Opportunity to Read, Opportunity to Succeed: Building a Village Library in Kenya

Florence Mugambi

Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne, mugambif@ipfw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.ipfw.edu/lib_facpres

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Opus Citation

Opportunity to Read, Opportunity to Succeed: Establishing a Village Library in Kenya

Florence Mugambi, MLIS
Information Services and Instruction Librarian
2014 ALA-IRC Africa Subcommittee Program
ALA Annual – Las Vegas, June 29
mugambif@ipfw.edu
Ontulili Location

Community of about 25,000 people in Meru county, Eastern Kenya

Typical rural community – main occupation - small scale mixed farming

7 public primary schools, 3 public secondary schools
Enrollment and school attendance is *satisfactory* in Ontulili today.

It’s challenges? ...
Ontulili’s Challenges

- Sustained below average academic achievement
- Below average reading, numeracy, & writing skills
- Low transition rate from primary to secondary schools
- Repeat grades, leave before completing primary school
- A lack of learning resources
Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Scores (Max points possible = 500)
## School scores in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (out of a possible 500) 2005-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kangaita</td>
<td>190.00</td>
<td>174.00</td>
<td>201.41</td>
<td>202.05</td>
<td>211.77</td>
<td>194.76</td>
<td>164.08</td>
<td>197.04</td>
<td>191.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiranga</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>190.72</td>
<td>168.81</td>
<td>194.00</td>
<td>169.90</td>
<td>179.38</td>
<td>170.00</td>
<td>178.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndenu</td>
<td>199.48</td>
<td>219.40</td>
<td>218.92</td>
<td>244.38</td>
<td>262.00</td>
<td>241.35</td>
<td>249.09</td>
<td>228.22</td>
<td>232.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkandone</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>203.00</td>
<td>168.19</td>
<td>237.77</td>
<td>197.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontulili</td>
<td>197.85</td>
<td>197.80</td>
<td>200.37</td>
<td>212.29</td>
<td>195.50</td>
<td>182.31</td>
<td>215.66</td>
<td>186.82</td>
<td>198.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean</strong></td>
<td>195.78</td>
<td>197.07</td>
<td>202.86</td>
<td>206.88</td>
<td>208.65</td>
<td>198.26</td>
<td>195.28</td>
<td>207.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improve Learning: Ontulili Literacy Project

- Ontulili Literacy & Resource Center Inc.

Provide safe and conducive learning spaces

Provide access to resources and information

Create programs that promote literacy and learning
Project Partnerships

- Local Community
- IPFW Helmke Library
- Rotary International -- [Rotary district 6540, Anthony Wayne Rotary Club]
- Indiana University Librarians Association
- Book donation drives
- Fundraising, Individual donations
- African Studies Association – Africana Librarians Council
Thank You!