



## A REPORT ON GIRLS CAMP FOR THIRTY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

### INTRODUCTION

Tsogolo la Ana organization is a registered local non governmental organization which was established in 2005. Its mission is to work with orphans and vulnerable children towards promoting their rights and improving the livelihood of their families. One of its programs is education.

Due to high dropout rate among the girls TAO came up with an intervention to reduce the dropout rate among the girls and to promote non risk taking behaviour among the girls addressing knowledge, behavioural change, attitude, beliefs, and practices to early pregnancies, early marriages H.I.V and AIDs and sexual transmitted diseases. Money amounting to MK440, 965.35 to have been received from Open hearts Germany to implement this project.

#### A. Girls camp

##### Preparatory activities:

##### Preparatory activities for girls camp was done as follows:

1. Meeting with the parents of the girls was done to aware them about the girls camp and its aims.
2. Meeting with the head teachers and teachers of Namadidi and Muhasuwa schools to aware them about the girls camp and its aims.
3. Meeting with the students awarering them about the girls campaign its aims.

##### Consultation meetings

In preparation for the girls camp the following consultation meetings were held:

1. Meeting with Social welfare department of Chiradzulu district assembly to design the program of the camp.
2. Meeting with Girl Guide organization to learn their intervention which they do on girls and look for the films which are suitable for the girls camp and get I.E.C material (Information, Education and Communication) material suitable for the girls camp.
3. Meeting with P.S.I (PopulationServices International) to get I.E. C material suitable for the girls camp.
4. Meeting with Banja la Mtsogolo organization to get I.E.C. material

##### Main activities

- 1 girls camp to have been conducted at Chiradzulu secondary school for 3 days. The theme for the camp was **"Girls stop undermining yourselves, we too can."**
- 14 girls (13 girls on TAO bursary, 1 not from TAO bursary).
- Many girls who are not on education bursary wanted to participate in this camp but due to limited resources they were denied.
- The camp was successful.
- One crucial issue which was discussed was:

**Why girls do premarital sex?** below are some of the reasons which transpired:

1. Peer pressure: Some girls just copy the bad behaviour from their friends in order for them to maintain the friendship.
2. Poverty: Most of these children are coming from very poor families and that they are subject to hunger as a result the parents/guardians encourage the girl child to either get married or have a relationship in order to provide her with financial.
3. Culture and beliefs: Chiradzulu district is one of the districts which have a culture of initiating girls when they reach puberty. At the initiation ceremonies they are taught many things about marriage. One of them is to practice sex when they come out from the initiation ceremony. These people have also a belief that when a girl does not practice sex she can fall sick.
4. Lack of life skills like decision making, self realization, self esteem, assertiveness and confidence. When these girls fall into a situation which can force them to do premarital sex they fail to make a wise decision.

#### Impact of the girls camp

- The relationship among the girls was strengthened.
- Shared learning through interaction and socialization took places since all the girls were free to air out their views. Those girls who have sexual partners were able to say it openly. At the end they were counseled and advised to abstain.
- The girls realized that they too have a potential and that they can do better in education and become a prominent person in the future.
- The girls realized that even girls can hold decision positions in government and companies through the role modeling sessions which they had.

**B. An individual and group counseling** to have been done once to the girls. This acted as a follow up to the girls camp which they had. The performance of some girls has improved as a result of a girls camp and counseling.

**C. A workshop with the parents** to have been done once as a follow up of a girls camp. The parents appreciated TAO for organizing the girls camp.

#### Recommendation

- After the girls camp some of the girls recommended that the camp should be done once per term and others recommended that it should be done once per academic year.
- The social welfare department thanked TAO and Open Hearts Germany for organized this workshop. They recommended that this activity of girls camp should target all the girls in Chiradzulu district since a lot of girls are dropping out of school due to lack of awareness.
- We as TAO would like to thank Open hearts Germany for supporting girls education project. We therefore recommend that if the funds are available this girls camp project should target all the girls in Chiradzulu district as well as other districts.

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