

GM 13 - Sakha live: Keeping them in school project report

This project was done at Ngwazini primary school where children between the ages of 5 and 18 attend. This project helped to renovate two blocks of classrooms that are being used by the students. The overall aim of the project was to help keep the children who attend this school in school, especially during winter. This was done by improving the living conditions in the school where they spend most of their hours during the week. This project also helped to educate the children how to be environmentally friendly and live sustainably by hosting a series of workshops and role-plays on this topics. Workshops were also hosted to help equip students in the higher grades with good studying skills as they were preparing for their national examination.

Making a difference

This project helped to make as shown in the pictures below. More students stayed in school during winter this year even though they did not have jerseys because the windows that let in cold air were fixed. The students no longer have to use heavy school bags to carry their stuff home everyday because doors that can be locked were installed to close the closets where they put in most of their school stuff. Most importantly, the walls that were letting in cold hair during winter were fixed and painted to make the school look attractive so that the children could be proud of their school.

Mostly proud of :

The fact that the overall aim of the project was met, more students stayed in school this year during the harsh winter days and hopefully most of them feel encouraged to stay for the whole school year which can help to reduce the rate of dropouts in the school. The students also gained new skills on how to live sustainably which they can apply in their own homes. They also gained new study skills which can help to improve the pass rate of the school.

Where the money was spent:

The money was spent on the things that were mentioned on the budget for this project. We bought doors, paints, paint brushes, window glasses, putty for windows, crack filler, cement to fix the walls and transport to buy the stuff. However, the items were way above the budget so we could not buy the blackboards as planned but we focused on buying the most important things first.

Lessons learnt

This project had a huge impact on myself and my project team. We learned so many lessons about project planning, time management and how to work together as a team. The project took longer than it was intended which taught us to always allow plenty of time for delays when we plan projects in the future. My leadership skills were sharpened as I was leading the project and had to tell everyone what to do and make sure that everyone followed my instructions. My communication skills were also sharpened as I had to work with people of different ages so I had to address everyone respectfully. I also gained time and money management skills amongst others. Everyone was willing to lend a helping hand in order to make this project a success.

What I would do differently

The project took longer than it was expected so I would extend the time plan for the project. I would also hire more experts so that the project would move faster as it took a lot of time to teach the parents who were volunteering how to mix paints and do other things.