

# Make a difference paper



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The success of any project can be ensured with the full support and participations of all stakeholders involved. In this case the roles of the parents, the school, the children, the community, and the local governments are crucial. To accomplish the objectives of the project, the following strategies would be employed:

#### Organizing the stakeholders

The first step involved in the process is consolidation of efforts and zeroing in into common objectives. These can be achieved by organizing the major stakeholders of the project. Group decision making is a key component to the functioning of an organization, because organizational performance involves more than just individual action (Lahti, 2005). The easiest way is tapping the existing parents and teacher's organizations in the schools and other important personalities are to be added as long as necessary. Proper alignment of responsibilities will be identified and focus shall be on major tasks identified. These tasks include: research and baseline data gathering, program designing and testing, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

#### Research and baseline gathering

This step can be carried out through survey and direct evaluation. Questionnaires can be devised through assistance of experts to collect data such as: current participatory practices, what practices are effective or not, what is the extent of involvement of the parents, what are the problems encountered with current participatory programs. In other words, a thorough analysis of the weaknesses and strengths (the inner resources of those directly involved), and the opportunities and threats (the uncontrollable external factors) within the society in general must be undertaken. There are

systematic means in doing this and a lot of experts can be tapped to do effective participative SWOT analysis.

Designing of parents participatory learning programs:

After examining everything under the SWOT analysis an effective program can be designed. The program should focus participative learning in three aspects: in-school, which covers the theoretical aspect; at home (trial applications); and community (actual applications). To site one particular case where participative learning in the three aspects are applied, let us consider mathematics. In school, the child is taught how to add, subtract and divide through sticks, blocks, and other instructional aids; at home the skill can be applied by direct involvement in actual house chores such as counting the plates, spoons, budgeting and accounting their own daily allowance; in the community the learning is enhanced by involving the child in shopping and other activities. In all this acts the parents has reinforced the teachings in school. This is just a simple illustration but a lot of similar programs if properly planned and arranged can be developed. Consultants and project planning tools are available which can help in the process. Manktelow (2003) in the Mind Tools website discussed a lot of these methods.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The next steps involved are actually fine-tuning. The programs developed will be tested and evaluated and revised accordingly to suit the standards and needs. In the actual implementation stage, since parents don't have equal educational levels and interest, mentoring is a good idea to aid the learning of those children with parental problems.

In evaluating effectiveness, pre and post test will be conducted with the

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children involved in the program. Participation of the parents and other stakeholders will also be evaluated. Of course, it is not expected that 100% of the parents will become totally engrossed with the program, but 80% participation is not so ambitious a target. What is needed to achieve the set objectives are determination and hard work.

References:

Lahti, Ryan K. (2005) Group Decision Making within the Organization: Can Models Help Retrieved on Nov. 30, 2007 from <http://www.workteams.unt.edu/literature/paper-rlahti.html>

Manktelow, James. (2003). Project Planning and Management Tools. Mind Tools Ltd of 126 Arthur Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 8AA United Kingdom. Retrieved on Nov. 30, 2007 from [http://www.mindtools.com/pages/main/newMN\\_PPM.htm](http://www.mindtools.com/pages/main/newMN_PPM.htm)