

Tallo Information Centre

[Somali Summer University]



2010

The primary objective of the Somali Summer University project has been to increase Somali young people's access to services in particular in the most appropriate educational service format that meet and address their needs. The project has successfully contributed reducing the barriers faced by Somali young people and specifically Somali residents in West London/Ealing Borough to gain access, full support and benefits from their educational attainment service available to them.

SOMALI SUMMER UNIVERSITY

REPORT

2010

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**THE TRUST HOUSE CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**



Project Overview Statement

Introduction

Organisational Aim

Tallo aims are to aid the Somali community to overcome its barriers to success, promote independency, facilitate and advocate strategically, facilitate equal access to mainstream services, motivate success and meet their needs in a holistic fashion through services designed through community consultation.

Our overall Aims & Outcomes included;

- Improve education & communication skills and promote independent learning
- Enhance the education of young Somalis and increase their chances of success
- Provide a range of engaging educational activities and support students' progress
- Empower young Somalis to help design their own study programme and set goals
- Provide peer mentoring for young Somalis with few role models in their own community

Somali Summer University project Aim and Background

Tallo's-Somali Summer University aimed to provide opportunities for the Somali young people to fulfill their potential by providing a range of courses and activities that lead to a recognised qualification or contribute to a school or college qualification.

The project has been in existence for more than ten years as a flagship project and network of people, partner organizations and trusts interested in raising children and young people's educational attainment as well as policy and practice issues in the education field.

The project always has been trying different style to the usual approach year after year and as a result the project became well-known of inviting external professionals presenting different relevant themes that allow young people to participate fully and discuss the arising issues concerned in a small manageable four groups.

This year the project has re-visited some subjects such as finding additional resources for new Somali Refugee arrivals. The projects also embarked to make inventive to all other sessions reflecting and taking into account to young people's curriculum developments. Similarly, we have taken good stages to revolve around project's outcomes and some commentary which are significant to the project's creative foresight in the context of accelerating effective change of all its topics.

Having re-visited and modified most of the project's programme, we have at the end developed a good programme which has most of the elements that are used in the education services making sure that all everything are linked. Our approach has focused

- Skills that young people should develop before the end of the project.
- Making sure that content of learning/Teaching of Learning should be relevant to current curriculum.
- Staffing Structure should be in line with the organizational/project aims considering the financial implications.
- Good relationship should be developed within the partners including parents, students, staff, funders and the projects ethos and free admission would be promoted in order to encourage Somali young refugees taking advantage free educational support available to them.

Contribution to Equal Opportunities

The project always contributed to the value of achieving equality of opportunity for all students and staff in learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of gender, race, age, social class, disability, sexuality or characteristics which may give rise to unequal.

What the Charity's Funding Enable us/Activities were organized/took place.

The project set up educational activities as well as other opportunities that promote positive behavior and personal developments for the Somali young people in particular those participated the project. As a result, the grant offered made it possible that the organisation has been with responsibility to run the project effectively and maintained young people's progress of the activities provided.

The grant enabled us to bring in good tutors as well as external professionals from the voluntary and statutory sector that has the relevant experience with young people's educational curriculum and at the same time experience working with young people. The project also worked towards the developing self-esteem of the youngsters so that they can lead less isolated lives and become confident enough to be able to integrate with the mainstream society and be successful within the mainstream education sector.

Overall key subjects provided include;

Morning Sessions – 10:00-12:30

- Communication Skills
- Maths
- Information Technology
- Somali History
- Wise-up (youth justice - Gun, knife crime, & ant social behaviour) & Social Enterprise
- Health matters
- Information, Advice & Careers
- Being British Being Muslim
- Educational Visits
- Prevent Violent Extremism
- 'Breaking the Silence' Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Afternoon Sessions – 1:30-4:00

- Music
- Dance
- Drama
- Media
- Pool
- Arts, ICT & web design
- Cookery
- Sports (football, softball, swimming, volleyball, tennis)
- Additional communication skills & Talent Competitions

Delivering staff

The project was delivered highly trained professional tutors and assistant Teachers who are undergraduate and done Train to Trainer & PTSL accredited courses. We also invited external professional to deliver some of the morning sessions.

