FGD with Sauwa Model Primary School Pupils and the Headmaster

1st June 2024

**Interviewer**: my name is Interviewer. I am a PhD student from xx University in xx. And it was part of my studies that I came here to discuss with you regarding some intervention you have been receiving from GHI, USAID and Kebbi state government, and how these positively impacted your lives, as well as to hear about your conditions before and after these interventions especially regarding water and toilet. Before we start I will you to tell me your names.

**Headmaster**: I am the headmaster.

**Interviewer**: how long have you been the headmaster?

**Headmaster**: since 2004

**Interviewer**: about 20 years now, right?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what is your name Usman?

**Headmaster**: opps... It was 2014.

**Interviewer**: okay.

**Speaker 28**: Sa’id.

**Interviewer**: what class are you?

**Speaker 28**: class 6

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Speaker 29**: Sada Adamu.

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Speaker 29**: class 6.

**Interviewer**: what of you?

**Speaker 30**: Kabiru Aminu.

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Speaker 30**: 6

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Speaker 31**: Amina Musa.

**Interviewer**: what class are you?

**Speaker 31**: *[inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: what about you her neighbor?

**Speaker 32**: Hafsat Sanusi.

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Speaker 32**: 6

**Interviewer**: and you?

**Speaker 33**: Habiba Haruna.

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Speaker 33**: 6

**Interviewer**: headmaster, tell us what have you benefitted from GHI in this school?

**Headmaster**: firstly, they built a toilet, hand-washing facility, and borehole which are benefitting us and other community members.

**Interviewer**: do you mean solar-powered?

**Headmaster:** yes.

**Interviewer**: so you have the tank?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: alright. So, students have been using with these new toilets?

**Speaker 28**: the population is very much so we have to make use of those ones.

**Interviewer**: what do you mean by those ones?

**Speaker 28**: those from the other side.

**Interviewer**: are they been built separately?

**Speaker 28**: no. they were built together.

**Interviewer**: okay, they were built together?

**Speaker 28**: I am just asking to know if they were built together.

**Interviewer**: headmaster, we need you to show them the new ones built by GHI.

**Headmaster**: for these ones, when we started making use of them, children have destroyed some portions of it, we then barred them from entering there, and they then started making use of those before they too eventually got destroyed.

**Interviewer**: what do you mean by those and these ones?

**Headmaster**: those that were not built by GHI. And for these ones… *[Indistinct chatter]*

**Interviewer**: so now, who are making use of these new ones?

**Headmaster**: mostly teachers.

**Interviewer**: teachers only?

**Headmaster**: yes, and not all of them.

**Interviewer**: then who are the teachers making use of them?

**Headmaster**: we have one female teacher.

**Interviewer**: why do other teachers not want to make use of them?

**Headmaster**: it was just their wish, and nobody asked them to refrain from making use of it, even the pupils they were barred from getting access to them due to that damage, they even destroy some gadgets whenever they went for sweeping.

**Interviewer**: have you ever made use of these new toilets?

**Group**: just for once.

**Speaker 31**: but we were warned not to make use of them when we destroy some portion of them.

**Interviewer**: you then move to the other one?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: does the one you continue making use of has a tap?

**Speaker 29**: there is no tap, we rather use plastic kettles.

**Interviewer**: if you were to be allowed to continue making use of the new ones, will you?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but headmaster, why can’t you show them how to make use of them properly?

**Headmaster**: we don’t have enough teachers, if we dedicated one teacher for this purpose, we may end of having a huge gap in our academic activities. So I think we need to have someone who will be manning the toilets because if somebody gets into them and excrete on ground nobody will be able to get into it peacefully. And people in the community too may be getting an information that if pupils excrete there they are been forced to clean it, which will be worrisome for us teachers because one may be thinking that we force their children into labor, a child may even stop coming to school because of that.

**Interviewer**: do you have an environmental health club in this school?

**Headmaster**: yes, we have it.

**Interviewer**: do we have a member of the club here?

**Headmaster**: I think…are you a member with the club?

**Speaker 29**: what club?

**Headmaster**: a health club we established with Malam Chika, I think, you were not part of them. But you are part of the club, and you also, right?

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Speaker 31**: I was part of the club.

