**Title:** Community Based Accelerated Basic Literacy Project

**Challenge:**

**Facts and figures from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2015 facilitated by Ga South District Education Directorate indicated that children in rural peri-urban communities in the district lack accessibility and adaptability to reading, writing and basic arithmetic skills.**

**The report stated that out of a number of 250 children from primary class 2-6 observed, 25.2% were unable to read small paragraph with short sentences 59.2% were unable to read a ‘Story’ text with some long sentences; 26.1% were unable to calculate 2 digit subtraction with borrowing and 75.2% were unable to calculate 3 digits divided by 1 digit. The report** expressed grave concern about the continuing gender inequalities in education at the Junior and Senior High levels and the fact that the drop rate among girls is very high compared to boys at this levels. This translates to the general Ghanaian society where women are under-represented in decision-making positions even though they constitute over 51% of the population.

**Solution:**

**Set up community-owned focal point for reading** classes for children between the ages of 4-14 at the primary school level. The Reading Classes will be focused on Learning to Read (L2R) depending on the local needs to impart reading skills to beginners and under-performing children. Involve other community-based organizations, school teachers, parents and other key stakeholders in the L2R programme. 6 volunteers selected in consultation with stakeholders will be trained to run the L2R modules.

With technical support from District Education Directorate, the project is designed to reach a specific goal that every child in preschool and above in beneficiary communities will achieve the highest possible capacity to read, write and solve basic arithmetic problems within the first 12 months of implementation

**Resources Required:**

Kokrobite District Basic School is the project focal point where various titles of interesting supplementary English story books, in multiple copies, will be stored and a community register maintained, where detailed records of all 4-14 year olds will be entered. The focal point will not only be a place to lend books but also an activity place, where children will be engaged in storytelling, writing, drawing, quiz, games, cultural activities, all geared towards making reading a pleasure and interesting activity.

**Sustainability:**

The project will involve school authorities, community elders and the District Education Directorate for monitoring the progress of the targeted children to ensure further wide replication of L2R method in all communities in the district. The schools and district education directorate officials will be encouraged to visit the communities and assess children’s progress.

**Cost:**

USD 3200 toprovide shelving for up to 10,000 books; stand for newspapers, magazines, catalogs etc.; reading tables/chairs for study areas and volunteers stipends.

Community based accelerated basic literacy project for setting up community-owned focal point for reading classes for children between the ages of 4-14 at the primary school level to impart reading skills to beginners and under-performing children.

Provide for shelving for up to 10,000 books

Provide for stand for newspapers, magazines, catalogs etc.

Provide for reading tables/chairs for study areas

Cater for weekly stipends for 1 volunteer

Provide for transportation for 1 volunteer

Within a period of 2 years, it is anticipated that there would be a substantial improvement in basic learning levels in primary schools across the District and school “dropping out” rate especially among girls will be lowered to less than 50% and intake at transition to Junior High School will increase over 50%.

By the end of five years, it is expected that the entire district will be designated as a Reading Block and each community will own up its reading programme as the models are of very low cost and can be run with community resources.

At the time of our withdrawal, all books will be handed over to local authority in the community.

The communities will also have trained volunteers who can not only run libraries and reading classes but also train new set of volunteers.