

# VOICE FROM THE COMMUNITY

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2000

## Communities in Action

**NANA BOAKYE YIADOM,  
CHIEF OF KOKODEI**

Before the intervention of CSA, the school was in a poor state. Some classes had their lessons under shades. English Reading Books were not available. Furniture was a problem. Some pupils used moulded cement blocks as chairs while two or three pupils shared one table. The toilet was in a very poor condition. The dormant PTA did not have a working relationship with the non-functioning SMC.

After the CSA intervention, the PTA became functional and worked jointly with the SMC. The PTA/SMC have joint meetings and together they undertake school projects. They discuss the problems of the school with the entire community members. Together they provided eighty dual desks for the school. They also bought English Reading Books for all the classes. Each child presently has a reading book to himself / herself. KVIP toilet has been put up for the school. Two temporal sheds have also been provided for the classes that were having their lessons under shady trees. The old school block is presently being rehabilitated.

The SMC/PTA have intensified the enrolment drive. This has shot up the schools enrolment level from hundred and twenty seven to one hundred and forty. Group studies have also been intensified. Parents have been made aware of their responsibilities to provide their children's needs.

Presently there is a sense of ownership and reawakening by community members. \*

**JOSEPH MANTE, ASSEMBLYMAN,  
AKWADUM**

The Akwadum Trinity Methodist Church and the local PTA have renovated and converted an old pit latrine into a 6 seater KVIP toilet to be used by pupils of the Methodist KG, primary and JSS.

This project became possible because of the CSA intervention at Akwadum, which encouraged the community members to support educational activities in the area. Immediately after CSAs intervention came to the community, the Church leaders and PTA executives met and decided to renovate the toilet. The church organized a fund raising harvest whilst PTA members and other members of the community made voluntary contributions, all amounting to three million cedis which was used for the project.\*



*A school boy during a drama performance*

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# Teachers' Observations

**MISS MARY ADANUSAH,  
HO FIAVE EP PRIMARY SCHOOL**

With the introduction of the QUIPS programme our community is now aware of their duties and responsibilities towards the building and equipping the school for better teaching and learning.

The year 2000 pocket calendars distributed to the pupils served as an attendance drive to them. Most pupils are now regular and punctual to school.

The parents have now become aware of their responsibilities and are now trying to give assistance to the school by cracking stones towards the proposed 3-unit classroom block, which the ILP intends to build.

The training CSA is giving to the SMC/PTA serves as a tool to equip us to perform very well and ensure sustainability.

The ten days course with the ILP team has also taught me as a teacher on how to handle the pupils in the classroom and prepare lesson notes as well as the teaching and learning materials to be used in class. Some of my pupils can now express themselves in simple English, which at first was very difficult for them.

My school is also now going to benefit from the CSA micro-grant, which will help us equip our school with textbooks and other materials.

I welcome the programme and wish the Ghana Education Service and the District Assembly will try and extend this programme to other schools in the District for better teaching and learning to go on.\*

**JAMES AWUNNI, KEDADWEN**

The USAID QUIPS programme is the best tool for the realization of the fCUBE dream by the year 2005. It is a programme, which has all the components, set to monitor the success of the project. Since the coming of the intervention into our community, every stakeholder of the school is playing his/her role to make the children's education a success.

With the coming of CSA, the community as well as the teaching staff are on their toes

doing all that they can to make the project a success in the community.

Parents have started buying textbooks for their wards, as well as other school needs.

CSA has also trained our SMC/PTA executives on how to direct the affairs of the school.

With the ILP project, teachers have been taught how to do effective teaching for the children to understand the lessons well. Therefore, it is very important for the Ghana Education Service to adopt a similar strategy to monitor activities of the various schools to help make the fCUBE a reality.\*

**E.A NIMAKO,  
OTOASE L/A PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Quips/ILP course held at Bunso Cocoa College between 2-1-2000 to 12-1-2000 was intensive and comprehensive. The course which lasted for ten days took us through a series of activities of which pedagogical skills of teaching was inclusive. Back from the course, I started putting into practice the skills acquired and below are my findings:

- I have realised that pupils understand lessons better and contribute when teaching and learning materials are used effectively.
- I also found out that the pupils are very much interested in-group work. During group work, they share ideas together and therefore score high marks in their class exercises.
- Furthermore, the group work promotes a healthy competition among the children. This is true because when pupils are put into groups and given names such as Hearts, Kotoko and Olympics, each group try to become first by ensuring that all its members scored everything.
- Lastly, I found out that when word and sentence cards are used in reading it enables everybody in the class to participate and brings about creativity among the children.\*

