INTEGRATING POSITIVE CULTURAL VALUES INTO SCHOOLS

In collaboration with the Velingara District Education Office in southern Senegal

CHANGE THROUGH CULTURE APPROACH

- Builds on cultural roles and values
- Involves elders, especially grandmothers
- Strengthens intergenerational communication
- Increases confidence and capacity of local leaders
- Encourages dialogue for critical reflection and consensus-building

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Teacher workshops to increase commitment to teaching cultural values
- Grandmother-teacher workshops to strengthen collaboration regarding children’s education at school and in families
- Innovative teaching materials on positive African values, including reading booklets and teachers’ guide
- Grandmothers in classrooms for story-telling and teaching positive cultural values

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Story-telling contests between schools to revive this disappearing cultural tradition
- Intergenerational forums with parents, grandparents, community and religious leaders, teachers, and adolescents to discuss education and positive cultural values
- Under-the-tree participatory learning sessions for children with mothers and grandmothers
- Teacher workshops to increase commitment to teaching cultural values
- Grandmother-teacher workshops to strengthen collaboration regarding children’s education at school and in families
- Innovative teaching materials on positive African values, including reading booklets and teachers’ guide
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ACHIEVEMENTS

According to an assessment of the school program conducted by education sector experts Mr. Hamidou Soukouna and Dr. Anneke Newman in 2015 and results of national end of primary school exam in 2017

- School curricula are now more culturally-appropriate, thereby improving the quality of education
- Improved attitudes of communities toward schools with families more motivated for girls to stay in school
- Increased school enrollment and decreased drop-out rates, especially for girls
- Increased participation and improved oral expression of children in class
- Increased respect for community elders by teachers
- Dramatically increased success rate on the national end of primary school exam

SUCCESS RATE ON THE NATIONAL END OF PRIMARY SCHOOL EXAM

NATIONAL LEVEL

57%

KOLDA REGION

53%

VELINGARA DEPARTMENT

57%

TOTAL

57%

GRANDMOTHER PROJECT SCHOOLS IN KANDIA COMMUNE

NATIONWIDE

57%

GIRLS

76%

BOYS

79%

GRANDMOTHER PROJECT SCHOOLS IN KANDIA COMMUNE

NATIONWIDE

57%

GIRLS

76%

BOYS

73%

www.grandmotherproject.org

The Grandmother Project is an American and Senegalese non-profit organization. Its over-arching goal is to promote the health and well-being of women and children, especially girls, using its Change through Culture approach.