RCE KANO AND SV (T) S

The importance of SV(T)S cannot be over emphasized especially in a developing country like Nigeria. More so, the situation in Kano is very peculiar in that it is the only region in Nigeria where you have extremely rich people and extremely poor people living together. So affluence of the rich is having a profound effect on the poor without means of getting there.

Lack of SVTS is a huge problem in our society where electricity lasts for only 20 minutes to one hour in a day, where industries are systematically shutting down by the day, where importation from the east becomes the order of the day. Other problem s which SVTS can alleviate and which bedevilled our region are, rural –urban migration, chronic poverty, desert encroachment, deterioration of formal education in terms of quality and standard, school dropout due to sky-bound fees, insurgency by Boko Haram, which indirectly affects the whole north in particular and the country in general. A survey revealed that most RCE stakeholders were before now conducting at least an activity in the area of informal VTE. About 47 million people (from 2006 census estimate) are living in this part of the country and the youth and women unemployment may be as high as 5 million.

 However, RCE and all stakeholders cannot effectively accomplish its goals and that of the society in that regard. This is because the problems are complex and are influenced by multiple factors. Seeing that SVTS’s are very important to the development of our societies, multiple sectors will need to be engaged for successful accomplishment. And that was what RCE Kano has done.

The RCE stakeholders, related agencies with identical activities and goals, they were confronted and partnerships were established in order to utilize expertise, human resources and others to their full potentials. Operating rules and guidelines were harmonized, division of labour was done and road map was invented.

We have, increased opportunities of communications among partners. Feedback is being encouraged to make sure that the receiver of information got it right without ambiguity. We are also encouraging reports on personal difficulties and dissent.

We still believe more partnership and collaborations with other organization trying to accomplish similar goals are of the essence to strengthen our base support and resource, a partnership like this one is a classical example.

We are still working on:

1. What potential barriers exist to recruiting new partners and what strategies can help overcome them
2. Who else in the communities, organizations that can be effective and help in successful accomplishment of our mission and who else that needs to be engaged in order for the existing partners /actors to be more effective and efficient.
3. When is the right time for them to be brought on board
4. What roles are currently unfilled or need to be created and who might best fill them
5. How do we increase the level of commitment among current partners and the communities?
6. Engaging those who are most affected by the problems we are trying to solve.

These resolutions are not without hitches. We, on daily bases encounter obstacles like:

1. Lack of team work experience
2. Pre-conceptions and out of place expectations
3. Poor coordination among different stakeholders
4. Effect of unproductive meetings in the past

At present, there are three groups working in different areas and locations under the spheres of the RCE. We are now trying to harmonize curriculum (informal), the period of activities and methodology. We also are trying to anchor our activities in the area of SVTE with a formal education system and that will see the unification of all the three groups.

There is need to know that our problems are assorted so the solutions must also be assorted. Nethertheless, all the three groups are trying to march each person’s talent, skills, knowledge and experience to an appropriate project and program.

Finally, depending on your level of understanding education, gender and experience, we are into toilet and laundry soap making, carpentry , paint making and applications, basic computer, shoe making, automobile mechanic, block related accessories moulding and more.

Ali Bukar Ahmad

RCE Kano