

The District Council of Flacq has initiated the innovative practice of recreational shelters for the whole community. This is related to the SADC Protocol because it has a positive impact on both men and women, boys and girls, improving their everyday life and partnerships in working and living together. Education to sensitize the population on their rights and how to deal in case of various problems, women are aware of where to go in case of abuse (police and NGOs and etc...), education for development, children can become literate and learn IT skills, women can have social gatherings to talk on community problems and to find solutions. The main objective is to improve the welfare of the population in general. Before the construction of the recreational shelters, there were only village halls, and sub halls in all villages of the district council area. Before the intervention on raising awareness of gender based violence there were more cases but less reported incidence of sexual violence mainly because individuals were not aware of where to go, not aware of their rights, and afraid to come out and speak openly about this issues. As part of the recreational shelters, there are:

- Free trainings (handcrafts, swing, sowing, IT, cooking beauty care classes) are given to women of the localities in collaboration with the ministry of gender (...) and several other NGOs. Through these trainings these beneficiaries are able to find themselves employment, for example SUPER U employed many people recently that was able to take advantage of the trainings as well as different factories)
- To give access to education to poor children to the various localities (free remedial courses CPE students)
- The council also works with NGOs giving lecturers to children, painting sessions, they learn through sketches which is an ongoing project.
- Easy access to computers and various IT facilities for children to self educate themselves and enjoy free internet.
- Individuals can also take advantage of these recreational centres for social gathering, particularly those with no fix employments.
- Men also meet during the work where they play board games.
- Library facilities and can rent books including for research work - Also for senior citizens there are talks on education, hygiene and care - For women and men there are parenting sessions – how to deal with their children, how to behave and how to form their attitude.

The impact of this project has been a change in men's attitude and behaviour, they show more respect towards women, for example they are not objecting to women going to work as they contribute to the well being of the family on sustainable terms and these men as a result have become more open minded and this contributes greatly for the welfare of the family, affecting the children positively – the whole community and this impacts also the country as a whole positively.

Seeing the success of these recreational shelters we should encourage the setting up of an increasing numbers of similar shelters in other parts of the country so that the whole population can benefit from the facilities that are already offered and have been demonstrated as a huge success in Flacq.