

Communities in Action

**MR W.R TIEKU,
SMC MEMBER, ODUMASI, OBUASI**

The QUIPS programme, introduced by CSA, has brought a lot of changes in our school. It has created the awareness in the community that all have a role to play to improve the standard of the children. As a result, parents are helping their children to study at night. We have also stopped our children from attending video centres, wake keeping, and selling at night.

There is also an improvement in the attendance of school-related communal labour. In the past we thought the school was not owned by the community and so we never organised ourselves to do anything for the school. Now, we are putting up a canteen for the school through communal labour. Some parents also visit the school, which never happened in the past.

Since the introduction of the programme our teachers are more dedicated and committed than ever. They are very regular and punctual and use contact hours very well. As a result our children are doing well. They are able to speak English and are confident in themselves. We are very thankful to CSA for having brought the programme to us and we appreciate the effort our teachers are making to give our children the best of education.

We as parents have to team up with the teachers to ensure that our children received quality education

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**MR. AUGUSTINE ALOBUIA
PTA EXECUTIVE MEMBER
AKATSI R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

The QUIPS programme has not only changed the teachers attitude towards work but it has also made parents more responsible and caring towards their children. Lateness to school, irregularity, lackadaisical attitude to work etc., on the part of some teachers, have now become things of the past. Parents also now readily pay their wards' fees, visit the school to check on the performance of their children and show interest in attending meetings. This had not been the case some years back. The children are also now punctual and regular to school. These changes have been brought about because of the workshops/courses organized by CSA and ILP for teachers; parents and PTA/SMC members making us know the various roles we should play.

With this awareness and change of attitude there is no doubt that the academic standard and management of the school will improve tremendously. Already the children have started communicating with each other in English.

I would like to suggest that all headteachers and SMC/PTA of basic schools not covered by the QUIPS programme be made to attend future workshops/courses of CSA and ILP. Also District Offices of the GES should take up the good work of QUIPS when they finally leave the scene.



As parents we are responsible for ensuring that children are gotten ready for school

Teachers' Observations

DOMINIC AFOAKWA

P2 TEACHER, AMPUNYASE R/C PRIMARY.

There have been lots of changes since the introduction of the QUIPS programme. Communal spirit towards work in the school has increased and parents now pay regular visits to the school. Parents now ensure that children stay in-doors by 7:00 p.m. to study or complete their homework. As a result of this the pupils are able to do their homework before they report to school. Teachers also organise extra classes for pupils without charging any fee. Parents have started buying textbooks and other learning needs for their wards.

The drama performed by the community has further increased the awareness of the community to support the school. As a result of the issues raised in the drama the community has reinforced the ban on videowatching and pupil selling at night. We intentionally included a school drop out in the drama and after the performance the boy has re-enrolled. He is regular and punctual at school.

The in-service training provided by the ILP team has also helped us a lot. Teachers can now prepare detailed and comprehensive lesson notes. Teachers now use a variety of attractive and appropriate teaching and learning materials and aids.

The training workshop organized by the CSA team for SMC/PTA executive has increased their knowledge in the day-to-day running of the school. This will enable them to play their roles effectively as partners in the education of their children.

JOHN ADU-POKU (TEACHER)

KIBI L/A EXPERIMENTAL PRIMARY.

The SMC/PTA collaboration has seen a complete change in human and infrastructural development at Kibi L/A Experimental primary. The QUIPS CSA programme came with lots of changes for the school. Now the school has a well-furnished Library, an improved toilet system. Mathematics books are now very adequate. Thanks to parents willingness to assist and CSA/ ILP.

Currently, every pupil has a reading book as well as a mathematics book which they can take home and use.

Parents have agreed to pay something little as incentive to teachers to teach for extra hours to help improve the standard of the pupils.

It is hoped that with the sponsorship period gradually coming to an end other NGO's will come to help this school to carry on the good work USAID has done.

To USAID, I say 'Ayekoo' and well done. But like the old Oliver Twist the Kibi L/A Experimental Primary is asking for more.

JOHN ADU

HEADTEACHER, WAMANAFU

METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Interventions of CSA and ILP have changed life in the community in the following ways:

- Enrolment drive intensified by PTA/SMC has increased the level of enrolment from two hundred and thirty-four to two hundred and fifty.
- School visits by parents have improved. On the average, seven parents now visit the school daily to interact with both teachers and pupils.
- Teachers in the school have been introduced to Nananom by PTA/SMC chairpersons, which is the first of its kind in the history of the school and the community.
- Parents provide foodstuffs like cassava, plantain and cocoyam to teachers every Monday through their wards.
- Teachers are serious with their work and organize extra classes for the pupils.
- Pupils study in the night and are not seen in the streets and video centers after 7.30 p.m. Hitherto children roamed the community at night, watched video at length, spent hours under wakekeepings and T.V shows. Studying in the night was not part of their policy. But thanks to CSA we are presently at the bright side of things.

