

2015 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT: SOLUTION TO END POVERTY

THEME: Let's Learn Some Trade

Date: 17th May 2015

Venue: Lakpleku, Dangme West District

The saying, “give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Give him a fishing rod and you feed him for life” propelled African Women Advocacy Project (AWAP) to organize a women empowerment project in May 2015. Alleviating poverty through skill training was the goal of the program. It was under the theme, “Let’s learn some trade”. The idea was to equip women with the necessary skills to help them provide for themselves for life. The venue selected for the training program was Lakpleku.

Lakpleku is a village in the Dangme West District of Ghana. The community is completely rural with a population of about 400. Poverty is widespread and most of the people are subsistence farmers using non-mechanized rain fed agricultural practice.

Due to the level of poverty in the community a fair number of them migrate to the city to look for non-existent jobs, thus, ending up in the pool of the urban poor. Most of the children are not in school and are subsequently forced into hard labor along the Volta River for dangerous fishing expeditions. This sometimes leads to some losing their lives and others their childhood.

It is also noteworthy to state that, economic activities almost come to a halt during the dry season. Thus, creating economic deprivation, this necessitates the migration of families to the Volta River for fishing explorations. Hence abandoning the education of their children especially girls.

By the age of 6 most children especially the girl child is sold into child labor along the Volta River for economic gains for the family. Child marriage is predominant in Lakpleku, where most girls are forced to marry especially older men.

In light of the above issues, Lakpleku was selected for the 2015 Women Empowerment project by AWAP. The event attracted over 50 people including men and children. However, there were about 30 women and the literate among them came along with their notebooks and pens to learn how to make liquid soap, bleach and printed textiles (tie and dye). Two resource persons led the training program.

The program started around 2pm and ended at about 6pm. It was actively participated as the women kept asking questions and got fully involved in the process. Some women were interviewed at the end of the training program and most of them were grateful to AWAP for undertaking such event. According to some, the training program was very insightful and will give them some form of livelihood during the dry season, when economic activities are down.

The main challenge for most women was the source of capital to start production. AWAP is therefore, taking action to help these women secure some grants and soft loans. The Department of Social Welfare, which sometimes gives grants to people in very deprived areas, has been contacted to consider these women.

Names of Registered Women at the Training Program held at Lakpleku

No.	Names
1.	Comfort Kwetey
2.	Mercy Blebo
3.	Mary Teye
4.	Victoria Teye
5.	Eunice Nartey
6.	Elizabeth Narwartey
7.	Narkie Narh
8.	Joyce Tetteh
9.	Berlinda
10.	Lydia Dugbatey
11.	Peace Wede
12.	Forgive Nuertey
13.	Joyce Damtey
14.	Joyce Narh
15.	Grace Tetteh
16.	Martha Akor
17.	Rita Siaw
18.	Mary Narh
19.	Vivian Tetteh
20.	Faustina Tetteh
21.	Elizabeth Soldier
22.	Mary Appety
23.	Mamley Oko