

APD for Learning Opportunities FPAC meeting. November 6th 2014.

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One thing that I have discovered reading through all the reports and focus forms is that there are projects that have been running for many many years. This is brilliant and all clubs should be congratulated for this. SI Columbo in Sri Lanka have been administering 2 preschools for over 35 years. SI Jamaica have been involved and supported the government school for girls with projects like the Honey and Jam project for many years, the joint public speaking competitions in Northern and Southern Ireland. Midland Arden region public speaking competition is a mere chicken at 15 years. SI Johannesburg's Aurora project is now in its 17th year. Project to motivate girls and their teachers to raise the self esteem and ambitions with programmes on various topics e.g. life after matriculating, and leadership and management through technology.

The learning Opportunities programme has been varied and prolific. A lot of similar types of projects are taking place but clubs are adapting them to suit their country and environment.

SI Dungannon is one of the many clubs that has been involved with talking newspapers, clubs continue to help in schools with reading programmes. More and more clubs are sponsoring individual girls through school and college. SI Cameroon are sponsoring 2 disabled girls.

Clubs are doing more to help raise girls self esteem and ambitions. We see this in the UK with SI Solihull and Skirting Science. SI Lagos Mainland hold regular graduation ceremonies for the girls who have attended the school that the club run. SI Nepal provide scholarships and help to girls from poorer areas and rural areas to access education. Of course SI Mauritius' Flamboyant Education Centre goes from strength to strength. SI Malta have their Cottonera project for education and SI India support many girls with their education and as SI Bulawayo provide sanitary kits so that their education is not interrupted. SI Columbo also sponsor 2 girls who parents are in prison. They also mentor these children.

Partnerships also feature and SI Newtown from SI Trinidad & Tobago have launched with the Caribbean National telecommunications Association and The University of The West Indies a digital literacy programme. They are also helping women over 50 to become more computer literate.

SI San Fernando have produced 5000 brochures to distribute to the general public about what SI San Fernando and the rest of the federation are doing for women and girls.

One project I came across which I think sounds brilliant and most clubs could copy is from St Vincent and The Grenadines. Their summer programme is called "Girls on Fire", and they have run a summer programme of workshops and talks for girls. The themes are varied such as violence against women, Empowerment, Entrepreneurial skills, to etiquette and make up.

I am pleased to see that clubs are sponsoring a wider remit for education. Although teaching literacy is obviously the most basic and necessary bit of education, clubs

are also helping with other areas of education. My own special area which is music, is featured and I am pleased to see that clubs are using music and the arts to help raise self esteem and confidence. Clubs in the Republic of Ireland are sponsoring musical instruments and holding concerts.

Friendship links are important to members and I think that this is because of the personal touch, members can meet up at conference and lots of members visit their friendship clubs.

SI Karachi continues it award winning project with their friendship club SI Keighley & SI Lahore support girls in the slum areas.

Clubs are responding to the motions that have come before conference. The relationship education resolution has now completed 2 years and will not be reported on again unless something happens that I feel would be relevant.

SI Scotland North has been especially busy with this resolution and in Scotland they set up a pilot scheme which will be rolled out throughout Scotland over the next five years with 29 schools taking part at present. This is a pilot scheme to educate children called the teenage relationship programme and is designed to target relationships and pornography issues.

Clubs have supported the International day of literacy and world book day. SI Plymouth and SI St Austell gave away books in the middle of their respective towns, SI Cirencester held a literacy competition and several clubs raise money for Book Aid International, including my own club which raised £1300 from a camel racing evening.

This is just a small example of what clubs are doing under Learning Opportunities. There is a lot going on.

Thank you.