

Teachers' Guide

INTEGRATING CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONS INTO PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS



« A priority goal in the education sector in Senegal is to ensure that schools reflect local socio-cultural values and traditions while at the same time being open to the global environment ».

District Education Director
Inspector Wade, Velingara

« A child is like a cooking pot. You need three stones to prop it up so that it makes good meals. Similarly, a child should be supported by his/her parents, grand-parents and teachers. »

Grandmother, Diabou



GRANDMOTHER
PROJECT CHANGE THROUGH CULTURE



Ministère de l'Éducation nationale
IEF DE VELINGARA

ROCKDALE
FOUNDATION

The loss of cultural values and identity among young people is a major concern throughout Senegal, as it is in many countries.

In southern Senegal, the NGO, *Grandmother Project – Change through Culture*, in collaboration with the District Education Office, has implemented an innovative program in schools and communities to promote positive cultural values among children.

This guide is the result of this very promising experience. It is a pedagogical tool intended to help teachers across Senegal to integrate the teaching of local cultural values into their teaching activities.

School-community strategy : Integration of cultural values into schools

Since 2008, the non-profit organization, **Grandmother Project – Change through Culture (GMP)** has collaborated with the District Education Office in Velingara, in southern Senegal. The goal of this collaboration is to contribute to improving the quality of education by increasing the cultural relevance of school programs.

What are the objectives of the school-community strategy?

1. To integrate positive cultural values into school programs
2. To reinforce relationships and communication between teachers and communities
3. To increase the involvement of parents and grandparents in formal education programs and to increase family involvement in teaching children priority values that are engrained in the local culture

What activities have been carried out in the context of this strategy?

- 5 reading booklets have been produced on different aspects of positive cultural values.
- Workshops with teachers to increase their commitment to teaching cultural values and traditions at school.
- Workshops with grandmothers and teachers to increase the collaboration between them related to children's upbringing and education.
- Involvement of grandmothers in classrooms to pass on to children local cultural values and knowledge.
- Intergenerational forums involving grandparents, parents, community leaders, religious leaders, adolescents and teachers.

What are the results of the school-community strategy?

- Increased community support for education due to increased cultural relevance of school programs
- Increased communication between schools, parents and grandparents
- Decreased school drop-outs, especially of girls
- Improved school performance by students
- Increased knowledge of students of cultural values and traditions
- Improved behavior of children reflecting local cultural values

What is the content of the Teachers' Guide?

- Discussion of the importance of teaching cultural values in schools, in families and in communities
- 17 workshop sessions for teachers to strengthen their capacity to teach cultural values at school
- 20 lesson plans for teachers to use with students in classrooms and at the community level

Who is the guide intended for?

- School directors and teachers in primary or secondary schools
- Ministry of Education supervisors

Grandmother Project (GMP) – Change through Culture, is an American 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a Senegalese NGO. GMP is committed to promoting the well-being of women and children in the Global South by developing health/nutrition, education and child protection programs that build on positive cultural roles and values.

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«In Africa when an elder dies it is as though a whole library has burned down».

Amadou Hampate Ba



The role of elders in African societies

