

MUTOKO Multistakeholder Community ICT Meeting

10 June 2006



By

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1. Introduction

The report covers deliberations of one half-day workshops organised by EKOWISA at Mutoko Central High School, 10 June 2006. For list participants, see appendices 1

The workshop was attended by thirty-four participants who included: the District Education Officer - Mr. G.R. Tawengwa, the Local Counselor, the Chairperson of the School Development Committee - Mr. Maremera, the School Headmaster – Mr. Chikukwa and his Deputy – Mr. Kanzara, school children (boys only), members of the public (a large number of men and four women) and the EKOWISA three-member team.

The workshop proceedings were video recorded.

The workshop consisted of four short sessions:

- ❖ Welcome remarks and introductions;
- ❖ Objectives of the workshop
- ❖ Discussion on Gender and Development
- ❖ The way forward for Mutoko Community

2. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome remarks and introductions facilitated by the school headmaster, Mr. Chikukwa. Of note was how all the participants introduced themselves as Mr. and Mrs. so and so without mentioning their first names. This was used later to assist participants, especially women to see how easy it is to lose one's identity through change of name. It was also pointed out use of titles connotes authority and at times made it difficult to discuss issues more openly. Use of personal names was encouraged instead. Participants welcomed the need for openness and were agreed that the use of titles was not conducive to interactive processes that were necessary for successful development.

3. Objectives of the workshop

Ms. Margaret Zunguze, director of EKOWISA facilitated the second session and re-emphasized the objectives of the initiative as well as the objectives of the workshop, which were:

- ❖ To present ITC equipment donated by EKOWISA to the community;
- ❖ To elect management committee;
- ❖ To further discuss issues of gender and development and some root causes of poverty; and
- ❖ To select participants to attend a TOT workshop

4. Gender and Development – Addressing roots of poverty

A consultant, Tsitsi Nzira facilitated the third session to assist the participants to further analyze what they considered were factors that made women less empowered than men from a gender perspective. The workshop assumed a very participatory approach starting with a review and commentary on the introductions and the initial sitting positions that women had assumed and how women felt when the consultant asked them to occupy vacant chairs among the male participants. Although this movement had not made much sense to the participants, the implications became very clear after the consultant took them through some of the factors that lead to marginalization of women.

The consultant took cognizant of the fact that there were misconceptions about gender and took an approach that allowed for context-specific definition and use of gender without naming it as such. The process was meant to help participants to link context-specific issues in order to help them see why equality between women and men, girls and boys was essential in any development process. Some of the context-specific issues given by women that men were more empowered than them-selves during a PRA survey of information needs conducted by EKOWISA were that:

- ❖ Men were more educated;
- ❖ Men were the heads of households;
- ❖ Men were restrictive of their wives;

- ❖ Gender stereotypes denigrate women such that women lost their self esteem; and
- ❖ Women were less educated, especially the girl child.

Through a brainstorming and a revisit of some of the factors listed above, participants examined how roles assigned to women by society led to a situation where women were a disadvantaged group. The session kicked off with a young boy who went through what he considered male roles in the community, but especially focusing on what he does on a day –to- day basis. The consultant countered the male roles by outlining female roles that were not different from those done by boys.

As the process went on, it was very interesting to note that each time the boy indicated that he washes dishes, fetches water or firewood, some of the women jeered at him and said he was not telling the truth.

Asked why they thought he was not telling the truth, the women said most boys refused to do any of the tasks the boy had suggested. Asked how it was possible for a child just to refuse to do what they were asked to by a parent, it became very clear that ‘gender’ roles are a result of the socialization process and that it was the women themselves who were the main socializing agents.

The point of difference was then considered limited to the biology of the two sexes. Women become pregnant and give birth, while men make women pregnant. From the point where a child is born, it was generally agreed that roles were interchangeable.

Participants agreed that women had limited opportunities to participate in the development process because their gender roles, coupled with societal attitudes limited their access to enabling resources – education and employment opportunities.

The participants suggested that the practice of lobola gave men a controlling attitude over women.

Participants then discussed some of the societal attitudes by defining what the consultant called “A culture of poverty – *Shave reurombe*”

The consultant closed the session by giving a brief on WLSA, an action oriented research organization which works towards improving the socio-legal status of women. This helped the participants see the broader area of community information needs, such as:

- ❖ HIV and AIDS
- ❖ Inheritance matters to assist and protect orphans and other vulnerable children
- ❖ Maintenance matters
- ❖ Career guidance
- ❖ Information on courses and job opportunities
- ❖ Making applications for courses or jobs
- ❖ Communicating with distant relatives and in the diasporas
- ❖ Accessing relevant national documents – birth certificates, passports

5. The way forward for Mutoko Community

The Mutoko Central School Head facilitated this session that consisted of:

- ❖ Election of a Community ICT Management Committee;
- ❖ Selection of participants to under go a TOT;
- ❖ Mapping the way forward; and
- ❖ Presentation of equipment.

5.1 Election of ICT community management committee

The proposed committee was to take into consideration the World Links Programme that placed emphasis on balanced representation consisting of:

- ❖ The District Education Officer;
- ❖ Representative school heads from the local secondary and primary schools;
- ❖ The business community; and
- ❖ Three members of the public

Since the workshop had coincided with a food distribution meeting in the community, many people had not attended the workshop, the election was to take place later and then forward names to EKOWISA.

