

Women collectives: The bang' Jomariiek hub of lifelong learning and food security

Chwuech-Art

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Background

Study site: West Reru

- West Reru is in Kisumu County around Lake Victoria in western Kenya
- 45% of the population in this county live below the poverty line
- Study site is approximately 15.1 square kilometres and with a population of about 4500 rural inhabitants
- Study sample was 25 participants
- 6 Public primary schools, 2 health centers

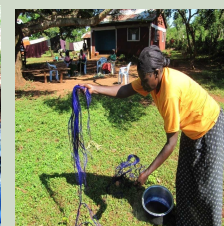


Research Questions

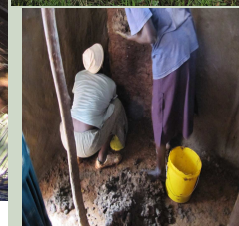
- what are rural women's collectives?
- How do women utilize collectives to build their capacities?
- How do women in rural areas utilise collectives to ensure food security?
- How do members of collectives become lifelong learners?



Methodology – Chwuechgogy Participatory Methods in Kit Dak



- Identification of needs
- Setting targets
- Identification of resource persons/groups
- Identification of materials
- Allocation of time to learning/production venture
- Analysis of benefits



- New targets for learning
- identification of needs
- identification of source persons/groups
- allocation of time
- Problem-solving
- Analysis of benefits

Results/Outcomes

Kit Dak benefits

- Kit Dak process makes the community aware of its needs and opportunities.
- It enables community members suggest solutions
- It enable identification of resources and persons to drive initiated programs
- It allows members to interrogate the solutions and identify gaps



Effects on Community Members

- Development of multiple community improvement programs
- Increase members readiness to try new ideas

- Capacity Building
- Increase number of trainers
- Increases trainers' readiness to learn new skills

- Cooperation with various experts
- Build self confidence
- Readiness to learn from other experts

- Poultry Keeping
- Fish farming
- Vegetable and other food crop farming
- Indigenous architecture
- Pottery
- Basketry
- Beadwork
- Knit work

Income generating

Lessons learnt from chwuechgogy in Kit Dak

- Women collectives offer a sustainable learning environment
- Indigenous women learn in a participatory environment
- Every one in a women's collective is an expert in a skill
- Collective members help each other readily
- Participation in collectives is inclusive
- There is a learning continuum in women collectives

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