behaviours like safety or anyother that could lead to misunderstandings between the two families.

- p. Teamwork and cooperation among managers from Butterfly and Babawatoto made it easy to run all the activities.

Challenges

Language barrier as participants from both sides could not communicate effectively which affected more bonding.

According to the children, evaluation forms were not very clear and this perhaps hindered them to provide relevant information. However, Mariam, Elly and Habiba were trying to interpret for them.

Time management was a bit challenging and this affected effective management and planning of activities for a particular day. The team from Tanzania and that of Uganda could have met and make a common schedule to be followed prior to the beginning of week activities.

It was such an emotional moment on the last day when we were concluding the study visit. This affected most of the participants who wished to continue with the sessions for atleast two weeks. It would help them bond and share more.

Conclusion

Butterfly youth foundation was pleased to have such an opportunity to partner with Babawatoto centre – fit for life project and we assume it was a great network. We therefore take this opportunity to greet you and extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support towards the project. All in all we have no doubt that the study visit objectives were met to a greater extent as participants were able to increase their confidence in arts, shared knowledge and acquired new skills and ideas.

Recommendations / suggestions

1. Gender balance, its important that girls are catered for in terms of full participation as most activities were mainly dominated by boys especially from Butterfly side.
2. Getting the opportunity to visit Babawatoto centre to have a similar exchange from Tanzania to enhance our network and skills for the purpose of creating a deeper understanding and practice of what has been already acquired.
3. There is a need to have a well-equipped office to manage/ supervise or monitor our records and activities effectively, i.e. computer, printer & scanner, projector. These could as well be used during training sessions like the projector.
4. Acquisition of Samba Reggae instruments will enable us improve our performance skills and give us a strong stage audience and attraction in our sensitization programmes in the community.

5. Need to acquire enough funds to enable our students transform their communities through regular activities that could be planned according to a particular project activity workplan.
6. Creation of long term relationships with various organizations working with less fortunate persons will help us to enhance social-economic cohesion, collaboration and participation of all the youth in socio-cultural and economic spheres.

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