

Role of Mobile Youth Work in promoting democracy and peace in Kenya

It is not in doubt that Mobile Youth Work concept plays a significant role in promoting democracy and peace in Kenya. The enfranchisement of the vulnerable youth has created space for participation in democratic process, especially elections. The youth understand the process of election of legitimate government which can address their concerns. The Mobile Youth Work motivated the excluded youth to acquire official identification documents which are a pre-requisite to participation in democratic process in Kenya. Unlike in the past elections, an increased number of vulnerable youth cast their votes in the elections held in 2017. It is therefore important to note the participation of youth in election as one of the surest way of expanding democracy in Kenya.

Secondly, Mobile Youth Work emphasizes the component of group work which promoted social cohesion among the socially excluded youth. Consequently, the Street Children forum has participated in public participation which is provided for in the Kenya's Constitution. The Constitution requires that the public have a right to participate in the legislative process of the county and national legislatures. The youth have reviewed the debates before the county assembly and submitted their concerns for deliberation. In this sense, Mobile Youth Work has enhanced the participation of excluded youth in democratic and legislative process.

Moreover, the Mobile Youth Work is an agent for promotion of peace in Kenya. The youth took part in different peace initiatives after the 2017 elections were contested. They called for peace and non-violent demonstrations. The principle of solidarity encouraged the youth to be responsible for each other and seek common good. Unlike 2007/8 elections dispute which resulted into 600,000 people internally displaced, the youth did not forcefully evict people who do not belong to their tribes in 2017. This is a demonstration of the ability of Mobile Youth Work to contribute to peace in Kenya.

Last but not the least, tolerance and non-violence are among the virtues which the youth have embraced in Mobile Youth Work. The youth appreciate the strength in diversity and tolerate views, including religious and political tolerance. The virtues have contributed to peaceful co-existence in the community, and this achievement can result into peace and stability in Kenya.

In conclusion, Mobile Youth Work is a concept which has the potential to promote democracy and peace in conflict regions. It should be promoted as a best international best practice towards reaching the unreached youth, in order that no one is left behind.



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