MBONI YA VIJANA; THE STUNNING YOUTH GROUP FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

THE CASE STUDY OF ZEZE VILLAGE IN KASULU TANZANIA

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG) is the youth run community based organization (CBO) which operates from Zeze village. The organization is registered by Kasulu District Council with registration number 0057 provided in 2014 under the government procedures which give the power to District Executive Directors to identify and register community based organizations in their areas of jurisdiction. Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG) committed to carry out three major functions which are; Entrepreneurship Development, Environmental Management, and Peer Education. These functions aim at delivering knowledge and skills, build big hearts to youth and the community to participate in development obligations, establishment and supporting youth and community in innovations and investment development, creation of capital accessibility for production and business development.

1.1. Background

Zeze village is a countryside small village founded in the early of 1970s under villagization policy laid by Tanzania government during the Arusha Declaration of 1967 in favour of socialism (Ujamaa) philosophy. Zeze village is at Rusesa ward in Kasulu District in Tanzania located at 45km in the South-West from Kasulu town. The natives of the village are Ha tribe covering almost 98% and other tribes covering the rest percentage out of approximately 8900 of its population. The settlement pattern of the village is well planned in a blocks nucleated and linear pattern that makes the village passable and good view from the satellite image. Zeze village had not had any organizational initiatives supporting youth and community development.

The idea for the foundation of Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG), brought in place by big hearted Benedicto Hosea after experiencing lives difficulties at Zeze village inspired by experience from regions development gaps and relevant education and profession he secured during his studying career. In 2010 Benedicto enrolled to join Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) Dodoma Tanzania for Bachelor Degree in Environmental Planning and Management (BDEPM) the degree he therefore awarded in November 2013. While in the college in 2012, Benedicto met Adrophina Laurent who supported him spreading his idea for rural development to his fellow students and friends whereby six collage mates and two friends supported the idea. In the mid of 2012, Benedicto came down to Zeze village to sensitize and mobilize youth for establishment of development program under his idea. After graduation in 2013, Mboni ya Vijana established at Zeze village with seven members.

Plate 1: MVG registration certificate

Plate 2: The picture of Benedicto

1 Every active minded person (both male and female) whose age is between 14 and 45 years old shall be regarded as a youth under MVG deed.
Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG) struggles/efforts for development, were therefore recognized by Kasulu District Council (KDC) in 2014 which therefore led to its registration on the day of 22nd September 2014. Since MVG’s registration, four founder members withdrawn and 11 new members joined in 2016 making the total of 14 members remain the drivers of the organization’s mission and vision.

1.2. Problem statement

The communities of rural areas in Kigoma Tanzania, characterised by extremely income poverty, illiteracy and poor socio-economic infrastructures compared to urban and other regions. Zeze village encounters problems either associated or causing; youth unemployment, poor farming methods (shifting farming), inadequately water supply, in access to business knowledge and skills, inability to access business initial capital, unavailable technical centre to deliver technological skills and lack of youth leadership to initiate and run development programmes, which finally are intensifying income poverty, progressed development illiteracy and poor socio-economic services development. Mboni ya Vijana Group established in the sense of complement those issues which in any ways are symbol of poverty at Zeze village.

1.3. Objectives

The main objective for Mboni ya Vijana’s initiatives is to create the environments that will provide employments, ensures income and food security to youth and the community without putting the future on jeopardy.

1.3.1. Short term objectives

i. Initiate and manage sustainable and improved farming by train, support and monitor youth and individual households owned farms. This objective aim at ensuring food, income security among youth families and the community; and minimizing improper shifting farming which threatens the environment.

