

Kengele Children's Network (KCN) March 2010 Report



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Submitted to
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A Partnership between Be Kids and Child Peace and the Children of Korogocho

Introduction

During this period the emphasis was on the facilitators compiling the profiles of each child in the KCN Program, introduction of all the 200 children and their mentors. Mentors were also required to provide their detailed profiles and fill in a mentors' commitment form each. All this information is kept under strict confidentiality.

Activity One- 7th March 2010

Orientation of all the Children

After the process of mobilizing and meeting the children at the village level, all the children assembled at a central venue for orientation on the phase 3 of KCN and also meet other children who have been in phases 1 and 2 of the KCN to understand the whole concept of Kengele Network ideals and aims. The KCN children participated in creative team building exercises and formally introduced themselves to each other and expressed their commitment of children to meet each other on a Sunday afternoon.

In some of the villages, children exceeded the targeted limit of 20, while in other villages the turn up was low. This informed the facilitators as to where to focus to bring up the numbers where attendance was low and to enquire why this was the case. At the end the 20 per village was reached.



Activity Two - 13th March 2010

Profiling the Children's back ground per village

The facilitators embarked on an exercise to profile the details of the children participating in this phase of KCN. After a few weeks on mobilization and measuring the child's consistency and commitment to the process, it was necessary to formally book the children participating in the process.

The following are the details which the facilitators considered in the process:

- *Personal Information:* (Name of the Child, Gender, Age, Residence, School, Class, Health Status)
- *Family information:* (Parents/ guardian names, age, and age, Names of other siblings and their occupation)
- *Other personal information:* (Family economic situation, size of house signature of the parent)



Week Three 20th March 2010

Profiling Children’s Mentorship file

In their individual villages, the facilitators helped children ascertain their different academic aspirations of the children, setting targets to achieve them as well as a work plan on how to achieve their goals.