**Interviewer**: are you also part of them?

**Speaker 31**: yes.

**Interviewer**: then what have you been doing in the club?

**Headmaster**: they abandoned their work.

**Interviewer**: but can you recall what you have learnt in the club?

**Speaker 31**: *[silent]*

**Interviewer**: what about you, can you recall?

**Speaker 32**: *[silent]*

**Headmaster**: were you not taught on… *[Indistinct chatter]*

**Interviewer**: you all can’t recall, right?

**Interviewer**: alright, who was the teacher assigned in the club?

**Headmaster**: Malam Hussaini, I think.

**Interviewer**: but I think the club will continue educating people on how to make use of the toilets.

**Headmaster**: that was the rationale behind it. But I can recall, the President of the outgone Class 6 students use to go round the toilets and make sure they were clean.

**Interviewer**: was he a student?

**Headmaster**: yes. He was a student; there was also a girl student alongside him. But the issue was that, they do not assign other students to continue after they have gone.

**Interviewer**: so that means that you did not assign leaders to these ones?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: then who is responsible for assigning the leaders?

**Headmaster**: we are responsible for that.

**Interviewer**: why you did not do that?

**Headmaster**: *[silent]*

**Interviewer**: you were carried away by other engagements in the school, right?

**Headmaster**: of course.

**Interviewer**: how many teachers do you have?

**Headmaster**: 6

**Interviewer**: what about students?

**Headmaster**: almost 1330

**Interviewer**: and you have classes from primary 1 to 6, right?

**Headmaster**: we even have those for nursery.

**Interviewer**: how many male and female teachers do you have?

**Headmaster**: five males and 1 female.

**Interviewer**: is she the only one using female toilet?

**Headmaster**: she too has stopped using it.

**Interviewer**: then who is using it?

**Headmaster**: she was the only one.

**Interviewer**: so that means by now no one is making use of it?

**Headmaster**: now the whole toilets are nonfunctioning.

**Interviewer**: why?

**Headmaster**: because there is no water.

**Interviewer**: but why do you lack water?

**Headmaster**: the well has run out of water.

**Interviewer**: you mean the solar-powered one?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: since when?

**Headmaster**: it was about three months ago.

**Interviewer**: what was the problem?

**Headmaster**: we just noticed that whenever we on the water it was not coming

**Interviewer**: what action do you take by then?

**Headmaster**: we then call the attention of Ashahabu and his team, they came to assess the situation before they letter on informed us that the situation is beyond their control, they also sent to us another person, they eventually open the well and bring out submersible, they went to Birnin Kebbi with it, and later on informed us that the situation is beyond their capacity, they had to take it to Sokoto. At that point we solicited for other people’s support during which a philanthropist promised to send his engineer and he came to assess the situation, and eventually he repaired it. However, after some moment we eventually realized that the problem was from the well.

**Interviewer**: so the well is now dry?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: after you realized that, what other action have you taken?

**Headmaster**: we are still looking for ways to repair it.

**Interviewer**: are you the ones looking for how to repair it?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: how do you intend to repair it?

**Headmaster**: if you can recall when the well was constructed it was handed over to us because we are in its immediate environment, we already have a committee where we contribute some money whenever the need arises, and under that committee, we even repaired some taps, so we make use of that money.

**Interviewer**: when do you think this borehole can be repaired? Do they tell you the amount that can be spend in this repairing?

**Headmaster**: when we were thinking that the problem was from submersible, they inform us that 250,000 Naira can repair it beside the transport fare from here to Sokoto. But after the boy came and informed us that the problem was not from the submersible, saying that the main issue now is from the well. We don’t know if the new well is to be dig, so we don’t know how much is going to be spend.

**Interviewer**: where do you fetch water now?

*[Inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: inside houses? Do you come with the water from your houses?

**Group**: we normally go to the people’s houses in our neighborhoods. Some even use to deny us.

**Interviewer**: why are they denying you?

**Speaker 29**: they said that they do not have water, some even tell us to go to the well and fetch, and even if we go there they do not lend us fetcher.