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Plate 3: Mboni ya Vijana Group members camping for works in 2014

Plate 4: Severe deforestation at Zeze caused by income poverty, Field picture 2013

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2 Employments refers to any legal perfect activity that provides income or enable youth or any community member to achieving his or her goals for better lives.
ii. Initiate and manage small industries and businesses for youth and women caring children; under this objective, Mboni ya Vijana intends to create friendly environments to youth and women to raise their families in better condition that will make easy for adaptation self employments by income and skills generated.

iii. Establish trees nursery and encourage youth and the community to plant both fruits and wood trees for the best of their economy and the environments.

iv. Youth and the community be trained and encouraged about creativity, innovation and global economic and climate change challenges so that we must have the youth and the community that can solve its challenges by itself.

1.3.2. Long term objectives
1. Establishment of youth centre where they will be taking their roles from including industrial, technical, social and economic activities,
2. Establish and registering long lasting income generating investments those shall provide employments, services and sustainability of the organization,
3. Identify and prepare organization’s future leaders based on their merits and commitment the persons will have for the future and sustainability of the group, and;
4. To become the centre for innovation and engineering toward better world for lives.

2.0. RESOURCES

Mboni ya Vijana group (MVG) needed resources to carrying out its programmes, and therefore it is focussed on getting;

a) Human resource; Mboni ya Vijana Group formed by 13 committed youth to lead changes to Zeze community, however, the members themselves are not enough to bring the changes of intention. People to carry out the duties of the initiative are very important resource that we are proud of. Zeze village itself has the population of 8000+ from which 2500+ are manpower 53% of 2500 are youth. With this potential resource, MVG needed to mobilize, train, and use it for management, production and development.

b) Land; Mboni ya Vijana knows that no activity that can take place without land hence it struggled to attain land on which it is establishing investments. Many groups fail to develop because they do not have land on which their duties take place. Mboni ya Vijana in collaboration with village government accessed land and it is functioning to leading the changes in the society.
c) **Financial resource** is the central demand that makes things done as it is the medium of goods and service exchange. Mboni ya Vijana raise its funds from its members contribution (1.1m per year), service delivery (12.6M per year from borehole drilling and soap), loans (5M from Kasulu District Council), donations and grants (Tanzania development trust, Wabia Network, GlobalGiving, The Pollination Project and individual donation from UK, Sweden and Australia). Mboni ya Vijana receives equipment donation as well from Tools with a Mission (UK), King’s College (UK), Janet Chapman (UK) and other well wishers.


d) **Communication and Information Technology facilities** are the other best resources which are making things happen at Zeze village. We are at remote area where there poor communication and information access facilities, however, we have managed to get two Wi-Fi hotspots in Zeze, organization computers, tablets and mobile phones by the effort of Mboni ya Vijana Group to facilitate management, communication and training all about the organization and globe. Availability of connectivity and IT facilities, are making Mboni ya Vijana Group meeting its objectives satisfactorily.

3.0. RESULTS
Mboni ya Vijana Group’s greed is to register robust and countable development outcomes reflecting improvement in people lives especially in Kasulu countryside. Three years of Mboni ya Vijana in operation embarking development initiative, plausible results have registered and are reflecting improvements of lives of the community of Zeze village. The outcomes registered by Mboni ya Vijana in the past three years of its establishment, are illustrated sufficiently as follows;

3.1. **Introduction of 378 Youth and Women Run Small and Informal Businesses**
Zeze community especially youth and women lacked business knowledge and skills, starting capital and supervisions. Knowing these faults in the community, Mboni ya Vijana established microcredit scheme which does in; training youth and women about small businesses establishment and management, provision of small businesses start-up loan of up to 360,000 TZS, and supervision. Since March 2015, the total of 378 clients (youth and women) have benefited with this scheme by which every beneficiary established his/her own business. The success of this program, has improved the lives of the families of who beneficiaries come in.
3.2. Increased Food and Income Security

Land infertility and decrease of agricultural yields have been referencing in Tanzania as the result of climate change, low understandings about sustainable farming by the community and population increase over space. Agricultural production especially maize at Zeze village, has been decreasing from 6 – 8 sacks in 1980s to 0 – 3 sacks per acre in the present by the use of traditional and poor farming methods. The decline in food production as reflected in population growth intensifies severity of living hardship to poor people especially in rural areas and the sustainability of environments as hunger creates people practice shifting farming to sustain their food demand.

Mind to these factors, Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG) established sustainable farming scheme which supports small farmer learn best farming practice, access agricultural inputs, farm monitoring and management and creating a conducive atmosphere of quantity products and their markets. In the farming season of 2016/17, the pilot scheme was implemented on 35 acres run by small farmers (28) and the organization (MVG). All the participants had harvested between 0 – 3 maize sacks (each sack contained 6 buckets) per acre in the farming season of 2015/16 and traditional farming methods employed. When it was adapted to sustainable and improved farming practice and implements support in farming season of 2016/17, maize production average increased to 18 – 24 sacks per acre as per harvest made in April and May 2017.

Associated results to this agriculture gradual transition MVG has increased food and income security to the families involved and the buyers, reduced shifting farming resulting into vegetation regeneration, provided production lesson to the majority of Zeze counting to 391 applications received by October 2018 from people interested to participate in sustainable and improved farming.
scheme in the farming season of 2017/2018. Up to October 2017, farmers participated in farming scheme had maize stock for their family for five months more. This is the plausible results that Mboni ya Vijana successfully to.

3.3. Access to clean and safe water

Mboni ya Vijana adapted manual water drilling and rope hand pump technology specifically aimed at solving water issue which is the biggest global challenge. Zeze community relied much on three streams and dirty ponds to get water for farming and domestic use between 1970s and 2000s, however, in the 2000s those streams and seasonal ponds begun slight drying. The government under TASAF drilled 9 boreholes and installed India MarkII and Afridev hand pumps between 2007 and 2011 to silence water issue at Zeze. Because water consumption has been increasingly, 6 pumps severely broken and water challenge remained an issue until Mboni ya Vijana developed its technology.

Plate 11: Crowded Kitibitibi water Source at Zeze village, field picture 2015

Since 2016, Mboni ya Vijana drilled and constructed rope hand pumps on a borehole which provides 10,286 litres of water per day and serves 500 people in 12 hours. We have replaced broken India MarkII and Afridev hand pumps with rope hand pumps to keep clean and safe water accessible by the community. For Zeze only, it has contributes the production of 41,143 litres of water per day for free of charge. Not only at Zeze village but also in Kasulu urban we have drilled 16 borehole, 12 successfully and only 4 having problems. Those boreholes drilled in Kasulu urban are used for businesses including cement bricks making, lodging/guest houses and other domestic uses.

Plate 12: Additional water facility to Zeze community made by Mboni ya Vijana group, field pictures 2016/17

3.4. Employment Infrastructures and Organization Projects

The long run plan for the organization sustainability is to build its own foundations employment infrastructures, assets and liabilities. Under this matter, Mboni ya Vijana has stepped ahead to the achievement by securing land on which its functions and infrastructures are developing. The land which granted by Zeze village government in 2015, covers an area of 250 x 350m² located in South-East of the village. On this land, the organization has made availability of;
i. Storage facility,
ii. Bee hives counting to 65 for bee keeping, honey and bee wax production,
iii. A constructed welding and carpentry workshop installed with electricity generating machines capable of producing 24Kw,
iv. Constructed a composite toilet with 6 rooms,
v. Constructing the office flat with 8 rooms,
vi. Dug and constructed two fish dams/ponds for fish farming and one completely done,
vii. Drilled and made borehole which is serving MVG works and the community for free of charge,
viii. Planted 120 palm trees,
ix. Made 26,000 bricks for expansion of the workshop training structure, and;
x. Developed a tree nursery for production of fruit, wood and conservation trees.

Plate 13: Carpentry and welding workshop, office, power generator and beehives farm are some infrastructures established at MVG’s site, Field pictures

The infrastructures, assets and liabilities available at the site, are providing assurance of the organization sustainability as they are providing employments to youth, bringing income to the organization, development of small industries like soap making and furthermore they are attracting and motivating people especially youth to work with Mboni ya Vijana.

Plate 14: MVG beneficiaries after learning and make soap at MVG site, Field photo 2016
Education and Training

Mboni ya Vijana delivers education and training to youth and children through its pear education project/function. It delivers reading and writing skills to those who didn’t go to schools at the age they supposed to be, computer skills to those who can read and write and practical production of goods and ecological needs. Under this scheme, Mboni ya Vijana work collaboratively with Schools which are at Zeze village either by material support and training some practical studies.

Plate 15: student at Zeze secondary school learning biology using computer (left) and children books reader at MVG (right), field photo 2017

To achieving and developing this program, we have been making books, tablets, e-readers, computers, power, internet WI-FI, trainers and other learning facilities available either at Mboni ya Vijana Office or to the schools we are working collaboratively especially Zeze secondary school.

Plate 16: MVG distributing science learning materials at Zeze Secondary School, field picture 2017

We have been running training on climate change and adaptation to local/village and ward government leader, businesses and entrepreneurship development including farming. Technical training to youth is another area we are carrying out to make sure youth are able to create employments and transform their lives.

3.5. Environmental Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Management of the natural system or environment is one among the indicators of sustainable development and this is why Mboni ya Vijana includes environmental management in its programmes. Since the foundation of this organization, it has actively involved in environmental management and community adaptation to climate change to the reasonable scale. Among the other
works which Mboni ya Vijana has made to ensure environments and climate change adaptation are reflected includes;

Plate 17: Youth in Zeze taking actions to responding to the effects of climate change, field picture 2017

Conservation and protection of the vegetation and land that has provided to Mboni ya Vijana is a good reference for the well managed part of the earth. The area has protected through launching beekeeping, fish farming, palm trees, and tree nursery. The organization has been putting signs and posters instructing people not to cutting trees or burning fire. The results of these initiatives enabled the area to be free of wildfire for the past two year consecutive and other people learned about management of the vegetation and land in general.

Plate 18: MVG promotes environmental protection and tree nursery establishment at Zeze village, field pictures 2017/17

Climate change workshops, clean and affordable energy and planting plants reflecting the climate change adaptation, have been implementing to ensure that the society is aware of climate change and how to adapt its impacts and mitigation. In March 2017, Mboni ya Vijana run three days climate change and adaptation workshop at Zeze village attended by 45 local government leaders from Kasulu, Rusesa ward, Kwaga ward, Kigembe ward, Zeze community representatives and 14 MVG members. The workshop provided important understanding to the participants about climate change, causes, mitigation and adaptation. In response to climate change, Zeze community has planted more than 800 palm trees which will pray both environmental and economic development.
Clean and affordable energy access and technology have been crucial scheme implemented by Mboni ya Vijana Group by either supplying solar lights to students and the community or training people about clean energy technology. Since 2015 total of 158 have supplied to Zeze community especially students who have received 96 solar lights to date. In July 2017 Mboni ya Vijana organized wind turbine electricity training for youth. This workshop facilitated by Local Electricity One co-directors from Australia and UK and attended by youth from Zeze, Institute of Rural Development Planning of Dodoma and Mwanza. The purpose of the workshop was to enable youth build wind turbine and produce electricity using local materials and waste electrical materials like motors. The intent for adapting wind turbine technology/education is to develop sustainable energy that has positive impacts to the environment.

3.6. Putting Zeze on the Map

Before Mboni ya Vijana establishment, Zeze village was not on the map. Mboni ya Vijana Group in collaboration with its partners adapted online mapping brought to the group by Janet Chapman the UK feminist who pioneers Tanzania rural development through Tanzania Development Trust. When she visited Zeze and find Benedicto struggling to lift his society, she introduced online mapping through OpenStreetMap (OSM) and an Android application called Maps.Me, the scheme helped to put Zeze Village on the map. Now Zeze village is on the map and anyone can assess and navigate to the village using the online map.
4.0. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Sustainability of community shared initiatives have been recording failure since Tanzania government adapted and implemented communal modal of production in since 1960s after ratification of Socialism ideology. From there, Mboni ya Vijana has the lesson that make it focus on its initiatives sustainability than registering failure anymore. The organization strategy for sustainability is made on the basis of the organization and the community need as stipulated below;

4.1. Financial Sustainability

Mboni ya Vijana shall be sustainable if there should be assurance of sustainability in financial and this must not heavily depend on donors than what it produces. The organization’s financial strategy is to ensure no individual keeps the money of the organization than keeping the money into the bank account, Strengthening Microcredit and Farm Loan schemes to generate organization running costs, Invest in long term income generating schemes like soap making industry, beekeeping, fish farm development, water services delivering such as drilling, spare parts and training. Mboni ya Vijana is establishing the workshop where it will be running welding and carpentry works, technical skills training centre and establish tailoring factory. From these plans, Mboni ya Vijana will be able to sustain its financial requirements which will enable organization sustainability.

4.2. Good Relationship and Fairness

Bad relationship and fairness between organization’s beneficiaries, supporter and the management cause failure of the organizations. We are the team of planners who are always keep on valuing, caring, sharing and meeting our interests, partners and clients so that we live better and long with all who make the organization work perfectly.

Mboni ya Vijana avoids from linking itself with politics, religion, illegal works like gays, treachery, drugs and other unauthorised functions. These factors will keep us with good relationship with the authorities/government and our clients therefore sustainability record.

4.3. Leadership Strategy

Good leaders to lead sustainable development are those who care about their vision and credibility. Mboni ya Vijana will prepare leaders based on its vision and mission to make them live in the heart of commitment to lead changes in the society than those who think of the short term benefits they have to earn. Mboni ya Vijana needs leaders who are loyal and flexible to organize, manage, direct, fairly all the key stakeholders of the organization and community. We make each member of the organization be a leader of the scheme of his or her interest in the way that the organization is intended to benefit from it. This strategy makes everyone in the organization feel the leader and hence keep on fostering development than conflicts.

4.4. Flexibility and Diversity

We cannot rely on a single function as if all the clients are single demand encounters. If we rely on one function we will not be able to satisfy the needs in the society and among the member groups.
We encourage innovation and multifunction so that we meet number of demands in the community. As we are entrepreneurs developers, we encourage economic diversification so that we cope with policies changes and demands in the area we serve. The experience show that many Community Based Organization (CBO) in our local area die in a short lifespan because they are heavily single function like chicken feeders, beekeepers, soap making, etc. when such scheme encounter either environmental, policies or demand challenges/changes, the CBOs disintegrate and register failure. Mboni ya Vijana shall observe those matters for its sustainability.

5.0. SECRET OF SUCCESS

Lifting conservative and underprivileged society requires exceptional passion and commitment. Often people in Kasulu district are quick results oriented making it difficult to accept long term plan. Monies are the factor that people will always claim when finds some one organizing them. Without these requirements, poor people will never pay attention nor support to the initiative. Therefore, the success achieved by Mboni ya Vijana up to date has been the result of;

5.1. Distinguished leadership and commitment

MVG has Adrophina and Benedicto who both have the qualities which led the success/community Zeze village to the extent it is. They have proven good leadership in planning, organizing and coordinating, team working, directing, and resources mobilization. Benedicto managed to influence internal and external donors to support development processes at Zeze and Kasulu at large, the field which he has successfully.

