

NAME OF LIBRARY	REPORT NO.	DATE	PERIOD COVERED
Dabaso Community Library	48	01.10.2018	July, August and September

Introduction:

Greetings once again from Dabaso!

After experiencing the torrential rains in many parts of the country in the last few months, the calmness has finally returned.

The dry season is starting to kick in. The locals are happy again to see the sunshine.

Here are the notes for the report.

Dabaso library committee taking charge:

Immediately after the trustees meeting in June, we realized the committee had done very little. There were many gaping holes and we thought we needed to address such issues. Although the visiting trustees were not entirely happy with the organization, we agreed on key areas to work on as early as they would leave.

We needed to restructure the committee and do away with the non performing individuals. We also had to add a few young women on the board to facilitate the issue of gender.

After the swift reconstruction of the committee which saw Lawrence Nzai taking the helm as the new library Chair, we are happy to report that a series of meetings have been organized by the library management already to steer the library agenda forward.

In the last two months, more meetings have been held compared to the previous year which had a nil record.

Some of the items the committee is now working on:

- Academic evaluation

Amongst the issues, the committee has organized a meeting with the bursary students of Dabaso. At the meeting, they looked into individual performance of all students. They were able to provide the right guidance and the students set fresh targets for the upcoming tests.

- Reaching for funding

The library committee is keen on linking the library with post secondary bursary funding agencies to enable bursary students have an easier transition. Eventually, we came to realize some students lack the funds to pay for their education after secondary school. This is the major reason for seeking the partnership with like minded agencies. The committee has finally decided to seek the attention of the office of the area Member of Parliament as well as the office of the ward representative.

Revival of forgotten connections:

Because of the impact of the Akili visit, we have so far been able to establish old connections. We are now more in touch with Watamu primary school which enables us acquire the information we need to report on. We had a recent meeting with library stakeholders from Watamu. Although the deputy head of Watamu was transferred, one of our main contacts, we have met her replacement and we still feel we can still be able to achieve our main targets.

We have also brought the bursary students from Watamu to Dabaso.

Going forward, it will be easier to study their performance and also help them academically.

Team bonding:

Today, we are more united than before. As Akili staff, we are supposed to work together for the common goal of the Trust. On our tracks, we had momentarily focused on self centered agenda than working as a team.

After the recent visit, our other responsibility was to sit down and reflect. We realized to achieve a purpose, there was great need to pull the strings together to perfect the dance of the puppet.

We have had a series of staff meetings to share more and bond.

The biggest bursary meeting:

The annual bursary event took place in Kakuyuni in August 2018. From the last bursary meeting, there were gaps. We did not get enough people to speak to the students. Now we needed to bridge such gaps.

This time, we invited about six speakers. We also invited a few students aside from the bursary lot.

The day's events ended up far beyond our imagination. The students enjoyed every moment. They fully participated in the academic sessions and the motivational talks later on.

THE ACTUAL REPORT

Total number of adult readers from the wider community during the quarter	1350
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In August, we had many adult readers from the wider community. When we announced to the students the plan to have a students' meeting in Kakuyuni, many students were inspired.

As they went through the new books, a lot was shared especially about the last bursary meeting and the expectations going to the next.

Being the biggest news of the quarter, many students came around daily, raising the number of outside users during the quarter.

While some users came specifically because they wanted to make use of the new African books, others were after the novels.

Most of the adult students from the community also accessed the revision books during the quarter.

New registered readers from this quarter from the wider community	33
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The number of new registrants stood slightly above 30. During this quarter, our adult readers felt the urge to register more. We had advertised the bursary meeting and they all felt like a family, especially when we mentioned that we would take some of the adult readers with us on the trip during the August holiday

Total number of registered school staff	17
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Two more teachers registered this quarter. While the old teachers have their normal routine i.e. taking students to the library to study and also studying on their own, the new teachers have been much interested in accessing the new African books.

Average number of readers from the school per day	220
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We have set timelines for the candidates of Dabaso. With the revision materials available, we give them first priority knowing they have very little time before they sit for their final exams.

However, all the classes below year 8 have their normal running procedure of borrowing and returning.

The numbers are high because many students even get more serious towards exam time. For the upper primary, they have working group discussions but sometimes they opt to do their work individually.

They use the revision guides and also the young African books while refreshing.

Average number of readers from the community/staff/teachers per day	42
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This quarter, were we able to serve more than forty members in this category. The African books are the main reason for this improvement.

VISITORS

C o m m u n i t y meetings	5
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Only 5 community meetings occurred during the quarter. The 3 meetings were for the saving group comprising of women from Dabaso. They normally invite a financial officer to talk to them on saving matters.

An organization providing electronic learning gadgets to young scholars in public schools also conducted some meetings within the library premises during the quarter.

Committee meetings	3
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The library committee had to be restructured after the trustees' visit. This is because the old committee had abandoned important duties and it was beginning to feel as if the library did not have a monitoring body. After coming up with new faces, the committee has already been able to handle 3 key meetings.

The current committee has put the general interest of the library at the heart of discussion. They have ironed out and touched on various issues in their discussions e.g. they have talked to bursary students with a view to help them achieve good grades etc.

BOOKS

Books for school work:

For learning purposes, the revision guides recorded the highest usage. The upper primary students are the main users of the books under this category.

This was the main case with the pupils during the school days but during the school holidays, the secondary school users also had a chance to make maximum use of the secondary guides.

They mostly do revision work with the guides.

Books for pleasure and personal study:

The African books recently acquired are attracting adults from every angle. The big users are the primary school pupils, secondary school goers, school staff and members from the community.

INTERACTION WITH READERS

Activities:

During the quarter;

- The year 8 students were able to attend group discussion sessions in the library. Some teachers guided the students through these sessions sometimes.

- The class 8 pupils did attend the library annual talks. During such interactive spells, the students are reminded their need to work hard knowing there is an Akili bursary.
- At Dabaso library, we also managed to pick a few students from Dabaso primary school to Kakuyuni to attend the August bursary meeting the Akili had planned.

LIBRARY STAFF

Annual leave for Cornelius:

In August, all students were around following the long holiday season. When the bursary students are present, they normally spend most of their time in the library. While in the library, they interact and also study. Because they can assist in various general matters in the library, it was the perfect time for Cornelius to home for his annual leave in August.

Various health issues:

During this quarter spell, all librarians from Dabaso had various health issues to deal with. In August, Fred experienced respiratory discomfort that led to constant coughing. The cough was very painful and it became worrying after a prolonged spell.

Various body samples had to be examined to ascertain the root cause of the illness. After entering the first month, the doctors examining the condition revealed there was nothing to worry about as general tests were negative. They ruled allergy as the main cause.

After taking various prescriptions, the condition got better and Fred was able to return to work to resume normal schedule.

During the same time, Cornelius was battling an acute toothache. Since it was not his first time experiencing the same, he was advised by the dentist to get rid of the paining tooth. He booked an appointment and the tooth was removed.

FINAL WORDS

After battling various illnesses as referred above, we were derailed a bit. We both missed work on some occasions to either see specialists or recuperate. We feel better now, the energy is back and we know with the current of committee members, we can look forward to a brighter future.

Dabaso library!