**Interviewer**: is the well in their house?

**Speaker 29**: it is here.

**Interviewer**: in the school?

**Speaker 29**: near the school.

**Interviewer**: don’t you have a fetcher here in the school?

**Headmaster**: no.

**Interviewer**: but why can’t you provide the fetcher for the students since they were denied it from other people?

**Headmaster**: we will make that provision.

**Interviewer**: where do you get toilet for your needs?

**Speaker 32**: we came with our water from home.

**Interviewer**: do you feel something in your mind due to this lack of water and toilet?

**Group**: we feel nothing.

**Interviewer**: do you want to go to school despite the fact that you know there is no water?

**Group**: yes.

**Speaker 32**: we use to come but others do not come

*[Indistinct chatter]*

**Interviewer**: from where have you been getting water for your usage?

**Speaker 29**: we don’t use water because the wells are not good.

**Interviewer**: and you too don’t have a fetcher?

**Group:** yes.

**Interviewer**: do you also beg it from other people’s houses?

**Speaker 29**: yes. And if we go to other houses they use to send us away.

**Interviewer**: but the solar-powered borehole reaches at least a year, right?

**Headmaster**: yes.

**Interviewer**: you use to get available water when it was functioning, is that?

**Speaker 29**: when the borehole was working we don’t have any problem, we even come out from our classes and fetch water at any time. But now the reverse is the case. And that hindered our studies.

**Interviewer**: you were also battling with the issue of water before having this borehole, right?

**Speaker 29**: yes.

**Interviewer**: you never had a solar-powered borehole before this one, isn’t it?

**Headmaster**: no. we only had the manual borehole, and it use to stop functioning always.

**Speaker 33**: but other people tried to repair it. How many times we have been repairing it but you eventually abandoned it?

**Interviewer**: is any one of you going to the bush whenever he/she wants to excrete?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but why can’t you use toilet, and prefer going to the bush?

**Group**: because there is no water.

**Interviewer**: what if there is water?

**Speaker 30**: if one of us intends to excrete he takes a kettle and goes to toilet.

**Interviewer**: so the old toilet you have been using doesn’t require water?

**Speaker 31**: yes. It is an ordinary local toilet

**Interviewer**: headmaster, how was your working relationship with GHI when they came to being in this area?

**Headmaster**: we really enjoyed our relationship because there were many things we don’t know before, however after their coming they guide us to know and continue using them, we are still relating nicely with them.

**Interviewer**: but don’t you think of something that if it was done in another way rather than it was done, may be a more desired result can be achieved?

**Headmaster:** I don’t think so, unless the issue of borehole that stopped, that was the only problem. However, before the borehole stopped everything was going smoothly. Even our relationship with our neighboring communities has been cemented due to this project, they use to consult us whenever something comes up, and I explain to them.

**Interviewer**: are you still maintaining that relationship?

**Headmaster**: yes, but not as before, because it was this borehole than bring us together and it is not function now, the water has stopped. Nevertheless, we will keep meeting to see how best we can solve the issue. There was even a time when a delegation from State Universal Education Board (SUBEB) visited us here and I complained to them about this borehole they however informed me that it was not part of their job.

**Interviewer**: sorry, where did you complain to?

**Headmaster**: SUBEB, primary education board.

**Interviewer**: is SUBEB not responsible for only secondary school?

**Headmaster**: no.

**Interviewer**: then whose work was that, if not them?

**Headmaster**: they informed me that they were not working in that regard, and I told them that I was just complaining so that if there was any possibility for that in the future.

**Speaker 33**: but do you have SBMC here?

**Headmaster**: yes we do.

**Speaker 33**: what about PTA?

**Headmaster**: we also have PTA.

**Speaker 33**: are they aware of this borehole issue?

**Headmaster**: yes, they are aware. The faulted items are currently under the custody of SBMC chairman. All the pipes and others are with him. He also played his part; he even reported the issue to the local government administrator but all in vein, even the local government council was aware of this issue.

**Interviewer**: are you a member in the SBMC?

**Headmaster**: I am the secretary.

**Interviewer**: who is the chairman?

**Headmaster**: one Alhaji Hali.

**Interviewer**: who is he?

**Headmaster**: he is the village head.

**Interviewer**: so now, do you have any additional information? Let me start by you.

*[Silence]*

**Headmaster**: do you hear him well?

**Group**: yes, we heard him.

**Headmaster**: if you have any additional information regarding the discussion, just say your mind.

*[Silence]*

**Interviewer**: headmaster, from your end, is there any additional information?

**Headmaster**: I am just soliciting for this borehole to be repaired. As a leader of this team, we solicited your help in this regard, because we and other neighboring communities are in critical condition due to lack of adequate water as even the local wells we have are now running out of water. And all the waters used by neighboring communities here cannot satisfy our pupils, and you all know that water is life. We therefore need your help in that direction.