

ASAP VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

SUMMARY

The need to empower the vulnerable youth is germane to every society as same serves as a tool to confront the menace of poverty. It is sad that many disadvantaged youths remain in the doldrums of existence without any prospect to live a meaningful life. Apart from education, an important weapon in liberating the poor from the clutches of poverty is empowerment through vocational training. Unfortunately, the underprivileged poor do not have access to vocational training as they lack the funds required to undertake same. In Lagos, where this project seeks to commence, more children are taking to crime daily, while others are being abused through street trading and hawking. On the other hand, prostitution is on the rise as a result of poverty and joblessness. There is therefore an urgent need to establish a vocational school for the poor, where they can acquire different skills that will make them self-reliant. As part of its specific intervention projects, Academics Stand Against Poverty Initiative is initiating a project tagged “ASAP Vocational School” to empower 1000 downtrodden youths in Lagos slums.

PROBLEM

There is always a challenge for the poor to feed their families, let alone educate their children. Research has proven that eight out of every ten children of the poor drop out of school before the age of 16. Poverty limits the potentials as well as opportunities for numerous children of the poor just as it has limited their parents, leading to a circle of generational poverty. The challenge is that these children end up becoming miscreants as they lack any form of training to make them responsible adults. The establishment of a vocational school is therefore a way out of this quagmire as it serves as a means of empowering the financially vulnerable.

STRATEGY

Academics Stand Against Poverty Initiative seeks to establish a vocational school that will run courses 3 terms in a year. The school will enrol between 300-350 students per term towards training 1000 students in a year. This intervention has become necessary in order to reduce the rate of unemployment amongst vulnerable youths. To be more specific, the vocational school is targeted at disadvantaged children between the ages of 16-25 that live in Lagos slums. ASAP initiative will engage the services of experienced professionals to train indigent youths in diverse areas of vocational skills. The school will run 5 days a week (Monday – Friday) between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Courses will include; catering, shoe making, sowing, bead making, soap making, bag making, to mention but few. Through skill acquisition and entrepreneurial

development these category of indigent citizens will become empowered and finically independent.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Skills and Knowledge of trainers

Training facilities

Location for training school

Fixed assets such as generator, chairs, tables as well as other equipment

Dedicated members of staff

BUDGET

\$80,000 (Eighty Thousand Dollars) - The sum will be invested towards paying the trainers, feeding of students (breakfast and lunch), upgrading of training facilities and equipment, counselling of students, empowering graduands with start-up equipment and other resources upon completion of vocational training as well as other sundry expenses.

ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

The impact of the project will be evaluated through a Pre-enrolment assessment as well as a Post-graduation assessment on the living conditions of the beneficiaries.

LONG TERM IMPACT

The long term impact of establishing a vocational school for the poor is to assist them in developing and harnessing their potentials towards the transformation of their financial capabilities as they become self-employed through the skills acquired at the vocational school. The above will equally impact positively in reducing the rate of unemployment and dependants in the country. Furthermore, this initiative will curb the rate of crime considering that a major focus for the vocational schools are the uneducated and poor youths that have become vulnerable instruments of disorder and chaos in the country. Ultimately, as more people become empowered and productive, most importantly the youths, the growth of the economy will be influenced with the snowballing effect of reducing the level of poverty in the country.