A fair education for the Deaf in Botswana

United States

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Project Stage:
Idea

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

Program that stirs change through empathy to better lives, create opportunities and inspire futures of the deaf and mute through education and raising awareness

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

In Botswana there is a large number of the deaf and mute community. They have schools from Primary to secondary but the schools do not prepare them well for tertiary and as a result of that, they only go up to secondary schools and they end up living in poverty. The problem is in their secondary education they are not prepared for further education and there are not institutions that are fit for the deaf and mute community to carry on with their studies and build a career. Many end up roaming the streets subjecting themselves to poverty, danger and abuse from public such as being raped repeatedly. The futures of the deaf and mute community are doomed, they cannot get tertiary education, good jobs, good medical health, drivers license and even basic services in offices such as banks.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

Solution is to transform the deaf and mute schools to teach, empower and ready them for further studies, work and life by getting trained staff to teach them, expose them to different careers, help them see life beyond their disability and equipped schools of all levels of education to teach and train them. Schools should have programs, facilitators, syllabuses that are equipped to train and ready them for life. Awareness should be raised in organizations and companies, service offices, public and demand rights for the deaf and mute; to have education, medical assistance, driving schools, public services, job opportunities that accommodate them. Fellowships between the deaf and mute students and those without disability; campaigns and summits and seminars to promote sign language and raise awareness of deaf community. They are deaf and mute but they have the ability to go further and live better lives if they are prepared, trained and taught well. They too deserve to grow to their full potential.

Impact: How does it work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

If she had trained teachers and an equipped school she could have been able to further her studies in the university and become the accountant she dreamt of being, she could be driving her own car, having a good medical insurance and able to get a loan because all these people she interacts with understand her and she understands them. Training summits and conferences should be held to equip staff in schools for the deaf and the mute, the schools should have equipment such as computers, labs, kitchens and many other equipments that are needed to train the students. Career-expo’s should be organised yearly to show the students they can make it in different industries with their disability. ACTIVITIES: - getting educators and organising seminars and career fairs, - getting equipment for the schools, - exposing the public to sign language - Organising conferences and drafting policies to propose to the private sector, and the public sector about employment of the deaf and mute.

Sustainability

Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

Other organizations that are working towards improving the disabled people's lives. But so far they have not made an impact in the lives of the deaf and mute. The challenges that I could get, could be from the education system, appealing for a change in the system.
About You

First Name
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Twitter URL
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About Your Organization

Organization Name

Organization Country

Country where this project is creating social impact

Your role in Education
Student, Other.

The type of school(s) your solution is affiliated with
Public (tuition-free)

How long has your organization been operating?
Please select

The information you provide here will be used to fill in any parts of your profile that have been left blank, such as interests, organization information, and website. No contact information will be made public. Please uncheck here if you do not want this to happen.

Innovation

How long has your solution been in operation?
Still in idea phase, but looking to launch soon

Now that you have thought out your entry, help us pitch it.

Define your company, program, service, or product in 1-2 short sentences [136 characters]
A program aimed at getting empathy from the public and students to change lives and inspire bright futures for Deaf students in Botswana

Identify what is innovative about your solution in 1-2 short sentences [136 characters]
My solution sheds a fresh light to the problem, never has there been a campaign to change what the deaf people are taught in Botswana.

Social Impact

What has been the impact of your solution to date?
So far my solution is at an idea stage, it has not been implemented as yet. So up to date it has not ad any impact as it has not been implemented.

What is your projected impact over the next 1-3 years?
This project will bring about behaviour modification amongst the students who have no disability to change their attitudes towards those that have disability, they will be more sensitive too them. The lives of the deaf and mute will be changed, there will be a chance for them to study in higher institutions, the quality of the education they are offered in the institutions that cater for them will be improved, there will be a reduction of poverty amongst the deaf and mute and they will get help from service centres like all other citizens without having to be picked on or misunderstood. The public will also have a different perception about the deaf and mute and a paradigm shift in the mindsets of Batswana concerning the deaf and mute will be achieved. Empathy towards them will be achieved

What barriers might hinder the success of your project? How do you plan to overcome them?
The community resisting change; we will hold campaigns that will raise awareness to the public with our deaf and mute students participating fully so that the public can see them and feel their pain. Both students and parents will work together in this matter. Some organizations that are for what we believe in will also be asked for support in this battle for change. Significant leadership will be asked to join hands with us as well as media. We will show the public live in through the eyes of the deaf and the mute and stir within them empathy.

Financial Barriers; fund raising events will be held for the continuation of the project

Education system laws; the system will be challenged accordingly and the project will show the proposed model will benefit the deaf and mute students.

Winning entries present a strong plan for how they will achieve and track growth. Identify your six-month milestone for growing your impact

By six months schools should have adopted the new curriculum, campaigns established and awareness raised, declarations drawn...
Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your 6-month milestone

Task 1
Team building, brainstorming and sharing of ideas on how to implement the project. Working committee set up

Task 2
Assessment of the existing system in selected schools; to show the existing model and how our model improves it

Task 3
The introduction of our model into the school system and evaluating it every step of the way. Quality and control check

Now think bigger! Identify your 12-month impact milestone

First batch graduating from our project and about to enroll in higher learning institutions, a full adaptation to our model

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your 12-month milestone

Task 1
Continuous assessment of our model, with changes that it brings being noted. By now we have the attention of all bodies affected

Task 2
Higher institutions test driving the new model, courses being availed for them and assimilating the deaf and mute in classes

Task 3
Evaluating the progress of the model both in lower and higher learning institutions and in the community as well, service centres

Founding Story: We want to hear about your “Aha!” moment. Share the story of where and when the founder(s) saw this solution’s potential to change the world [125 words]

The deaf and mute are marginalized, their education is poor and does not prepare them for success and the world. They are not recognised in the society. They face abuse and humiliation. I wanted to end their struggle and their pain, but at the same time not make them dependent on whatever help they get. I knew I had to be done through empowerment, restoration of their dignity and raising public awareness to change their mindsets. Which better way can all this be achieved? I thought about for a very long time and tried to research on what other people are doing but I got nothing that could be, that is when I knew I had to come up with a fresh new idea. This project can achieve behavioral modification, empathy, life transformation and awareness all in one project. Through this project my deaf friend who was raped, out of school, jobless and treated wrongly because of her disability will live to see a better tomorrow and those younger than her will not have to go through the same thing.

Sustainability

Tell us about your partnerships

We are not yet established, so far we have no partnerships.

What type of team (staff, volunteers, etc.) will ensure that you achieve the growth milestones identified in the Social Impact section? [75 words]

Volunteers will be needed to make this project a success. This project will need people who have the passion and heart for the deaf and mute. Volunteers will be involved in the events planning and management that will be held for the course. We will need a few qualified staff to ensure quality work to be done and also for efficiency and effectiveness e.g. programme coordinator and research and publication officer and an overall administration officer. The families of the deaf and mute students will be part of the volunteering body.

Please elaborate on any needs or offers you have mentioned above and/or suggest categories of support that aren't specified within the list

Pro-bono help will be essential for the sustainability of the project as well as the legal protection. It will help us to take a solid stand without any threats form any involved bodies. We will need legal representation should resistance be lodged by the involved bodies to comply to the rights of the deaf and mute or what the project represents. Financial help will ensure continuity and growth.

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