

Beau-Bassin/Rose Hill is the cultural town of Mauritius with its theatre, the British Council, the French Cultural Centre and the Promenade Roland Armand



The Municipal Council of Beau-Bassin /Rose-Hill host one of the oldest theatres of the island.

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=23853

Photo:Mena Gopaul

Quotable quotes

Beau-Bassin/Rose Hill Municipal Council believe in the work of NGOs and hence not only give them funding but offices with all facilities for free. Media Watch Organisation gets an office for free in the heart of Rose Hill

COUNTRY	Mauritius
COUNCIL	Municipal Council of Beau-Bassin/Rose Hill
WHY SELECTED	Stage 9 of COE verification
Score when score card first administered	56 %
Agreed score at summit/during verification	83 %
Population	115,000
Key characteristics	Beau-Bassin is the heart of culture with the Plaza Theatre, the British Council, ancient buildings, churches. Arab Town Shopping Centres and different Kovils. The Promenade Roland Armand is THE place for joggers of all ages.
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Typical case

What was the situation before the intervention?



Gender Links helped to understand better the gender concept. GL helped to build up and brought a new dimension to gender issues with the first Action Plan that was developed and recently with the Centre of Excellence Process. GL helped in the presentation of a paper on the Local Economic Development of Women at the National Summit.

Staff of council participating in the cyberdialogue training at GL Office.

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=28972

Photo:Ghirish.

How has life tangibly and demonstrably changed as a result of the intervention?

The Council is gender aware and has a significant budget earmarked for women only.

With the gender neutral quota in the new Local Government Act, there has been a percentage increase from 23.3% to 33.3% women councillors in the council. Though only one out of 7 departments is headed by a woman, the voices of women are heard at the council and staff meetings. The newly appointed Mayor agreed to take up Gender Links documents and familiarise himself with the work. He said to be willing to work in collaboration with Gender Links as it makes 'progressive and sustained' development of women.



There are open days organised in collaboration with the Small and Medium Development Authority. The Council helps women to open small business in Rose Hill. One vulnerable woman got a kiosk at the back of the Council.

NGO's of the town participating in the 16 days campaign organised by the Council.

Photo: Mary Jane Piang Nee

The Council has a Club for its female employees and over and above works in close collaboration with women NGOs.

The Council was very active during the 16 days with marches and cyber dialogues. Women are now in male dominated jobs at the Council.



Deputy Commissioner of Mauritius Prison, G.Aubeeluck addressing to the children of Phillippe Rivalland RCA Primary School.

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=18426

Photo: Mauritius Prisons.

How do we know this change has occurred?

The Council worked on a project for the local economic empowerment of women from disadvantaged background for Beau-Bassin Rose Hill and this project was presented at the National Summit.

Media Watch Organisation has an office for free in the heard of Rose Hill. SOS Femme gets Rs.100,000 yearly so that they can cater for cases of domestic violence.

There is a market in Barkley put into place for women entrepreneur to expose their products in a safe environment. Also, the council makes provisions for women entrepreneur from Rodrigues to expose their products.

What are the characteristics of this group that distinguish it from the others?

All streets are lighted and have names. While walkers and joggers are in the promenade they feel safe as there is always a police patrol. Waste lands are cleaned on a regular basis.

It is among the few council that has women as waste collectors and street sweepers.

In the council kindergarten, one of the teachers is a man, which is a first as it was previously a job exclusively for women.

The Council has signed an MOU with LEAD, an NGO dealing with HIV/AIDS. It takes an

active participation in sensitizing the community. In addition, the council is proactive when it comes to GBV. It has offered logistic facilities in the form of a hall. Raymond Chal, where different organisations can distribute pamphlets or do their talks.

What changes in intervention design might or have been made to increase these benefits?



The Balfour Garden is opened to all the habitants of the locality and is a very nice place to have a picnic with splendid scenes of the Reduit Waterfall.
Photo:Ghirish

More workshops have to be done with the Council now that it has a new administration and more women councillors.

Work in collaboration with the women councillors and women involved in social work so that the COE process can be cascaded to the whole community.