

Community Libraries in Namibia:

How Libraries Can Engage and Inspire

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Library Services and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Pateman and Williment, 2013

Self-Actualization

- Co-produce library services with community

Esteem

- Share power and resources with community
- Community has genuine stake in planning

Love/Belonging

- Create inclusive library environment
- Build relationships with community

Safety

- Work with partner agencies to offer financial, health, and education advice and assistance

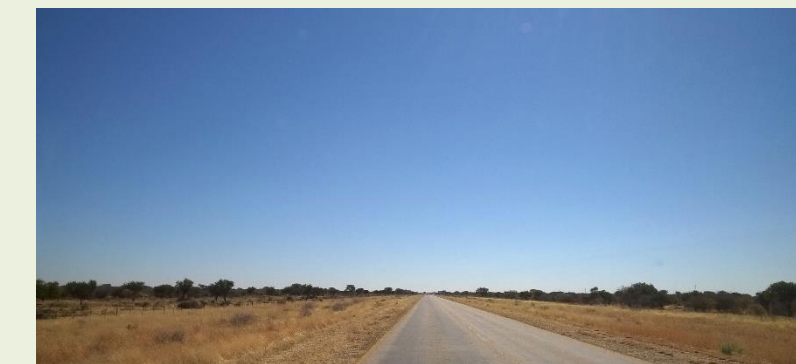
Physiological

- Work with partner agencies to meet housing, food, and clothing needs

Factors Shaping Community Needs

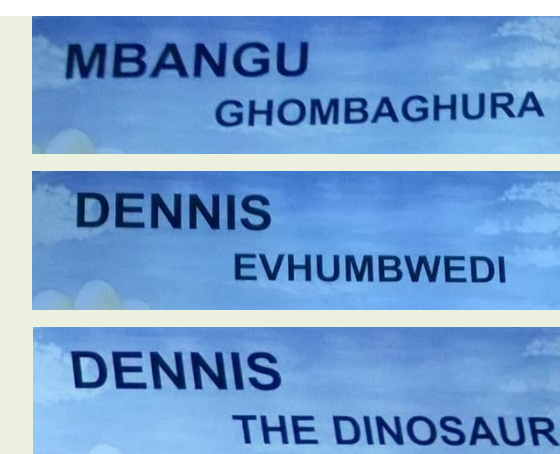
Geography

- Rural, distant cities
- Inconsistent utilities



Indigenous Culture

- Multiple languages
- Oral tradition of storytelling



Colonial History

- Libraries closed to non-whites during apartheid
- Groups forced to relocate (e.g. Katutura)

Greenwell Matongo Community Library

Partnership between Vantaa, Finland and the Namibian Ministry of Education

Katutura

- "The place where people do not want to live"
- Poverty, HIV, and orphaned children
- Economy: shebeens, car washes, and salons

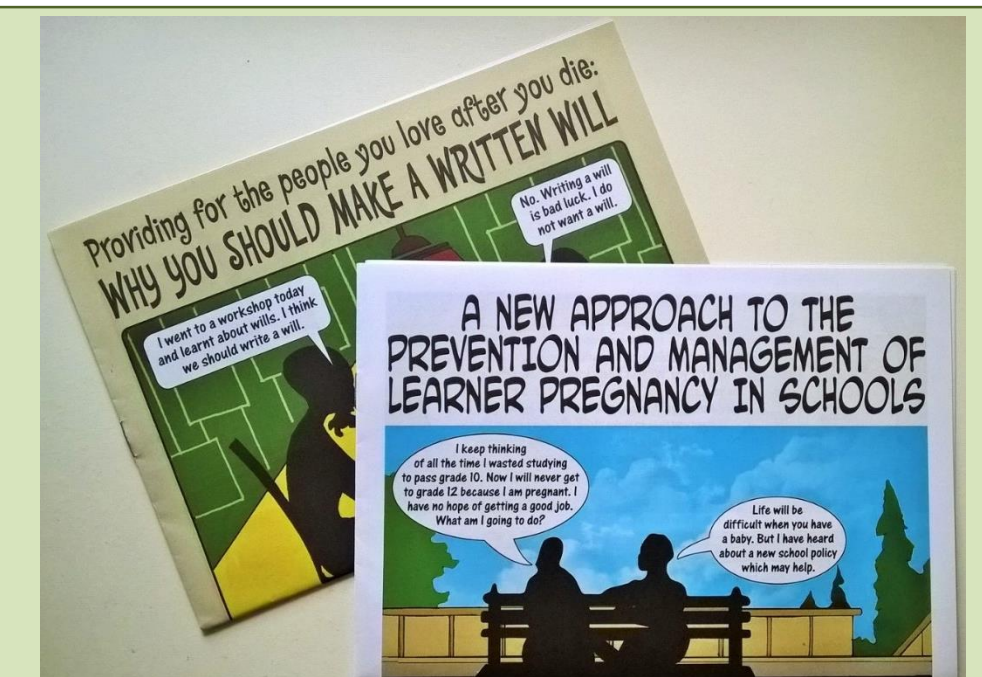


Library Services

- Study room, children's room, garden
- Computer classroom and training
- Larger community center offers social services

Conclusions

- Work with community leaders to identify all stakeholders
- Stakeholders identify issues of social and economic importance
- Break library traditions when necessary to provide staff and required resources
- Document and share successes with other communities



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