

DEK/DCW End of Project Evaluation: Deaf Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihood Project



About the Project

Deaf Empowerment Kenya with financial and technical support from Deaf Child Worldwide has implemented the Deaf Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihoods Project in Nairobi County. It was a 3-year innovation that seeks to provide marketable skills and confidence to 150 Deaf Youth in order to live independently. The project also offered sensitization training to employers and vocational institutions, to enable them to provide an all-inclusive work place environment and training opportunities to Deaf youth

Evaluation methodology

The methodology adopted in evaluation process was a Participatory Video where 10 deaf youth shared their stories on how DEYI had transformed their lives as opposed to the traditional evaluation method.



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It was conducted from June- August 30th 2021. In addition, there was a core group with 9 members whose role was to provide aspects and modalities of the participatory video. Training of deaf young people was necessary to better understand the design and implementation of the participatory video process. The screening events with 5 employers and vocational training institutions were also conducted to generate further findings.

Key findings

The key findings of the evaluation include;



- 161 deaf young people have reported an increase in knowledge and skills regarding literacy citizen's rights and employability skills
- 71 deaf youth supported to obtain and sustain employment in 17 different companies
- 17 employers recruited and provided adequate environment for DYPs
- 80% of DYPs reported satisfaction at their workplace
- 50 Deaf young people supported to enroll in vocational training institutions
- 25% of DYPs reported increase in their ability to communicate with families, community, employers and co-workers
- The level of self-awareness and confidence among Deaf Young people has been enhanced
- DYPs reported being able to meet their basic needs

Lessons learnt and recommendations

Key lessons learnt from the evaluation include;

1. Pairing DYP with non-disabled experts despite communication barriers has helped in sharpening the skills of DYPs and promoted better learning experience

2. A strong and formal partnership with county governments and key institutions is important for building synergies and sustainability of the program targeting DYPs

3. Continuous sensitization sessions with employers and vocational training institutions are paramount in changing perception and attitude about the potential and capability of deaf youth.

The evaluation made recommendations to the following organizations;

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1. A clear effort and monitoring should be made to link and support Deaf Youth entrepreneurs to a wide spectrum of national and county government youth empowerment initiatives to access existing job opportunities including soft seed capital.

2. There is a need to shift away from the perspective that deaf youth can only perform traditional vocational jobs in factories.

3. There is need for concerted efforts to follow up with Deaf Young People as well as project deliverables to provide proper support and guidance about their progress and effective monitoring of the project

4. There should be a robust and full participation of young people in the design, implementation reporting and evaluation of the project with explicit roles.

5. There is a need to conduct media coverage to profile companies absorbing deaf youth in order to encourage more companies to do the same.



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6.Future projects should ensure a more well-coordinated and consistent way of identifying, implementing and reporting activities to achieve a logical approach and sustainable results of the innovation.

7.The need to build robust networks and collaboration with other deaf organizations is essential in meeting national wide needs of deaf young people.

8.There is need for DEK to induct its targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders to the objectives and outcomes of the project during inception to level expectations.

Employers

1.It would be desirable that the future program for employers explore tax incentives comprehensively.

2.There is clearly a need for strong commitment from companies which hired deaf youth to ensure disability inclusive employment.

3.It is recommended that a more coherent and systematic approach to addressing the issues of Kenyan sign language interpreter at the workplace is needed.

Vocational Training Institutions

1.A comprehensive and well-coordinated engagement with vocational institutions is recommended

2.Building collaboration with Kenyan Sign Language Interpreters Association and NCPWD is recommended.

3.Working with county youth polytechnics is encouraged to increase access to marketable courses for deaf youth students under available scholarship programs

4.Policy based advocacy targeting Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority is necessary.

Find a full report of the evaluation and participatory video at www.dekkenya.org/report

About Deaf Empowerment Kenya

Deaf Empowerment Kenya (DEK) works towards including people with Disability in services related to health, education, Governance and social services, with an aim of improving quality and full enjoyment of their fundamental rights. We build the capacity of People with Disability and enhance their well-being through programs related to training, advocacy and networking – promoting inclusive practices.

About Deaf Children Worldwide

DCW is the UK's leading international charity for deaf children in developing countries. Deaf Child Worldwide works with partners in developing countries, enabling deaf children and young people to be fully included in their family, education and community life

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