

RAISING ACHIEVEMENT AMONG SOMALI CHILDREN

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**SSE Graduation
4th June 2007
Town Hall, Lambeth**

Aayatiin Foundation
1C New Park Road, Brixton Hill London SW2 4DU

Mission

Our mission is to make positive dynamic transformation in our community through education and development so as to contribute by empowering functional educational skills.

Objectives

Aayatiin aims to provide community development services with especial focus on raising educational achievement of Somali children and young people.

Our Specific Objectives Are:

- To provide positive role model to children and young people in schools and colleges;
- To provide extra support using a community language in order to improve the level of achievement in education;
- To build confidence and to boost their motivation;
- To recruit and train bilingual volunteers from the community to assist Somali pupils;
- To provide advice, information, guidance and assistance to the community on education focusing on “*Every Child Matters Agenda*”;
- To organise forums, seminars and workshops to Somali parents on raising achievement among Somali children

Problems & Background

BBC estimated Somali population in Britain about 250,000 while the official census indicate 43,000.

Latest official statistics indicate over 1000 Somali children in Lambeth schools.

In Clapham Park area alone, there are over 120 Somali children attending 3 primary schools namely Kings Avenue, Richard Atkins and Glenbrook.

Over 50% of Orchard Primary School (the only Islamic school), Christchurch Road are Somali heritage background.

Combined research and consultations indicate multiple barriers preventing Somali children doing well at schools:

- only 13% of Somali children are fluent in English;
- 29% are in stage 1 & 36% are in stage 2;
- Most Somali parents have difficulties in speaking and reading English;
- Language barrier limits their communication;
- Ability to support their children in their studies are limited;
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- Lack of understanding of British Education system.

Why At SSE

To become one of the lead organisations for newly arrived communities particularly refugee background.

Recognising the fact of capacity building, the need to take this course was identified.

It is a part of community empowerment to take a proactive role.

Current Service Provision

1. Aayatiin Foundation has successfully run After School Study Support Programme for Somali children.
2. Provided a study support and mentoring programme in a number of schools including Lilian Baylis Technology School and Stockwell Park Secondary schools.
3. Organized regular consultation, social and educational meetings, which brought together Somali community, BME communities, residents, wider public, local authority and regional authority to discuss ways of improving community cohesion, inclusion and wider participation.
4. Provide numerous activities including football, basketball, table tennis and athletics to youngsters.

SOMALI DAY

Promoting Somali Culture: Part of Refugee Week

Saturday 30th June 2007, 10:00 to 22:00
Clapham Park, Lambeth

The main objective of the event is to promote and share Somali culture and traditions through cultural, educational and sports activities.

The event also aims to build an understanding as a part of a community cohesion and integration.

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