



“Empower one who can empower others”
A project inspired by *Canada World Youth*
www.educationispower.org

Chumvi Primary Community Consultation

September 15, 2014

During EIP’s Dave Cuddy and Robyn Penfold’s visit in February 2014 we saw a need to assist students with far distances to school at Chumvi Primary in the Laikipia Region of Kenya. These students are walking very far to school and are currently not having fair access to education. Goal number two of the U.N’s Millenium Development Goals are to ensure that children everywhere are able to complete primary education. We came home knowing that a lot of work needed to be done to figure out what would be best for the community to achieve this goal. To properly assist students, Education Is Power wanted to conduct further research with residents about three options for improving access to education. These three options included;

A) A Bicycle Program

B) A Dormitory at Chumvi Primary for Grades 6-8 students (200 students)

C) A Feeder School in the Chumvi area (200 students)

EIP Representatives Kate Sunabacka (from Canada) and Benjamin Kuraru (from Chumvi, Kenya) spoke to many parents, students and residents about all possibilities. The results from all parties were unanimously in support of building a boarding facility and a Feeder School. The following is a summary of information related to this need.

The Current Issues for Chumvi Primary School Students

1. Students in Kenya walk to school and for students who go to Chumvi Primary School, it can be a very long distance for them to travel. Students get up between 4:00 and 5:00 a.m. to start early, some needing to walk for one to one and a half hours to do up to an 11km journey. As a result of this long distance, students arrive tired to school.
2. It is risky to walk during the rainy season due to the treacherous roads and water crossings. Therefore, students often miss school or are late because of difficult walking conditions.
3. Elephants are a risk as students walk to school.
4. Many Masai people live a migration lifestyle and move with their herds (especially when there is drought). This means children either stay home alone or move with the herds to water. This is part of the livelihood and economic stability for many families in this region.
5. Chumvi Primary School is overcrowded and the quality of education is low as a result.

A) The Bicycle Program

This program would provide students with bikes to get to school. After interviews with families in the area and research into the logistics of this program these are the findings on this option.

1. The conditions of the roads are poor, even on the dry days. Ongoing maintenance to keep bicycles safe and usable would be an ongoing concern.
2. Rainy weather will cause numerous mobility problems with the bikes. The children would have a hard time carrying bikes if a sudden downpour occurred.
3. Students were not comfortable with the idea of biking and all said they would prefer to walk.
4. Recently a nearby school received a generous donation of bicycles to help minimize student journey time. Unfortunately due to the conditions of the roads in wet weather, within a few weeks students stopped using the bicycles.

B) The Boarding Facility

A boarding facility would be for Grade 6-8 students. Parents and students would really like to see a Boarding Facility at Chumvi Primary for the following reasons:

1. A boarding facility will give the children more time to focus on homework and studies in general. All parents commented on how the current journey time of up to 3 hours daily could be put to better use through more time spent studying. Furthermore, students would also like more time to study.
2. In Grades 6-8 girls are at risk of being sold into pre-arranged marriages. Being in school more consistently would give these students more of a chance at becoming educated and empowered to firmly say no to pre-arranged marriages.
3. In 2009, Lokusero Primary, a school on the other side of the district of Laikipia North was able to get funding to build a Boarding Facility. Before the boarding, Lokusero struggled as one of the lowest performing schools in the district. Students had to walk very long distances and girls would rarely graduate primary school. However now they actually perform at the top of their district, with a large number of girl graduates!

C) The Feeder School

“A Feeder School” is a school that is built in another location that is for Kindergarten to Grade 5 students. After this school, students would then go to Chumvi School as they move up in Grade level. The government in Kenya will not build schools. However, when a school is built and established, they will fund teachers.

1. A Feeder School would provide younger students with a school that is closer by to their home so they would not have to walk as far of distances.
2. A Feeder School would relieve Chumvi Primary of its overload of students that is currently an issue.
3. The community would come together to help build the initial Feeder School as has been done with other Feeder Schools in the region.

After an analysis of the above results it is clear that the community is in support of both a Boarding Facility and a Feeder School. It is clear that these projects would address a critical issue in the Chumvi community which fundamentally is that students do not have fair access to Primary Education, the U.N.'s second Millennium Development Goal to be reached by 2015.

So How Do We Get Started?

Since 2008 EIP has worked very hard to raise nearly \$100,000 which has enabled us to support 38 students to high school and university in both Kenya and Tanzania. Currently we need to raise \$26,000 per year to keep our current number of students in school (and our teacher teaching at Lokusero Primary).

Last year, we were very successful getting Canadian students involved in fundraising. They were engaged in learning more about global issues and becoming responsible global citizens. However, schools alone need more help to raise the estimated \$60,000 (CAD) we believe is needed to start the project and encourage the Kenyan government to get involved.

Therefore, we are looking for investors to agree to a matching dollar to dollar campaign with Canadian schools to motivate Canadian youth to become even more involved globally and to achieve our goal of providing accessible education to Chumvi youth.

We are a small organization of all volunteers and are seeking help. Please email davecuddy@educationispower.org or call at 1 250 205 1062 if you have any leads or advice about seeking an investor for this project or if you would like to get involved in another way.