



Personal development case study.

Patrick Chiro, National Volunteer



Patrick in the greenhouse

Cycle 1: Machakos Kenya

Placement: Terry Child Support & Youth Resource Centre

What have I learnt?

I used to be the kind of a person who normally do things and feel whatever am doing is not enough so I kept on increasing the speed and sometimes clash with my placement counterparts because I felt they were slow in accepting and moving things. I did not believe I was doing an appreciated job until when my placement counterparts sat me down and told me how much good work I was doing and how the Terry Children were speaking good about me and how they have seen me of an importance to them. As soon as I started digesting what I had been told by my counterparts, the staff also praised the move including hearing a positive compliment about me from the organisation

C.E.O. I believed it when I went out for a field and the community really seemed to like every word I gave out plus the youths around telling me to spend the next cycle with them as well, little did they know my time was going to be over soon and I will have to go. This made me feel I the achievements and indeed any output gives in a room for an input then I must say I have a lot taken and ready to be used back home.

On the development side, I hardly understood the devolution processes and sometimes felt our County was doing fishy things little did I know the protocols that could link me to know what is in the kitchen cabinet. I have to say I clearly know where to start with on the devolution processes and opportunities that come in through such line will never go without reaching the beneficiaries in my presence, being an important tool in the Youth development from the county to ward level. This is because I met all the stakeholders in that sector and respectfully advised me on the way to go as they saw me a dedicated volunteer ready to make things happen.

As a business young man, i really wish to work on events, owning assets to hire and rent, accommodating people in a profit making based way in my life. As a result, I learnt the different tastes people from diverse places prefer, how people negotiate for services and sealing deals, the small things that people ignore in businesses like a 1 shilling discount can make someone come for your products everyday.

As a passionate scout and a patriot I also value environmental up gradation. As a result, I joined hands and did tree planting with the Kenyatta University Students, Machakos teachers College and the Terry community. I learnt more on environmental up gradation that day. I used to take students ignorant but I right now have all reasons to work with students in the

environmental sector as part of these students challenged me turning to know even more than what I knew.



I learnt that Children always want to behave like someone they admire over their acts positively. Knowing that I can be taken as a role model now, I have to watch my moves and always will be careful to note any interested person and mentor them through as I really used to see myself doing little always.



For the first time I did painting and it has been recommended to be so nice so I can proudly say I learnt painting by doing it.



I learnt how to handle children from challenging backgrounds from the C.E.Os advise.

I learnt the farming concepts in a green house. I was too ignorant to attend to a green house and see how people used to do it. But for the first time, in this program here in terry, I worked in a green house so comfortable and indeed I enjoyed it.



I also learnt how to feed and milk the cows. I used to fear going closer to a cow but now this cow named Soni [the biggest] of all is my friend and another one growing very fast said to have

possibilities of reaching Soni's weight, [Alaine] is actually like my pet.



I learnt how to play Piano so at least I can do several tunes and make someone dance a lot. It took me just a month of practice with Walter the Youth Co coordinator at Terry

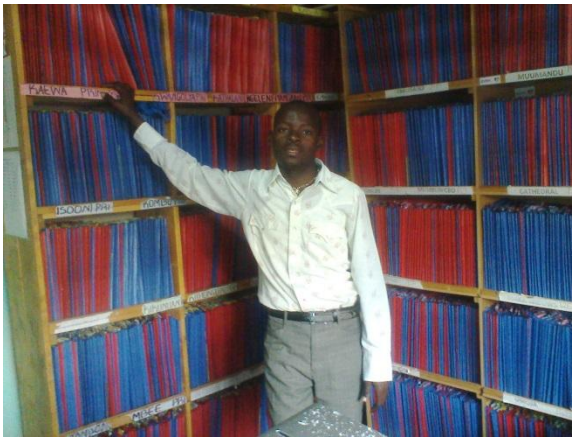
I have also learnt to appreciate my efforts.

Some of the everyday ways in which I have changed as a result of taking part in this program;

- I used to be the kind of a person who wanted things to move faster and easily get annoyed when someone is dragging me behind but I have learnt to be patient and walk with everyone regardless of how slow, argumentative, and all challenges they have.
- I was short tempered especially when someone is putting allegations and critics in me but at least when I come across such I will start laughing, listen then solve the issues
- Regardless of Kenya having a church in almost every family and a mosque in every village in Mombasa, I used to be so ignorant in religious matters but I will now try to identify myself in one of the religions
- Indeed the background I was raised and the life I used to live at home was totally different from what I went through during the programme. It made me assume and judge things very fast, little did I know some people do things that they even don't know. Maybe the investigative skills I acquired in school made me put everything in suspicion and proceed in caution. I believe I will be keen to whoever makes me feel offended and find the best way to tell what I feel uncomfortable with. And will avoid using my professional skills where they are less required.
- Someone told me I have pride in me. I really hate that word and it has made me dig out why that happened and I have blocked all the paths that can make one reach that extent by limiting to tell how much I know or do and

understanding how people are different and need different approaches.

- One thing with me I always use to take filing things to be so monotonous and thought there is no skill I could gain further by being on files every time. But I will take it as part of a job am expected to do when given always. This feeling came after being subjected to work on the over 5000 files at Terry



One memory from my experience that stands out...

Indeed this shocking story will stand in my mind as it was an unfair act of inhuman done to a primary school kid. I used to hear it in news and from people but I got it direct from the victim this day.

A girl in the Child Support gave her story during our GCD on what happened to her when she immediately finished her class eight exam. She comes from a family of financial instability and as a result, a well-wisher who happened to be a female teacher in a school she was schooling in took her with the aim of supporting her in studies. One night the teacher left her in the house with the husband. The husband came in drunk with some juice which he had diluted sleeping pills for the girl. After drinking, she felt

a sleep and the inhuman man did rape her while she was asleep. She was just surprised to wake up finding that she was bleeding and undergoing a painful moment. Even after the teacher came back she did not take any action to save the girl. And she actually knew what had happened.

The girl got pregnant at that very young age but unfortunately, she miscarried in the fourth month. She was locked in a room for two months but she luckily found her way and escaped through a young boy in the house to her home.

I was keenly following the so hurting story, and its so amazing how the young girl was so confident telling it out. She must have been psychological prepared and has been having diligent psycho-social support.

The CEO of the Terry heard the story and rescued her to this institution since her life was in danger as she was told not to speak it out or else she would be killed. It's at least giving her a hope in life that the Terry's CEO is following up the case so as to make sure there is justice at the end of it all.

Indeed, some people are so cruel and what they deserve is a capital punishment even.

As a student pursuing my studies in the line of law, order and criminal justice, this is part of an experience am carrying back home and I will be so strict to make sure offenders get what they deserve to avoid tarnishing the name of this beautiful country.