

Problem of fund raising in the Community and need for continuous support

Community base Rehabilitation {CBR} is a welcome idea in many communities.

Nevertheless, lack of adequate funding of the programme seems to be affecting the smooth running of the programme in communities. In the light of the prevailing circumstances the need for continuous support from NGOS cannot be over emphasized.

In this article, I attempt to highlight some of the problems militating against fund raising in the community and suggest the need for continuous support.

LOW INCOME: People in communities are mostly subsistence farmers with seasonal income. Often, the marginal family income hardly sustained the entire family not to mention saving to support intervention in CBR programme. The changing demands and cost of farm products and the perennial lost of farm products due to drought, flooding, and pest often make some family live within borderline of poverty. One would just imagine how difficult it will be to generate fund from the community in a situation like this. In addition to these facts, there is no Government establishment in most rural communities. The issue of obtaining wages and salaries is not tainable. Youths are not employed and therefore can not contribute to family income. These increase the burden in the family meager income.

COMPITING DEMANDS:

A closely related issue is that of meeting different family and community demands. The family is faced with a large family size of between 5 and 12 members. The issue of polygamous family is also practiced and since the bread winner is the father, the pressure on the family and in indeed the community is enormous. The option left for families like this will be to prioritize they needs. The

need to send the able children to school provide clothing will be considered first. The disabled child will be left without support because the fund is not enough to accommodate him. Other community levies like burial levies, road maintenance levies and town levies to mention but a few keep coming up from time to time. Often you see families selling their farm produce unprepared or going into borrowing to offset these demands in order to avoid communal embarrassment.

LACK OF AWARENESS:

The lack of knowledge of the existence, procedure and management of co-operative groups also affect the financial position of the community. If communities are aware of the formation and running of co-operative societies like farmers, tractors, etc. It will enhance their income and better their financial position to contribute to founding of CBR. Also the cost of fertilizer and the use of mechanized farming methods are still new and unaffordable to farming communities. Bank facilities are often available to those in the urban area. Consequently, the absence of these income generating facilities does not help in improving the economy thereby making fund raising difficult.

MIGHTS: Fictitious beliefs about the cause of disease seem to affect the desire to help community where people are ready to give, persons who are trained on fund raising technique are often not available. Where this is so, members of the community will rather use their money for drinking, making court cases and marrying new wives rather than thinking of child with disability. Most diseases in the community like CP, Epilepsy, mental illness to mention but a few are often attributed to punishment by the gods. If this is true then why any one in the community should contribute to help someone pay for the evil he has done. To do otherwise will even attract the wrath of the gods in your family. This no doubt means that persons with disability will never receive any support in the community.

SENSITIZATION: In community where people are ready to help, there is no one trained in fund raising. Where this is so, members of the community will rather use their money drinking, making court case and marry new wives than helping a disabled child to go to school.

WAITING FOR HELP:

Most communities think it is not their duty to help a person with disability. They think it is the responsibility of the government and NGOs. The government hardly comes forward and if they do, the money is often channeled elsewhere. The NGOs will also want to make some little contribution expecting the community to make theirs. This confusion rather makes CBR work unprogressive and if not checked will pull down the programme.

From the above listed problems, it is possible to agree that CBR in the community should continue to enjoy supports from NGOs until these barriers against fund raising are eliminated.

This article was written by Samuel Elechi