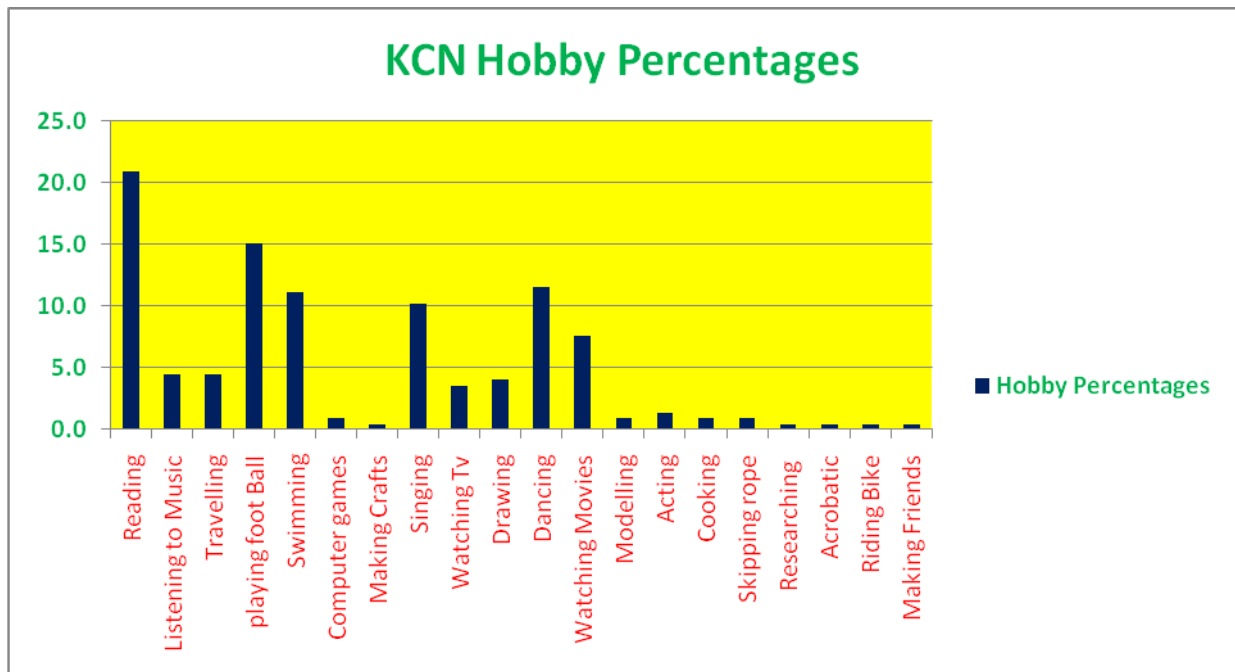
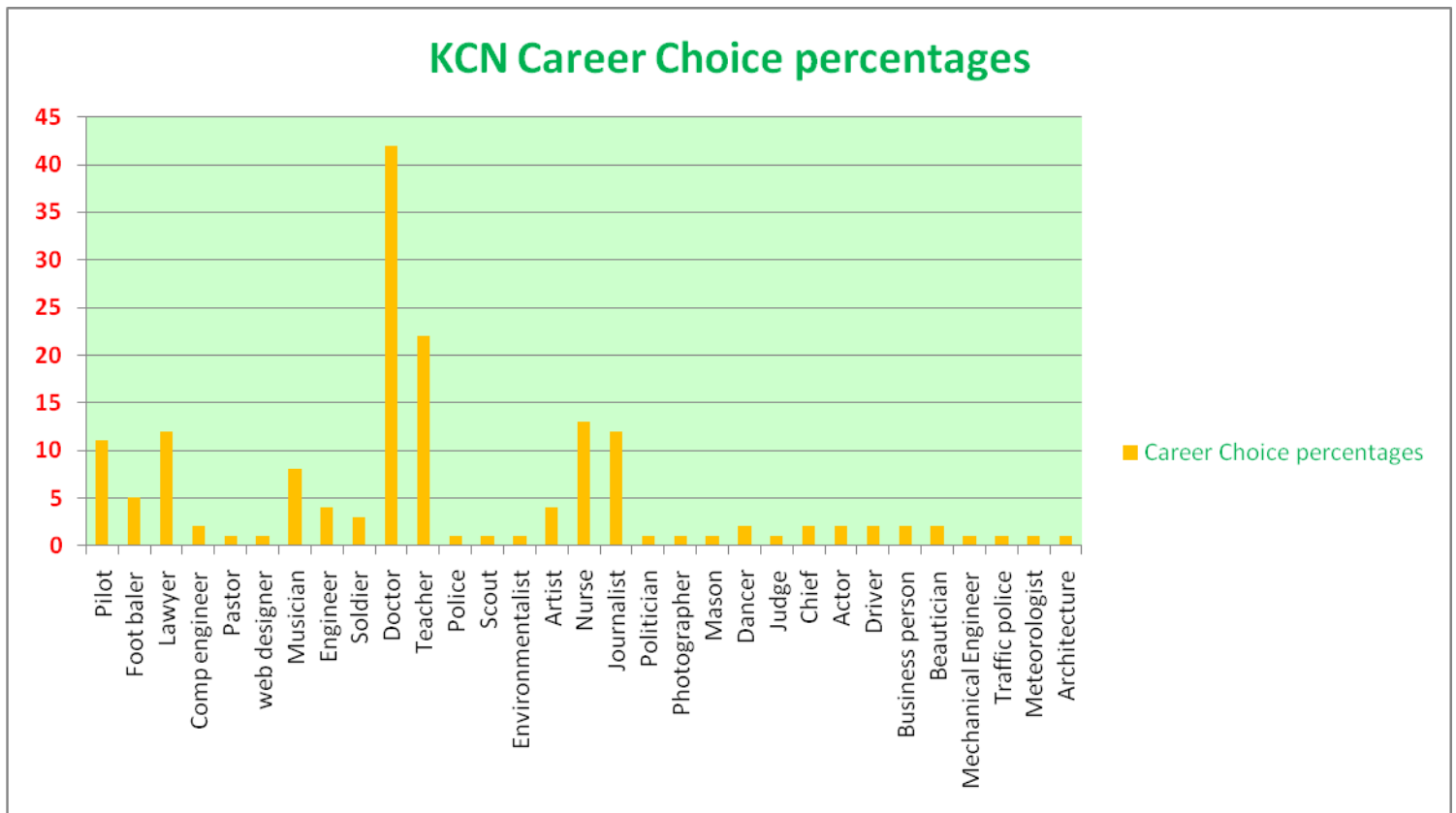
This exercise was not very easy to the children noting that most of the children are not given a chance to plan themselves by the social setup of our society and our education system. Therefore some of the children were not clear on what they aspire to become after school. The children therefore benefited from this exercise to a very large extent.



