

**SLDI Administration Track I 2018 in May, would not conclude the one month training without the field trip to Chipapa a project run by the Holy Rosary Sisters where the centre aims at development and empowering the local community in various activities as the vision entails “ A just society with human rights for all, in a healthy sustainable environment.**

The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, founded by Irish Missionary Bishop Joseph Shanahan in 1924, established its branch in Zambia in 1963.

The aim of the Congregation’s ministries is to reach out to the poor and marginalized. Therefore, the sisters venture into very remote areas where people lack basic necessities and formal education. Their service to the poor hinges on the principle:

“help the poor to help themselves.” Holding on to this principle with the generosity of good-willed people over the years, the Holy Rosary Sisters have lifted many out of poverty to a more dignified life.

As SLDI Administration group, we feel so encouraged, challenged and have been energised to do more when we go back to our congregations. All sisters serving in that remote area come from outside Zambia and they are all happy and contented with life in the outskirts there and we need to encourage our sisters to take up the apostolates.

The centre which was opened in the year 2011, is running a skills training school, offering courses in tailoring, catering, and food production to young boys and girls, many of them orphans or people who have dropped out of school. It is attached to TEVETA Institution.

It started with very few students who are from both the local area and far off places. Today the centre is offering courses to forty students. Some of which are boarders while others are day scholars. The major courses run for one year six months of which after one year students go for attachments. These attachments are done in places where the students have relatives and where the sisters could reach to observe them.

Upon completion of the attachments, the students give written reports to the centre on how the whole process went on. The students sit for exams given by TEVETA and by the Centre itself.

Our area of interest in this project is the tailoring department which has only five students. There is one sister teaching with another teacher. One tailor, a product of the same school is sewing different things like uniforms for the nearby schools upon ordering, makes uniforms for hospitality students. The department has only ten sewing machines. Since the department has few students, the sisters wish to extend it to the local elderly women and of course source funds for it.

Despite the fact that the sisters are doing fine in the project they have embarked on, they face a lot of challenges but at the same time have put remedies to that.

- Theft in the area – a police post is being constructed
- Cattle stealing – cattle now in a kraal
- Floods – drainages have been made
- Bush fires hence no orchard – they have temporarily stopped growing the orchard until the issue of bush fire gets sought out.

- Hammer mill gives them very little income because that is what the local people can manage
- Bakery not bringing in profit – it has closed for now

The sisters intend to build two more classes so as to allow more students to be trained at the centre.

Story submitted by group one

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