

# **REPORT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

## **PROJECTS EXECUTED**

- (1) Development and organization of a Library
- (2) Payment of school fees for thirty (30) students
- (3) Labeling of offices

## **LOCATION**

**GOVERNMENT DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KPEGE –  
MOKWA, NIGER STATE.**

**BY**

**HELEN NNEKA EKE**

*NGS/05A/0724*

*NYSC/UNN/2005/098937*

## INTRODUCTION

The word 'development' literally means the gradual growth of something so that it becomes more advanced. Community development on the other hand, refers to the individuals or people who reside in a particular area, country, etc. Hence, community development embraces all efforts, activities, inputs, etc that are designed to make for a change, advancement, growth of a given community.

On this note however, the National Youth Service Corps Scheme was established in 1973 in a bid to develop the potentials of Nigerian citizens. Towards this end, a community development service was made one of the objectives of **NYSC**.

Basically, in a bid to actualize one of the objectives of **NYSC** which is Community Development, some projects were executed in Government Day Secondary School, