



# SWO SUSTAINABLE WOMEN ORGANIZATION

*Motto: Building bridges saving lives*

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## REPORT OF EXHIBITION/EXPERIENCE SHARING WORKSHOP WITH GIRLS AT VOCATIONAL TRAINING



**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Venue:** SWO Conference Hall

## **Introduction:**

Sustainable women organization (SWO) with funds from Magic To The World (MTTW) currently trains 13 girls in vocational skills acquisition in the city of Bamenda. These girls are being trained to become fashion designers and hairdressers. Having been in training for over 9 months, the organization decided to evaluate the progress of the girls in their different trades and also attended to some of their basic needs. With additional funds from Magic to the World, Fashion designers were provided fabrics from which they designed dresses to showcase what they had learned so far and also benefited from sanitary pads and some small food items.

The workshop started at 9:30am in SWO main office Hospital Roundabout, Bamenda, facilitated by Malon Vubangsi with contribution from the coordinator and Madam Ewonkem Calisters.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE DAY:**

The activities of the day centred on :

- ❖ An appraisal of the level of self development in the different training centres.
- ❖ Challenges faced as apprentices in their workshop.
- ❖ Exhibition of the different designs by fashion designers.
- ❖ Handling of food and Sanitation items as support to the trainees.

### **1. An appraisal of the level of self development in the different training centres.**

Everyone present took the floor and shared their experiences. They aired their minds on the good, bad and ugly they face on a daily basis in their training centres. This was aimed at making them comfortable so they could spill out their worries and as a team we look at what needs to be done to ensure their training is successful in the end . Getting the trainees to open up with their challenges was a great success. Words of assurance promising to stand with them till the end of their training and as well words of encouragement to make the most of the rare opportunity from the coordinator of SWO boosted their spirits.

## **2. Challenges faced as apprentices in their workshop.**

- Trainers refuse some trainees with babies to not allow their babies to sleep on the chairs in their training centers.
- The trainees complained of lack of material for practical ( both fashion designers and hair dressers). Hairdressers in particular were not very happy they were not provided materials for them to showcase their know-how so far in training like the designers.
- They also complained of lack of toilet facilities in their workshops.

### **Successes:**

Though, with the challenges, The program has recorded successes which can be seen from the 90% participation, commitment and hard work of the trainees, feedback from their trainers and also from the dresses exhibited by the fashion designers which indicates they are doing exceedingly well. This is judged from the different designs they stitched.

The girls expressed their gratitude for the workshop. The workshop they said was an opportunity they had been longing for to express themselves. All of them left with rejuvenated mindsets towards their training.

### **Recommendations.**

- Material should be provided on regular bases to trainees so they can constantly be practicing what they learned.
- The training centers should create toilet systems for their trainees.
- Trainers should be fair to everyone regardless of their condition like the single mothers with their babies.
- Visits to the training centres should be carried on a weekly basis to ensure proper follow-up of the trainees.

### **Conclusion:**

The workshop provided an opportunity for trainees to be evaluated and as well know the difficulties they face. This was necessary to ensure the project is on the right course. At the close of the workshop, the trainees were handed each 5kg of rice, a liter of vegetable oil and two sanitary pads.