**E.S. AMANKONA
HEADTEACHER, ST. MONICA'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL, BEREKUM.**

After four months of the USAID/QUIPS intervention, the tone of St. Monica's Primary School has experienced a dramatic change. It was like a dream to me when just at the close of last term the school was supplied with exercise books, pens, pencils, cardboards, etc.

The CSA team set the whole programme on track. For the first time the community came together to draw a vision statement for the school. An Action Plan or Community School Improvement Plan (C-SIP) was also drawn. Amazingly all the issues put on the plan were accomplished within two months even though the plan was for four months. The school currently has a night watchman, a new set of jerseys; classroom floors have been renovated; and English readers are almost one-to-one for all classes.

The sense of ownership and 'do it yourself' has been inculcated into the community by the CSA intervention. Parents are now like circuit supervisors.

Parents come to visit their wards, offer suggestions, and support the school in cash and in kind readily. They now see the need to respond to educational issues.

The SMC is presently as active as any headteacher can wish for. A lot of sub-committees to monitor specific areas needing improvement have been formed. For instance; a Performance Committee; Disciplinary Committee; Projects and Finance Committee; Auditing Committee; have all been formed.

The school performance committee has embarked on a school monthly quiz programme, essay/story-telling competition and also has a long-term plan to form a debating club.

At present parents are paying ₵60000 a year to support the school financially.

The school/community is definitely awake.

**ENOCK BOATENG
TEACHER, ABU BONSRA PRIMARY
FOMENA.**

The CSA and its partners implementing the QUIPS programme has brought a lot of relieve to the school. The programme has clarified the question of who the school belong to.

Now community members see the schools in the community as community property. In the past this was not so. The school was not seen as the community property and so the people were not willing to help the school. Now parents visit the school and attend communal labour on school projects.

In the past we had to use the pupils for any manual work on the school compound no matter how difficult it was. Now the Unit Committee organizes communal labour to weed around the school and in fact do any other manual work in the school that is considered difficult for the pupils. This promotes effective use of contact hours.

There has also been a lot of involvement by "Nananom" since the introduction of the QUIPS program. For example, Nananom with the help of the community are putting up a KVIP. They have also connected pipe-borne water to the school and procured a site plan for the school. In the past they only sat back and blamed teachers for poor performance of the pupils. But today they have seen that they have a role to play to bring about quality education. From time to time they visit the school individually and talk to the pupils to take their studies seriously. With their involvement we are sure the school will achieve greater heights.

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

Pupil Observations

SAMUEL GYILA
ASUOFORI L/A PRIMARY

I am very glad about the good work that the SMC, CSA, USAID and all the Unit Committee members are doing for Asuofori L/A Primary School.

At first, we didn't have enough library books, but now the USAID had supplied us with lots of them. We give much thanks to the SMC and CSA for supplying us with nice desks.

I give so much thanks to the primary teachers. It is because of them that I can now read and write.

We are begging the Ministry of Education to give some scholarships to pupils of our Junior Secondary School so that when we get there we can also benefit to enter Senior Secondary School.

BEATRICE ASABEA
SUKRONG AWANFI

The QUIPS Programme has helped us to get a set of textbooks, which makes learning easier. At first, we were walking far meters to our colleagues to learn reading at night because the textbooks were not sufficient. Now its is one- to- one for my classmates and me.

The programme had also helped our fathers to build a new three-classroom block for my school. This is important to everybody in Sukrong Awanfi.

CECILIA EIWULEY
ADEISO PRESBY PRIMARY

When I was in class three I didn't like learning but when I come to class four and with the introduction of the QUIPS Programme, my teacher teaches me very well I read very well. I also like Mathematics and English. I am the champion of the class presently. I am now a good girl. When my parents come to visit me, I show my books to them and they are very happy to look at my work. When my teacher is not around I take the English reader to read.

My mother also has the hope that, I can also be a useful person in society in the future.

God Bless CSA/ USAID



May the WARMTH and CHEER of CHRISTMAS touch everything you do

And leave you with memories to brighten your days

And the SPIRIT of Christmas provide much joy and contentment to you

And may all the BEST DESIRES of your HEART come