## REACTIONS TO SMC/PTA TRAINING

**DANIEL AGYEI, PTA CHAIRMAN,  
OBRETEMA**

The 5-day training workshop organized for SMC/PTA by CSA at Suhum has helped me to learn a lot like:

- The need for the formation of an effective SMC/PTA and Unit Committee in any community and their importance too.
- As a PTA chairman, I now know my role to play in my community/school.
- The need to develop links with the Unit Committee to help bring development to the community.
- Lessons in financial management, budgeting, and book keeping.
- The ways SMC/PTA generate income for the school.
- How to develop productive links with external organisation and individuals.
- How to increase enrolment and Retention Drives.
- The need to find accommodation for teachers.

From the above studies, I have realized that the fCUBE programme has helped Obretema L/A Primary, and its surrounding villages. This will help the entire nation in future because we the participants at the workshop have taken it upon ourselves to help achieve this.

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All that I will say is that I thank the organizers and facilitators in the name of our Almighty God for the help they have given to Obretema L/A Primary School.\*

**FRANCIS K ESSUMAN-GYAMFI, SMC  
MEMBER, NKANFOA- CAPE COAST**

The introduction of the QUIPS programme in my community has brought a great change in the attitude of the entire community members. Teachers and pupils are now punctual and regular to school and contact hours are being used effectively thanks to ILP for the stationary provided to the school.

Hitherto, we did not feel that the community refuse dump placed near the school could have any effect on the children. Our interaction with CSA has made us aware of the dangers of such practice. With the help of the Assemblyman and the Unit Committee members, the refuse dump has been re-located to a new site. We also realized the need to speed up work on the school urinal which has successfully been completed.

As it is said "children are the future leaders", the SMC/PTA and community leaders have constructed speed ramps to reduce speed of drivers who use the link road at the school to a nearby community.

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***The SMC hitherto was not representative and effective in membership but now they visit the school and interact with both teachers and pupils***

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In order to minimize child labour and ensure that parents provide the necessary school needs, the SMC/PTA have organized a community drama with the help of CSA. The drama had the theme, "The effects of poor parental care on children's education" in the community on 27-2-2000. This drama touched the heart of many community members especially those who had their children selling kenkey, fish, rice-porridge and going to farms. A typical situation was where children had to sleep at market places at night.

The SMC hitherto was not representative and effective in membership but now they visit the school and interact with both teachers and pupils.

I will be very glad if the QUIPS programme is spread to other communities in the region.\*

**MR. DAN BORTEY- SMC CHAIRMAN,  
NKRANKROM ASUTIFI DISTRICT  
BA/R**

It seemed like a dream to the people of Nkrankrom when CSA and ILP came into the community.

Life in the community has totally changed. Presently the women get fully involved in communal labour and the children appear well dressed for school.

School children now study in the night and take part-time studies with their teachers. The teachers are very serious with their lessons and this has led to an increase in the academic standard of the children.

With the CSA Microgrant and the community contributions, the SMC/PTA have provided textbooks for each child from P1-P6 and 50 dual desks for the primary school. A three-classroom block, an office and a store is currently under construction and will be completed very soon.

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***The teachers are very serious with their lessons and this has led to an increase in the academic standard of the children.***

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All thanks to CSA and the people of Nkrankrom for embracing the QUIPS programme.\*

**MADAM MALWINE DIVINE DEYEAGBE,  
HEADTEACHER, NKYENOA PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

There has been tremendous change since the CSA intervention with the teachers, children, SMC/PTA and the whole community of Nkyenoea in the Okere constituency of the Akwapim North District. Before the intervention parents did not attend meetings. However, after the CSA intervention, there has been fantastic improvement in the response and attendance to PTA/SMC meetings.

Teachers' welfare was nothing to write home about but with the intervention of the CSA, teachers now get foodstuffs such as Gari, Cassava, Yam, Vegetables and fruits from parents and the community as a whole. The community has provided land for the school farm, which is yielding profit for the school.

Formerly the trained teachers taught without proper preparation of lesson notes and rarely used teaching/learning materials. But with the revival, due to the QUIPS programme, the ILP took us through workshops to really enlighten us on how lessons could be more effectively taught. Now my teachers and I teach no lesson without a TLM.

CSA also took us through a five-day workshop on how to create cordial relationship among the SMC/PTA, Unit Committee members and other stakeholders.

Now there is free interaction between the school and the above committees.\*



***Furniture made by the people of Kokodei in the Bosomtwi Atwima Kwanwoma District.***