



The Olinga Foundation

For Human Development

Sept 2012

Activities in Kwahu North /Afram Plains District

Objectives of the Olinga Foundation for Human Development:

- *To release human potential through the promotion of universal education, especially for school leavers, women and girls.*
- *To build the capacity of community-based organisations for achieving ever higher degrees of human development.*
- *To assist individuals and organisations to investigate, identify and overcome socio-cultural barriers to development.*
- *To assist communities to apply moral principles for the solution of socio-economic problems through a process of consultation, action and reflection.*

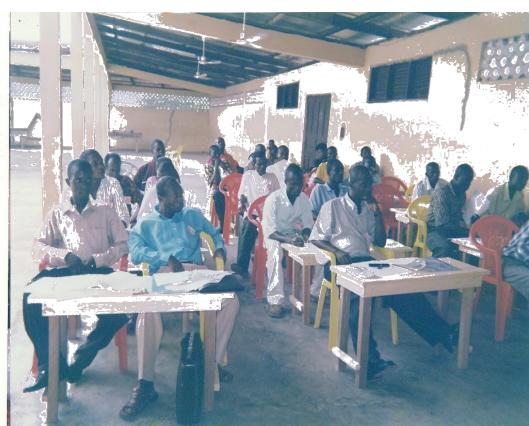
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Annual Teacher Training Workshop

The Enlightening the Heart Annual Teacher Training Workshop was held from 24th—27th October 2011 at the Alfons Merten Catholic Centre, Donkorkrom in the Eastern Region of Ghana for 40 Teachers drawn from both primary and Junior High Schools across two circuits in the district. This forms part of the Foundation's ongoing work to promote literacy and moral education in basic schools in deprived communities in Ghana. Three members of the District Teacher Support Team (DTST), two circuit supervisors and the desk officer and resource personnel from the Olinga Foundation participated in the workshop.

Teachers were trained in skills needed to effectively teach basic reading and writing using the Ghanaian language (L1) Twi and/or Ewe. They were also instructed in how to improve classroom management skills, child centred teaching approaches, moral leadership and moral education approaches including alternative discipline in the classroom. Thirty-five textbooks were supplied to each of the 40 schools in this years programme. The moral education approach intends to integrate the virtues in order that children learn to become better citizens and community leaders in future. Preparation of teaching and learning materials was also a major component of the training workshop inspired teachers to adopt low cost ways to improve teaching practices; many teachers explained that did not remember preparing TLM's since their training college days.



Annual Baseline Study

The Enlightening the Hearts Literacy campaign under the auspices of the Olinga Foundation for Human Development in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service conducted the 2011/2012 baseline study in November 2011 in the Kwahu North / Afram Plains district of the Eastern Region, Ghana. The aim of the baseline study was to evaluate the level of literacy among children at the P4-P6 level in target schools at the initial stages of the programme and before the teachers began using the literacy textbooks and program methodology. The team randomly selected 12 schools (intervention and non intervention schools) using a standard literacy testing format, the team tested approximately 20 pupils in each school. This include 10 boys and 10 girls in each school were tested on their basic reading and comprehension levels in Twi or Ewe languages.

A total of 231 students were involved in the baseline exercise. The results showed that 42% or 96 out of 231 students who took the test were literate.... only 13 or 6 % were semi - literate while 52% or 121 were non -literate (see next page for details).

The best of all ways to worship Him is to educate the children and train them in all the perfections of humankind, and no nobler deed than this can be imagined.



Teacher Training Workshop, 2011

' Children are even as a branch that is fresh and green; they will grow up in whatever way ye train them. Take the utmost of care to give them high ideals and goals, so that once they come of age, they will cast their beams like brilliant candles on the world... And will set their hearts on everlasting honour and acquiring all the excellences of humankind".

Baseline Results (2011/12)

No. Of Schools tested	Total No. Of Students	No. of Students Literate / %	No. of Students Semi Literate / %	No. of Students Non Literate / %
12	231	96 (42%)	13(6%)	121 (52%)

Cluster Based Refresher Training

The Refresher Teacher Training Workshop were held at two centres - Mamekrobo D/A Junior High School for 20 Ghanaian language teachers in the Kwahu North /Afram plains district of the Eastern Region of Ghana and at Sameraboi D/A primary for 15 teachers and of Agona D/A JHS for another 20 teachers in the Wassa Amenfi West District, Western Region in May 2012.

The Foundation's purpose for the refresher workshops were to examine the current status of the literacy program approaches and results in the target schools, including organizational goals, objectives and needed resources in order to address any issues arising/concerns of the teachers and pupils alike, and to correct mistakes observed during the peer teaching sessions and revisit the methodology, as well as discuss achievements in literacy attainment among learners.

Participants were taken through the literacy methodology using the phonetic approach to reading Twi and Ewe, and given ideas in using the moral content of the lessons. The need to use creative teaching and learning materials (posters, letter cards, supplementary books and songs) was also stressed.

The refresher workshops helped to provide the Foundation with feedback on the programme from intervention schools across the two regions of operation (Eastern and Western Regions)..thank you for your participation!!!



