

YEAR 2024

RESILIENT MOTHERS MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2024.

PREPARED BY:
NGWAIN
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A WORD OF WELCOME FROM MME DELPHINE

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by Mme Lamfu Therese, invoking the Holy Spirit to guide the session. Mme Delphine then welcomed the mothers, expressing her deep gratitude to Professor Scott for facilitating the gathering. She shared her personal journey as a volunteer at Foundation Fact Orphanage. She highlighted her challenges while caring for children with special needs, particularly the struggle of enrolling them in schools due to high fees. Despite these difficulties, she recounted her joy in seeing one of the children excel at the orphanage. Mme Delphine also shared her experiences working as a volunteer at Timely Performance Care Center, a special needs school, where she witnessed the frustration and emotional pain mothers of children with special needs endured.

THEMATIC AREAS OF THE INITAITIVE

Mme Delphine shared three thematic areas she envisions for the Resilient Mothers initiative. Elaborating on the necessity fo focus on both.

- Create Awareness: Raising awareness about children's disabilities.
- Advocate: Advocacy for the needs and rights of special children.
- Empowerment: Empowering both mothers and their children.

BACKGROUND OF MOTHERS

Each mother introduced herself and provided information about their child's and their disability.

- Mme Lamfu Therese: 12-year-old son with Down Syndrome
- Mme Kana Collette: a 10-year-old son with Down Syndrome
- Mme Yvette Lucie: 14-year-old son with Autism and hyperactivity
- Mme Suwun Mary: 7-year-old daughter with Autism
- Mme Yvonne: 10-year-old son with speech and learning disabilities
- Mme Emilie Grace: 13-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter with Autism
- Mme Jeroline: a 9-year-old daughter with mild cerebral palsy and Autism
- Mme Delphine: 14-year-old daughter with cerebral palsy and Autism
- Mme Sylvie Manub: 7-year-old son with Autism

Special Educators Ms. Cleopatra and Mme Perpetua were introduced as resource persons to support the mothers.

CHALLENGES

1. Assistance Needs: Many children need help with daily tasks, making them vulnerable to abuse and neglect.
2. School Fees: The high cost of education for children with special needs creates a financial burden for families.
3. Parental Employment: Some mothers had to quit their jobs to care for their children, which resulted in financial difficulties.
4. Puberty: Concerns were raised about the challenges children face during puberty, particularly in terms of hygiene and emotional support.
5. Menstruation: Mothers emphasized the need for resources and guidance to help their daughters manage menstruation.
6. Social Stigma: Many shared painful experiences of rejection by schools and family members. Schools often directed them to special needs institutions that charged high fees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A counsellor and psychologist should be invited to provide individual sessions for the mothers.
2. Begin planning for the children's future beyond primary education.
3. Involve fathers in future meetings and activities.

ACTION POINTS

1. Organize a Menstrual Health Campaign on December 3rd for special mothers to share practical advice on managing menstruation for special needs children.
2. Schedule an online meeting for mothers to discuss experiences of stigma and discrimination.
3. Celebrate International Day of Cerebral Palsy on October 7th at Timely Performance Care Center with cerebral palsy children, starting with a live video on Facebook at 9:00 AM.
4. Plan a CRTV program with Auntie Becky, where mothers can share their experiences of stigma and discrimination.
5. Organize a Mother-Child Picnic in the future to foster bonding and relaxation.
6. Create a support group where professionals can offer advice on addressing specific challenges special mothers face.
7. Set up social media pages for Resilient Mothers to raise awareness and build a supportive community.

Closing Remarks

The meeting ended with positive energy and a sense of purpose. The mothers left feeling encouraged and empowered to continue advocating for their children and supporting one another. Mme. Delphine closed the meeting by thanking the mothers for honouring her invitation and called on them for their cooperation to make the initiative work.

ATTENDEES

- Mme Lamfu Therese
- Mme Kana Collette
- Mme Yvette Lucie
- Mme Suwun Mary
- Mme Yvonne
- Mme Emily Grace
- Mme Jeroline
- Mme Delphine
- Mme Sylvie Manub
- Ms Cleopatra
- Mme Perpetua

