

Ruaraka Community Library Project

Concept Note.

1. Progressive Volunteers

Progressive Volunteers is a community based organization founded in 2007 to meet the critical needs of young people in Ruaraka and the surrounding communities of Kasarani District of Nairobi County.

PV is dedicated to creating comprehensive long solutions that give young people in high risk environment real alternatives to poverty and violence.

2. Project Background

Youth Empowerment Program

Part of the programs run by Progressive Volunteers (PV) is Youth Empowerment. We see an empowered person as one who is able to decide for him/herself what he/she wants in life and how to achieve that in a procedural and intellectual manner. We carry out this agenda through training sessions on leadership and entrepreneurial capacities, motivational talks to organized groups and one-on-one mentorship.

With the ever growing population in the slum areas, it calls for extension of this service. This is mainly due to strong competition on the scanty resources that the slum areas face. In the event, most people either languish in poverty or others indulge in criminal acts to suffice their daily needs. There is therefore a need for a paradigm shift from training for job seeking to training for job creation. This, to a greater extent, entails nurturing a wholesome person. An individual with meaningful and gainful skills.

Library in the Slums

At PV we have seen a necessity for us to bring information to the Ruaraka slums. It has therefore identified the establishment of a public library targeting non formal schools in the slums as an alternative option to this extension service.

Project Objectives.

- To bring information close to the people who might not under ordinary circumstances access such information.
- To promote a culture of reading among the people of the slums.
- To equip students with extra information from the class.
- To alleviate immoral practices by giving someone a chance to be critical and creative.

3. Project Justification.

Current situation

There are currently 12 public primary and secondary schools in Ruaraka slums. Although the Kenyan government is working diligently to offer affordable education for its children in these schools, there are several children left out attending more than 150 non-formal schools which are ill equipped with basic learning materials.

Many of the public libraries in Nairobi are out of reach for many slum dwellers. Furthermore, these libraries have been branded “the rich man libraries” presenting a negative publicity to them. Besides, some fee has to be paid in to get permission to use the service. This hinders slum dwellers from largely accessing the facility.

Lack of access to information materials is a major contributor to low education standards in the area. This has attributed greatly to abject poverty in the communities

Our intent

With the advancement of digital age and technological know-how, there is a necessity to keep people up to date progress in the world of information, hence the need for community library centres. The youth residing within our area of jurisdiction still languish in abject poverty. This has been attributed greatly to illiteracy, lack of skills to execute a gainful venture, drug addiction, prostitution, idleness and environmental pollution. It is our interest that the idea of an information centre such as a library will act as a catalyst to many of these challenges. This is so because many of these people will get occupied and hence avoid such malignancies. The youth will also learn on many important and viable projects that would see them generate income for themselves. Furthermore, as the saying goes, there is power in knowledge. The people will be developed intellectually hence can make informed decisions.

4. Methodology - Sustainability - Monitoring

Methodology

- Central location where youth, informal schools and other interested person within the six slums that PV serves can access.
- Managed by the Progressive Volunteers with a qualified librarian supervising the daily progress.
- Agreement between PV and the non formal school's administration on lending procedures for their students.
- Digital library with internet-connected computers for youth researchers.
- Library centres are publicized adequately: sizable banners on strategic positions, posters, announcements made in centers of worship e.g. church and mosques, local radio stations

Sustainability and monitoring

- PV will ensure the proper maintenance of records (appropriate users registration, exit and return date, recovery methodology).
- Full time librarian to ensure good care of the books to oversee the orderly running of the facility.
- Quarterly meetings with non formal school administrators, community leaders to check on the libraries' status.
- Continuous information to stakeholders and partners.
- Minimal registration and evaluation fee to be charged on the users to ensure daily maintenance and project sustainability.

5. Project Planning.

	Narrative summary	Indicators	Means of Verification
Output 1.	Over 1000 informal school children borrow the agreed books from PV library centres.	Presence of books in primary (pre-unit, 1-8) and secondary schools (Form 1- Form 4)	Visits to schools and interviews with teachers and students
Output 2.	Community library centres are set-up in Ruaraka: open and affordable to the public members.	Registration and entrance is free and usage of books is for a cheap fee. Library has a dedicated librarian.	Interviews with local people. Regular feedback from librarian.

Activity 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PV consults with non formal school administrators on the list of books to purchase and stock in the library centres. b) PV purchases the books locally. c) PV lends the books out to the school students, teachers and community members. 	Budget allocation Copies of invoices for PV's purchases. Quotations from the various suppliers for purposes of procurement.
Activity 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PV identifies the list of books and magazines necessary for PV members and the community at large b) PV sets up the rules and conditions of the Library c) PV purchases the books locally. d) PV provides a training on library management e) PV sets up a library catalogue f) PV organises publicity events 	

6. List of Books and Budget.

Target	Books	Number of books	Average Unit cost (USD)	Total (USD)
Schools (Primary and secondary)	Sciences; biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics. Business, geographical and historical books. Languages; Swahili, English, French. Past papers from different schools and KNEC	1500	3.5	5,250.00
Youth	Advocacy, governance, Motivational books Management books Entrepreneurship	800	5.2	4,160.00
Mature youth and community members	Health and environment, Conflict management and peace studies Business. Magazines and periodicals	500	2.8	1,400.00
Administrative Cost	Rent cost for library centres Trainings Librarians			1,081.00
TOTAL				11,891.00

7. Support/ Contacts

Progressive Volunteers seeks kind support, be it financial or material books to enable it pursue this noble course. The team made of experienced personnel in various disciplines of life fosters to see this project as one of its own kind in the slums of Nairobi.

Bank account Details

Bank Name: Barclays Bank of Kenya

Bank Code: 03

Branch Name: Moi Avenue

Branch Code: 075

Swift Code: BARCKENX

Account Name: Progressive Volunteers

Account Number: 1464886

Contacts Details

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