RECENT Recommendation Letter To All District Education Directorates and Corporate Bodies By The Director Basic Education Division / Director General of the Ghana Education Service (GES).

GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE

*In case of reply,
the number and date of this
letter should be quoted.*



HEADQUARTERS
Ministry Branch Post Office
P.O. Box M45
Accra

My Ref. No EP 3012/VOL.2/69

10th April, 2012

Your Ref. No

A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION THE OLINGA FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT LITERACY CAMPAIGN

THE OLINGA FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT is an organization which aims at improving instructional methods of teaching reading using the local languages. It deals with cross-cutting issues with emphasis on Moral Education, using virtues and values in the Ghanaian society. The Foundation's books are very relevant to both Primary and Junior High Schools.

The Foundation which began its work in 2001 in Ghana till now, has covered the Eastern, Western Regions, as well as the North Tongu District in the Volta Region.

The Foundation's key innovation is its approach to literacy attainment aimed at transforming the instructional practice of teachers and their attitudes towards teaching at the primary level. It has also developed training modules and on site supervision approaches which help teachers become morally responsible, and more gender sensitive in ensuring larger participation among pupils in the classroom.

It is against this background that we recommend the expansion of the Literacy Programme of The Olinga Foundation in all the Districts. We would therefore, appreciate your contribution as individuals, corporate bodies and organizations in the form of assistance to support the Foundation's activities in order to help improve the quality of education delivery in Ghana.

Thank you.

STEPHEN ADU
DIRECTOR
BASIC EDUCATION DIVISION
For: DIRECTOR GENERAL

ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION
ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION

Extend every effort to educate the children, so that from infancy they will be trained in all the branches of education...

Virtue of the Month (this lesson can be used during assembly at your schools, in moral education class or during in-service training with the teachers).

SERVICE

What Is Service

Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in the lives of others. Helping other people is one of the best ways to serve God. Having an attitude to service means looking for ways to be of help rather than waiting to be asked. The needs of others are as important to you as your own. When you are service-oriented, you anticipate people's needs and then think of ways to help them.

You do things for other people just to be helpful, not because you hope they will pay you or reward you. You do things just because you care. When you work with a spirit of service, you give a job your best effort. You don't just do the least amount possible. You make a real contribution.

Why Practice Service (particularly in the classroom)?

If people didn't care about serving one another, everyone would be on his own. If someone was in trouble or needed help, no one would be there to help unless she was going to be paid or had some selfish motive. Without a desire to be of service, people have to be pushed or nagged to do their part.

With an attitude of service, we create love and happiness around us. Others feel cared for. They can depend on us to be responsive when something needs to be taken care of. We do our work with heart. We give it our best. When people are service-oriented, they accomplish everything that needs to be done without anyone having to ask. People who want to be of service can change the world.

How Do You Practice It?

When you want to be service-oriented, watch other people to see what help they might need. Then do something to help. Look for little ways to make life easier or happier for others. If someone looks lost or lonely, go up and ask if you can help. Think of little ways to serve your family by doing extra chores or just doing thoughtful little things.

You can do things to serve the earth by remembering to recycle, reduce the things you use, and reuse old things instead of always buying new ones. You could make a compost pile in your backyard or plant a tree where one has been cut down. When you focus on service, there are always lots of wonderful things you can do things which will make a difference in the world.

When you work, do it with a spirit of service. Give it the best you can. Do it for the sake of God. Remember that God placed us here to take care of one another and the earth.

What would an attitude of service look like if.....

- It is raining outside and your mother is coming up the road with no umbrella?
- You have a job to do for your family?
- You wonder how you can serve the world when you grow up?
- Your teacher is struggling to carry a lot of materials?

Signs of Success

Congratulations! You are being of service when you.....

- Want to make a difference in the world.
- Look for opportunities to be of service.
- Think of thoughtful things to do to help your family and friends.
- Work with enthusiasm.
- Don't wait to be asked when something needs doing.

Keep trying! You Need More Practice When You...

- Ignore people who need help.
- See something that needs doing and hope someone else does it.
- See someone who is lost and ignore them.
- Expect others to always serve you .
- Do a job only for the hope of reward
- Don't think your efforts can make any difference.

AFFIRMATION

I look for opportunities to be of service. I do not wait to be asked. I am thoughtful of others. I make a difference in the world.

Among the greatest of all services is the education of children and promotion of the various sciences, crafts and arts... The more ye persevere in this most important task, the more will ye will witness the confirmations of God...

