

Good Teaching Makes our Project Special



Miss Amina Zubairu Dabo stresses repetition, number and letter recognition with the women and their toddlers in the women's literacy class



Mrs. Rosalind Diane Ede gives personal attention and listens to children recite during a lesson with the young boys.



Mr. Frank Collins teaches a young student how to hold the pencils correctly as he practices writing.

Below: Hadiza Mohammed corrects assignments for the toddlers.



As part of their community service project, senior students from Essence International School tutor all the learners at Rugan Fulani.



Friends and Visitors offer Motivational Counseling



Mrs. Kazaure (left) and Mrs. Waziri came to Rugan Fulani to encourage the students, counsel them, and find an Islamic teacher who would give them religious training.



Abubakar Mohammed visited The Open Classroom Secretariat where students have lessons on Tuesdays. As he interacted with them, his message was inspirational. He invited the students to think of all they could accomplish with the proper orientation.



Manga Bello of Spring Bank spoke to our students in Fulani. He emphasized the historical importance of education as mandated by Usman Don Fodio.

We have been fortunate to have friends who are willing to share their time and experience with our students. The task of educating a community to help itself demands the efforts of many people of goodwill. Our project at Rugan Fulani will someday become a model of community development, and for this reason, we need to do everything possible to encourage our learners to make rapid progress and get over the first few hurdles of number and alphabet recognition. From here we will have to move toward recognition of simple words and computing of simple math problems. Our adult learners are now reading short stories and answering simple questions in English. Building up their conversational skills includes interaction with guests and visitors.

Normally and naturally the nomadic Fulani are shy and circumspect. They do not mix their company, and are reluctant to talk about themselves or share information about their customs and practices. Even though they came to the Open Classroom for help, it took us a while to gain their confidence and trust.

The Fulani are now getting used to learning new things and seeing the world as a vast realm that they inhabit along with the rest of humanity in its diversity. We have been working closely with them for a few years, and they now feel fairly comfortable about relating some of their problems, concerns and hopes for the future. Especially when they see people who were once like themselves, but are now well educated and established, they begin to believe that they, too, can do grand things if they have the determination and support from their own community and from their friends.

We realize that it is difficult for them to strike a balance between the new things they are learning and the old ways that have been passed down to them for generations. Yet, as they strive to understand basic concepts in science and geography they are confronted with the unraveling of some preconceptions which they accepted as common knowledge. While we were teaching outdoors on the open field of barren farmland, the sun, which was not bothering us at the beginning of the lesson, suddenly became very bright and uncomfortably warming. So we had to move our chairs into the shade. Seizing upon this practical experiment, we explain that the sun is not moving, rather the earth is turning! A small introduction to celestial bodies!

A Lesson to remember: *An education becomes more valuable when it is shared. Both teachers and students leave lasting impressions.*