Plate 25: MVG secretary (Adrophina) pursuing MVG duties

5.2. Appreciation and needs of the community and local government authority;

Mboni ya Vijana would have passed away if it would have not covered the matters the society and the government are in need. Financials, water, food and nutrition, clean and affordable energy, education and environmental demands are the aspects that the local communities and the government are in high demand to effect lives. Mboni ya Vijana were therefore accepted and supported to comply with such requirements.
5.3. **Effective supports and roles played by partner donors**

Mboni ya Vijana receives grants, donations and other supports from individuals and trust around the world. The successes those have presented on this paper, would not have achieved to that extent if there would not have been internal and external financial, material and technical supports. Mboni ya Vijana appreciates the partners and friends who did what they did for the success achieved. Major Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG) partners include;

5.4. **Local partners**


5.5. **International partners**

Tanzania Development Trust (TDT), Wabia Network, King’s College, Imperial College – United Kingdom, GlobalGiving (GG) – United Kingdom and United States of America, Local Electricity One (LE1) – UK and Australia, and The Pollination Project – United States of America,

5.6. **MVG Team and Zeze Community Unit**

Mboni ya Vijana Group (MVG) members and the entire community at Zeze are strongly bound together in implementation of the projects those benefit both parties. Zeze community through its government provided the land on which the organization activities are taking place. It has been the prestige to have these two sides especially when there is an event that requires participation of both sides and visitors have been appreciating that kind of cooperation. The kind of cooperation and unit available at Zeze between MVG members and the community have proven security for the property of both sides.

5.7. **Development and use of information and communication technology**

Mboni ya Vijana has the team of more than 20 volunteers from different countries of the world who are promoting the works MVG does at Zeze and fundraising through social media and conferences. The team role is to publicizing Mboni ya Vijana and encouraging many people to understand our roles and donate small amount of money or equipment to support development of Zeze. This kind of networking is the function of the development and use of communication and information technology. Mboni ya Vijana has facilitated the installation of two Satellite Wi-Fi hotspots one at Zeze Secondary School and one at Mboni ya Vijana office/library. The facilities provided by AVANT UK through Infinity Africa.
6.0. CHALLENGES OF THE INITIATIVE

Changes always are facilitated by challenges which provide lessons and experience finally make things get strong solutions. Working with poor people and remote areas, make many things complicated then cause stagnation of development plans like these challenges which we are encountering at Zeze village;

1. Land disputes; Mboni ya Vijana Group were granted land by the local government authority (village) but it appeared a group of few cattle keepers (headers) claiming the land granted to MVG is theirs. The dispute proceeded to ward and then district land tribunals for hearing. The dispute leads MVG lost property by destruction and injuries. However the village confirms that the land is provided for youth, still the dispute continues.

2. Access to markets; Zeze community is poor to purchase/consume MVG products and services the factor that requires MVG to looking for external markets. However, there are poor transportation facilities of goods/products/services to the markets.

3. Absence of grid electricity; Mboni ya Vijana needs sufficient power/electricity to operate its programmes but power limit the scale to expansion. Establishment of industries require perfect and reliable electricity that we still lack at Zeze village.

4. Poverty and illiteracy; poverty makes people rely much on what work gives to them. This cause many people neglect long term plan or working for the works those are not paying on time. When Mboni ya Vijana have no money to pay while need man power to accomplish particular activity, fail to do it because people are reluctant to volunteer. The same literacy does with people where it makes them think of short terms than long term liberations.

5. Investment capital scarcity; since the commencement of Mboni ya Vijana, there have been very fewer capitals to invest in development programmes which is causing slow development compared to the need of the community and the nation at large. We have been securing the funding of less than five million Tanzanian shillings in the duration of 6-10 months. With this kind of capital, it has been very difficult to run things accordingly however we have made robust progress. We have established investments which require experts like welding and carpentry experienced professional but we cannot afford paying for them to stay we us.

The Message
The future of our community, our country and our world is in youth of the present, negligence of present youth generation is negligence to the forthcoming world generations. The best option for us to making world a better place for lives is to plant as many as we can the seeds of the plants those we need to harvest in the future.

Benedicto Hosea; 2018