

CHELATA SCHOOL

Introduction

The school is located in High ridge location, West lands division Nairobi West District in Nairobi Province. It has a population of about 720 i.e. 702 learners and 18 educators. Most of the students in the school come from the slum areas and this means that the school is needy and relies on donations. However, the school has a large piece of land that borders Karura forest.

Challenges of the school

Poor waste disposal is another problem that is evident in on the bare piece of land. The kind of waste on the ground includes polythene bags, papers, leaves, e.t.c. This is a health hazard to the people and therefore the school is thinking of how to combat the same.

On the large space that is available, there are a lot of bushes. This could harbor dangerous animals like snakes and also disease spreading insects. The school has therefore embarked on a programme to clear the bushes so as to provide space for planting trees. The bushes are cleared every evening after classes by the students. The school is putting plans in place to begin tree planting by standard one pupil every year. Each parent and the child will own one tree which they will plant and take care of until it is well grown. This programme is to run for the next four years whereby at the end of the tree planting programme the school hopes to have planted 1000 trees.

The school also has a challenge in feeding the students. This is due to the fact that most of the students come from poor backgrounds and hence the parents cannot be able to pay for the lunch. The school has a small garden where they plant vegetables but the produce is not sufficient enough to feed the population of the school. The school therefore would like to cultivate more land and plant a variety of foods that could improve the school feeding programme.

Strengths;

- The school has the following facilities that can be used to improve its environment and generate income.

- The school has a big piece of land part of which is bare and the school desires to green. This would provide a comfortable playing ground for the children and a better look to the school. They would like to plant grass and flowers to the bare part. They however would like to do that with guidance from KOEE through the eco-schools programme.
- Good relationship with the surrounding community hence the community supports their initiatives.
- Location near a police station which guarantees security to the school hence any projects to be initiated would be safe.

Weaknesses;

The main weakness of this school is that most of the students' population in the school comes from impoverished areas .Due to this; the school is not able to raise funds to initiate projects and this also makes the school to exhaust the little income that comes in from the projects done. This leaves no room for expansion and diversification.

Opportunities;

- The school has established partnerships with various companies and even the local authorities. This gives an upper hand when it comes to project implementation since the parents and other necessary human resource are ready to support the same.
- The school has an opportunity to work with the eco-schools programme which provides a framework for learning about key issues of environment.

Threats;

The main threat of this school is the location around a forested area. This is due to the risk of exposure to wild animals

harbored in the forest. This may endanger the security of students and animals reared in the school. This means that thorough fencing has to be done to reduce the level of exposure to danger.

Way forward;

The school is embarking on implementing steps of the eco-schools programme which will help them to plan themselves and begin the micro-projects in January. Meanwhile, the school is identifying resource people and organizations that may be of assistance in providing the necessary resources. The school will invite KOEE to assist in carrying out an environmental audit which will help in identification of need hence they can be able to do planning and implementation of activities. KOEE will play a big role in both the audit and the planning.

Conclusion;

The school has great potential and if well guided a lot could be achieved and it could even show example other schools. This will however take a lot of support and guidance since the school is a young school. KOEE is ready to offer all the necessary technical assistance to the school through the eco-schools programme, in order to see to it that the school maximizes its resources in environment and conserves its environment.