

Social and Financial Education Key towards Sustainable Development

JA Zimbabwe (JAZ) is implementing the Aflateen programme in Mutasa District and Mutare rural. The programme is implemented in Zimbabwe's two districts of Manicaland province namely Mutare and Mutasa. 19 secondary schools being 9 in Mutasa and 10 in Mutare District are under the programme. This is benefitting 554 young people being 279 females and 275 males. Aflateen programme is targeting young people between the ages of 15 - 18 years with social and financial education.

As part of the programme, 38 teachers being 19 females and 19 males were trained on child centered training methodologies. The primary training objective is to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge to deliver high quality, participatory lessons to children. The training is experiential and uses games, theatre and storytelling to encourage teachers to see the value of child participation in the classroom, promote rights and raise gender sensitivity. The training is hands on and activity based, relying heavily on mock teaching exercises and role play. After the teacher training, students formed clubs and selected their leadership. The leadership was trained on how to manage their social and financial enterprises to ensure the success of the project.

Child Social and Financial Education (CSFE) aims to inspire children to be socially and economically empowered citizens by equipping them with the skills and knowledge to become active agents capable of transforming their communities and societies. CSFE provides children with a holistic learning experience that embraces knowledge and skills harnessed from both inside and outside the classroom.

The approach is in accord with the Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 1 on article 29 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), which states that "education goes far beyond formal schooling to embrace the broad range of life experiences and learning processes which enable children, individually and collectively, to develop their personalities, talents and abilities and to live a full and satisfying life within society." (United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 1, 'The Aims of Education', United Nations, 2001)

The recent financial crisis has highlighted the importance of promoting social responsibility and developing skills in financial management for all persons. This is especially true for children and youth, who are particularly vulnerable. Important values of citizenship and skills in managing resources at an early age can lessen social and financial vulnerability, thereby reducing the risk of poverty.

Young People Starts a Poultry Business

Aflateen club at Vumbunu High School in Mutasa District is proud to have started a poultry project in rabbit keeping in February 2016. The club has 30 members and decided to start their financial enterprises after contributing USD 50 cents each which resulted in raising USD 15. The student leadership further engaged JA Zimbabwe (JAZ) and the School Development Committee (SDC) to increase the start-up capital. JAZ contributed USD 120 and the SDC contributed USD 30. This resulted in having a start-up capital of USD 165. The start-up capital was used to purchase rabbits and material to build the rabbit hatch.

The students used the skills gained during the leadership training such as negotiation, confidence and marketing to engage JAZ, SDC and other students to become shareholders. Young people further used skills gained such as planning, decision making, influencing others and team work to build their rabbit hutch. The rabbits are being sold to teachers and members of the community at USD6 and the aim is to breed more and sell to hotels in Mutare and butcheries in the community.



The Aflateen Club leadership showcasing their rabbits

They are planning to use the profits to pay school fees for the less privileged at the school. This is due to the fact that most students in the community are not attending school due to the failure by parents/guardians to pay school fees. This has resulted in children and youth especially girls falling prey to early marriages.

International Aflatoun Day in Zimbabwe!!!

Young people in Epworth and Mutasa enjoyed the Aflatoun day which was filled with Skype calls to Aflatoun in Bulgaria and Ukraine and a question and answer session on savings. Children further participated in a live national radio show. The show created a lot of enthusiasm as other children requested JA Zimbabwe to start Aflatoun clubs at their schools.

The International Aflatoun Day is an annual celebration in the Aflatoun network. It is celebrated in March and is also part of the Global Money Week. It is a great occasion to organise activities and events throughout the world and showcase how children and youth are participating in the programme and changing their communities with their enterprises.



Young people doing the needs and wants game in Epworth