

Second Chance

When established, Second chance aims at turning around the lives of women who either are divorcees, Widows or simply single mothers faced with the herculean task of raising their children but have no source of livelihood to do so. They don't have any profession to lean on despite having bright academic backgrounds.

These women are many. They are in their late 20s ,30s or even have hit 40. They lack social support and are left on their own, usurping their dignity as human beings. They feel so depressed despite deep inside their hearts they know that they aren't academically handicapped.

Giving these human beings a second chance will bring life into their lives and with it the ripple effect that comes with empowering a woman. It will change them, their families, community and the entire nation at large.

How the idea was born.

I come from a family of four. The first born is a girl. So us the boys are sandwiched in between the two girls. I am the first son in the family.

Our first born completed her O-Levels and did quite well. Unfortunately she didn't qualify for the government sponsorship programme. This is a program that greatly subsidizes that cost of University education in Kenya making it within reach by many poor families hence narrowing the rich-poor gap. Unfortunately, this program a do or die for most O-Level graduates since there is a cut off mark for them to either qualify for it or have their lives condemned at the end of secondary education.

So as fate would have it, our elder sister didn't qualify for it. With no resources at home to take her to other alternative routes of post secondary education , she got married just a year after her O-levels.

Lucky enough, my brother and I qualified for the government subsidized university education. So we proceeded. We graduated later and started trying out life as any graduate would in a country where unemployment is at a high rate. Somehow life goes on.

On the other hand, the big girl in the family continued eking out life in her own ways with her family. As a family we lost our father. Five years later our sister also lost her husband. That was quite a blow to her. So after seeing her struggle with her 3 children as a single mother, I sold her the idea of going to university to earn her degree and perhaps open herself up to more opportunities.

It was the greatest joy for me seeing her accept to go to campus 20 years after her secondary education. I tried my best and supported her all the way even when myself was struggling. I knew that the only way her life would change was through letting herself know how to fish instead of giving her the fish. To be precise, her life has changed, she's now a more confident woman and even I found her a private school where she teaches. Her work is very much appreciated and she has even been given more responsibilities including being head of exams and she's indeed up to the task.

My cousin also graduated recently with an education science degree in her late thirties after I convinced her to go to university because she also had a great academic background . Today, she owes it to me for coming out strong to push her to study her degree.

Now, this is what I want to see many women also getting such second chances through **second chance**.

She's graduating this year December and I can't imagine the many things she will do for herself, her children, the community and this country at large.

What other organizations are doing and how different it is from second chance

There are many other organizations providing help to youngsters who just graduated from primary . They take them through secondary education all the way to university. This is equally good. But perhaps this youngsters come from families where their siblings aren't lucky to acquire such high marks to earn such scholarships. So just an individual in a whole struggling family is assisted but there is no current that when such an individual succeeds , they will try to lift up the siblings as well. So the mother still is depressed because she has other kids who need her help but she cant do anything about it.

Secondly,If the mother is the one who is empowered, assuming she has 4 kids, she will now empower the 4 in various ways in a way that will please her. But if we decide to help all the 4 kids as an organization, it will require more resources.

Therefore the approach of empowering the one mother is more economical, less strenuous as compared to the approach of going for her 4 kids for empowerment .

Strategic Plans to ensure sustainability

Second chance envisions to build strategic partnerships with major and stable employers nationally and internationally to make sure that the women who graduate are quickly placed into meaningful income earning activities.

Areas of training will major on marketable courses including education, medical, Technical among others. We plan to partner with national and county governments, parastatals, private sector etc for the purpose of placing our empowered women.

We plan to start from like 3 counties, then spread to regions and eventually nationally.

Second chance is the real redeemer of women who are living under the burden of responsibilities that only need empowerment to be able to comfortably perform what is required of them.