To help the Child be realistic in setting achievable goals, the following is a template of a table which every child was assisted to fill:

What do I want to achieve?	What will I do to achieve?	How will I do it?	How will I know that am doing well?	By when will I meet my goals?
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The following is the summarised statistical analysis of the careers and hobbies which the children are interested in:



From the analysis it is clear that a big percentage of the children still want to pursue professional careers like medicine, teaching, law piloting and journalism. Some of the reasons cited by the Children inspiring them to these professions include:

- Serving the community and improving the living standards of the people
- Fight for the rights of the poor
- Monetary rewards of these professions are good
- Dream careers to some of the Children
- Be able to address major issues affecting the community

Other careers gaining popularity among the children include: Music, Sport and Art. This may be due to a number of role models in the Nation and other places of the world being able to meet their needs and live decent lives through such careers. It was very encouraging to note the zeal and aspiration of the children to pursue service careers with a hope to make the society they are in, better.

The facilitators were also able to evaluate the subjects which children are best at and those they are interested in, in relation with their career dreams and goals.

It is jokingly said ***“if you want to hide something from an African, hide it in a book”***. This is because of the poor reading culture in our society. However, reading seems to be popular among the children with most of them saying they love reading story books and novels. It should be a collective responsibility in the community to nurture this culture among the children as they grow to be able to gain more knowledge and necessary information especially if they read important materials.

Sport, specifically football is also very popular among the children, probably due to the publicity of the European professional foot ball in our country. Funny enough, Children seemed to love swimming, yet there are no swimming pools in the community. But most of them practice swimming in unsafe waters, while others go to a public swimming pool once in a while when they can afford. However those going to Shepherds school can access a swimming pool in their school.

Children also love singing and dancing. Watching movies is also popular, however it will be important for the community to make sure that the material children listen and watch is safe and important for their socialization. Kengele project is hoping to introduce music and film activities to the children for educational/entertainment purposes.

Fourth Activity: 27th March 2010

Children’s meeting with the mentors

Those considered as mentors for the Kengele project are the people pursuing careers or studying to become what the children are looking up to become. Kengele especially encourages those who have grown up in the community and whom the Children can easily connect with.



Daniel from Day star University with the Children



Maina from Moi University with the children of Kisumu Ndogo

All the 200 children gathered at a central venue where they were divided in terms of their village representation. In these small circles the 15 mentors who turned up, went round the “village circles” talking to children to familiarize themselves, know and understand their different academic and career dreams.

It was also important for the mentors to test what kind of mentorship (individual or group) that they may want to embark on. Most of the mentors committed for both group and individual meetings. The mentor filled in commitment forms and were issued with a copy of dos and don'ts to follow in this process.

Other Activities every weekend:

Editing and finalizing the Kengele Magazine:

The Kengele magazine production process is a Children’s process. This particular edition of the March issue as earlier reported will have 17,000 copies to go to reach out to many other Children in other parts of Nairobi. The increase in the number of copies has been made possible by the partnership of APHIA2 Nairobi project that also work with other vulnerable Orphans and Vulnerable Children especially those affected with HIV/AIDS. The final print will be done in the first week of April due to a technical delay on designing.



First page of the March edition of the Kengele edition



The Children(with facilitators) who participated in the editing process

Mandarin Classes

Hardy Chen of the Confucius institute in the Nairobi University turned up and started the classes with 15 Children out of the 20 who are willing to be part of the classes from those 12 years and above. The tutor said that his institution has not formally permitted him to conduct the classes. He reported that the Confucius institute is more of a profit making. However he expressed interest to teach Mandarin to the Children up to October 2010 when his contract will be coming to an end. We will look for a replacement after that time.

He promised to be coming over to our offices every Sunday 2:00pm to 5:00pm for the classes. So far the children have been introduced to the language and the different characters and their combination.



Hardy Chen tutoring Mandarin to some of the KCN participants



Pausing for a photo after one of the Mandarin lessons

Arts and Craft- (ARTOTO):

Every Sunday concurrent with the Mandarin classes, the Art Children have been meeting and perfecting their crafts and art. The bonding of these Children are increased by the activities they engage with. The Children have continued using different safe materials at their disposal to create Art.

Team Building exercises:

At the village level the facilitators have continued to engage children in different creative team building exercises and bonding activities, to bond the Children together as well as making them a unit that agitates issues regarding their peers in the specific villages and the community in general.



Some of the Children engaging in arts during their Sundays practice



Team Building exercise in Grogon A during one of the village meetings

Joan Peters

30 April 2010