Delivering partners

The project was also supported directly and indirectly for the following organisations:

- Acton Community Forum
- Southall Community Alliance
- Acton High School
- Ealing Supplementary Consortium
- London Borough of Ealing
- Ealing Youth Service & CONNEXION-CFTB-Summer Uni
- Acton & West London College
- Ealing Police
- Safer Ealing Partnerships
- National Portrait Gallery

Students Analysis

Analysis based on the number of young people attended were 60 young people between the ages of 14-19 year olds.

Ethnicities 100% of the group were BME of which 99% are Refugees who Somali Background.

Achieved project expectations and Aims - Learning Outcomes

The project was able to raise the numbers of young people's attendance, participation and profile. Each SSU student worked towards achieving his or her own learning goal. Learning goals were agreed at induction between individual students and tutors. Following are some unique learning outcome examples:

- To improve my concentration skills
- To join in discussions
- To plan and organize my work
- To improve my spoken English
- To make a (oral) presentation in public
- To improve my vocabulary (to learn some posh words)
- To plan and write an essay
- To improve IT skills
- To write in Somali
- To learn acting skills
- To improve my football skills

Practical Results/Main areas had an impact/made change to the lives of the young people included;

The project served mainly young Somali people living in LB Ealing (a Neighbourhood Renewal areas), who face significant barriers to success in life as refugees, as ethnic minorities, as non-native speakers of English, and as residents of highly deprived housing estates with overstrained and poor local educational and recreational facilities.

Overall, the activity provided gave in-depth educational aspects and they also explored issues were related in their social context either locally or nationally. Main areas had an impact/made change to the lives of the young people include;

- Young people in the form of Lead reps were involved planning presentation discussions.
- Involved group discussion and learned about group work context.
- Planned and wrote together on their own script to use Awards Ceremony performances
- Learned about citizenship and explored youth culture issues in local and national level.
- Built self confidence through team work workshop activities
- Improved education & communication skills and promote independent learning
- Enhanced the education of young Somalis and increase their chances of success
- Provided a range of engaging educational activities and support students' progress
- Empowered young Somalis to help design their own study programme and set goals
- Provide peer mentoring for young Somalis with few role models in their own community
- Learned about film/media industry
- It gave confidence about using film/media equipments
- Learned acting and editing film process.

What remains to be done?

Our aspiration is always to facilitate success for the Somali young people in their lives and integration is mainstream society. These young people are normally come from refugee background from a failed state to which they cannot return, yet the hostility towards them as Muslims, refugees and as Somalis makes it impossible for them to feel at home and successfully integrate, and creates intractable identity conflicts

We are still feeling very confident that we will lead subsequently a moderate project that has a substantial broad benefit in particular educational benefit as well as social and citizenship aspects for these disadvantage Somali refugee young people.

There is also a major blending of academic and development wider recognition of the success and continuity of our project. However the project's success may not be tolerated within the climate of financial reductions are happening in the voluntary sector and may have impact on the whole project not to sustain in the future. But, Tallo is determined to do its best to develop appropriate learning programmes which reflects the educational attainment of the young Somali refugees.

Case History

Tallo's SSU project showed victory since bringing together more than 60 young people at the time of their holiday period at the Somali Summer University from all over West London/Ealing Borough. Following the appropriate programmes, participants took part in effective courses over three weeks delivered by qualified tutors, and external professionals.

Courses were aimed to be an opportunity to increase young people's talents and educational aspects, working with inspiring tutors, mentors and other partners on a wide variety of topics as well as creating opportunities to explore parallel activities including sports, drama/music/dancing and acting. Each course/activity culminated in performances leading concert at the end of the project which allow students to share their passion and creativity with audiences.

Project Critical Success Factors- Intended Outcomes/Achievements

Somali Summer University is Tallo's flagship project and demonstrated to be a real success for everyone involved. Feedback from the young people and staff show that the project has been a great opportunity that developed the Somali young people's self-esteem, increased motivation, their personal growth & development. We measured the project's success through good planning and team work, making sure that quality of provision in safe environment with quality insurance in place.

Trip: A trip to Thorpe Park took place at the end of the project.

Award Ceremony

An Awards Ceremony was held on the last day when all students received Certificates of Attendance and prizes were awarded to those who had contributed significantly to the project

Acknowledgement

We are all very grateful for the funding and support that Tallo has received from the funders mainly The Trust House Charitable Foundation, John Lyon's Charity, London Borough of Ealing's Holiday Grants Project Programme and Ealing Connexion's Summer Uni. We would not have been able to maintain and deliver well the project without your funding and appreciate all the support you have given us over the years.

APPROVALS

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Photos – See Enclosed