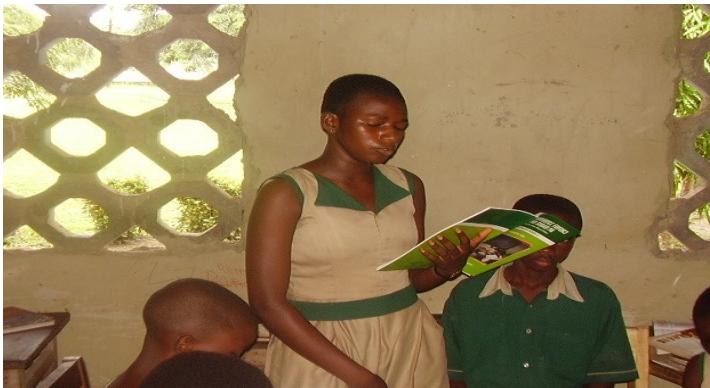
Applying Tolerance in our lives and schools: alternative discipline

A growing concern among educators and parents in Ghana is the issue of corporal punishment. It's hard to believe that our laws do not protect children from corporal punishment particularly in the school setting. Today, we are living in a world where children need to be "heard and seen", they need to be able to make mistakes and ask questions in classrooms without fear of retribution. Abusive forms of punishment including verbal and physical abuse can have devastating effects on the child's character.

"Whenever a mother seeth that her child hath done well, let her praise and applaud him and cheer his heart; and if the slightest undesirable trait should manifest itself, let her counsel the child and punish him, and use means based on reason, even a slight verbal chastisement should this be necessary. It is not, however, permissible to strike a child, or vilify him, for the child's character will be totally perverted if he be subjected to blows or verbal abuse."

The Olinga Foundation along with several of its teachers, has recognised that corporal punishment is having a negative impact on children's ability to participate and actively learn. The findings from our work reveal that caning children discourages them from attending school and participating in the classroom, which affects their self esteem, often breaking their self confidence making them fear school, fear asking questions and fear learning from their teachers.

A picture of a student reading the Twi Enlightening the Hearts Literacy Primer Level Two, in Wassa Amenfi District Western Region, Ghana



Project Impact to Date

The Enlightening The Hearts Literacy Campaign has made great strides in the development of quality teaching among teachers in the District.

"The methodology makes it so simple to acquire language and literacy teaching skills" said Samson Boakye a teacher at the Ayinabrim Primary School. *"The Syllabic approach is excellent. Then there is transfer of knowledge from the Ghanaian language to the English language. Children are therefore reading the English language fluently."*

Along with the distinctive method for teaching literacy, the Olinga Foundations' Enlightening the Hearts Literacy program also incorporates elements of moral education by emphasizing the virtues, a feature that has drawn praise from the teachers and parents alike. *"Why I like this program mostly is the moral aspect of the book which will no doubt help children to become good citizens in the future"* said Ayyub Yaku Aidoo a teacher at the Samreboi primary school, Western Region.

Another important impact on the teachers is the motivational impulse generated by the emphasis on moral education and the use of the moral leadership qualities it emphasizes in the training and on site supervision. Mr. Entwi Bosiako, the Head teacher at the Gonokrom Junior High School said, *"The motivational quotations focused on our moral responsibility as a teacher, and used for reflections during the training workshop is also a source of inspiration and motivation".*

An education official Nana Bobbie said *"We saw that people started talking about values and we were impressed. So the work that they are doing has had a good impact on education as a whole"*.

**Leonard Nubuasah,
(Project Coordinator)**



"Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty."

Boost not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

• **Proverbs 27:1**





All Children Reading (ACR) Global Award

The Olinga Foundation for Human Development has won a global award from USAID, AusAID and World Vision for its work in child literacy over the last ten years in Ghana. Competing against over 400 NGO's world wide, the Olinga Foundation was one of 30 NGO's which won the award for its literacy work. The programme is focussed on helping scale up the programme to over 48,000 children over the next two years, reducing teacher absenteeism, and improving the quality of primary education in 400 primary schools through its methodology. Please see (www.allchildrenreading.org) for more details of the programme.

The World Reader Collaboration in the Eastern Region

The Olinga Foundation is also working with World Reader to pilot an approach in the Suhum District which will bring e-reader technology and literacy methods to lower primary classes (P1-P3) in four schools over the next two years.

The Olinga Foundation for Human Development owes profound gratitude to the Western and Eastern Regional Directors of Education, the District Assemblies and District Education Offices of Wasa Amenfi West and Kwahu North, the District Director's of Education, the District Education Officers, the Circuit Supervisors and Teachers who actively participate and support the programme. We would like to thank USAID, Australia Aid and World Vision for their support under the All Children Reading Campaign. We would also like to thank the Office of Social and Economic Development for supporting project activities over the past ten years.

We would also like to thank the Director General of the Ghana Education Service for recommending the programme to all Districts and Private sector organisations involved in social responsibility in Ghana. For further Information please contact:



Olinga Foundation for Human Development

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**Greetings from the teachers in the
Kwahu North / Afram Plains District**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013/2014

Planning meeting with the District Education Offices in the four existing districts

Afram Plains/Kwahu North, Suhum/Ayensuano; Wassa Mpohor East and Wassa Amenfi West.....September 2013

Teacher Training Workshops in 4 districtsOctober 2013

Baseline Survey.....November 2013

Evaluation for 2012.....December 2013

Monitoring/on-site Supervision and School Support.....Jan-June 2014

Production Newsletter.....April/May 2014

Refresher Training Workshops for Teachers.....Feb. 2014

Programme Evaluation.....July 2014

Preparation for the 2014/2015 program.....August/Sept. 2014