5.2 The way forward

As a result of all the gaps identified by the Mutoko community, the meeting strategized on some of the activities that could be done and some proposed for training workshops to be held in the community where experts could be invited to facilitate and bring information into the community. At this point Ms. M. Zunguze outlined the content and course details of the proposed upcoming workshop that will involve at least ten members from Mutoko, Mubayira and HighGlen. The workshop will lead on from where the information needs analysis unearthed. The objectives of this training of trainers' workshop will enable participants:

- ❖ Enhance their understanding of the development process;
- ❖ Appreciate the need for addressing gender issues in all the activities that they undertake to do.
- ❖ Enhance their need to change their beliefs and attitudes and practices so they can address challenges of poverty and HIV AIDs equitably
- ❖ Facilitate the community to interrogate topical issues from their communities and strategize on the appropriate ICT methodology or tool to address the issue.

- ❖ Enhance the community's capacity to interact with local authorities and local leadership concerning issues identified in 4

It is hoped that after this workshop, the community members analyzing skills will be developed to some degree. These participants will on their return, run similar workshop activities back home and involve other community members. The community should be in a position to better listen and pick topical themes that need to development further using any ICT tools of their choice. Both the community members and community leadership received the proposed training well.

Ms Zunguze emphasized the need for the community to collaborate with community-based organisations. However, the headmaster pointed out that some of the CBOs have better computers than those at Mutoko Center and may not want to get involved in the project. This statement raised the issue that community members see the community ICT project circulating around computers. This was an opportunity to explain that the project should circulate around information and communication activities of the community for sustainable development. The community should identify which ICT tool to use and not be limited to the computer. They could use participatory drama groups. This issue would be covered in detail during the July meeting.

Thus in summary, the way forward as agreed in this meeting was:

- Silveira House Training for community based information promoters
- Meeting to be held after the TOT to design strategies to access and disseminate information for the community by the community
- Collaboration with CBOs

The meeting was also informed of the ICT Fun Day proposed by the HighGlen community for 25 July 2006 at Gwanzura Stadium.

5.3 Selection of participants to under go a TOT

Ten people that will attend the TOT were selected from the workshop participants.

5.4 Presentation of ICT Equipment.

The community received a donation of the equipment from EKOWISA consisting of:

- ❖ Refurbished computers;
- ❖ Digital camcorders;
- ❖ Digital camera;
- ❖ Audio recorder;
- ❖ Laser printer; and
- ❖ VHS tapes.

The donation was well received by all participants and the school headmaster proudly informed the meeting that the school had hired two male IT teachers for the World Links Project. These teachers would be active and pivotal for the community ICT project. Ms Zunguze explained the working relationship and the intersections of World Links and EKOWISA again to the community. By the donation of equipment, the school management was committing to opening their doors to community groups who should be included on the school timetable.

6. Vote of thanks

The District Education Officer, Mr. Tawengwa and the ward counselor shared the last session to give a vote of thanks. It was the first time for the DEO to attend the EKOWISA meeting and he was very optimistic about the positive impact the project would make on the Mutoko community in general and to Mutoko Central High School in particular. The councilor was also delighted in that the project was a positive development in his ward and further indicated that the project had his full support.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm

Participants list

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. S Chimhanda | Tsiga School, Box 96 |
| 2. A Chikukwa | Mutoko Central |
| 3. G R Tavengwa, DEO | Box 20, Mutoko |
| 4. H B Marembera, SDC Chair | Mutoko Central |
| 5. C P Kanzara D/H/M | Mutoko Central |
| 6. Esnath Kambiri | Mutoko Central |
| 7. Dorcas Kativhu | Mutoko Central |
| 8. Shiela Muchemwa | Mutoko Central |
| 9. Tsitsi Nzira | WLSA, Harare |
| 10. A Kapfudza | Mutoko Central |
| 11. A Gotsi | Mutoko Central |
| 12. D Chidewe | Mutoko Central |
| 13. S Marodza | Mutoko Central |
| 14. S Kativhu | Mutoko Central |
| 15. T Maziriri | Mutoko Central |
| 16. T G Jobi | Mutoko Central |
| 17. T Chisango | Mutoko Central |
| 18. S Marasiranwa | Mutoko Central |
| 19. T Chitedega | Mutoko Central |
| 20. O Chandengenda | Mutoko Central |
| 21. Amos Chapwanya | Mutoko Central |
| 22. Hosea Katsande | Mutoko Central |
| 23. Macdonald Dandira | Mutoko Central |
| 24. Trymore Chingwedere | Mutoko Central |
| 25. James Kanjanda | Mutoko Central |
| 26. Tinitenda Chisango | Mutoko Central |
| 27. Munyaradzi Maketo | Mutoko Central |
| 28. Toona Bvunzawabaya | Mutoko Central |
| 29. Evlyn Chikweshe | Mutoko Central |
| 30. Tanaka Chisango | Mutoko Central |

31. George Katsande	Unhu village
32. Tsvaka Bvunzawabaya	Mutoko Central
33. Juniah Chapwanya	Mutoko Central
34. Romeo Mpofu	Mutoko Central

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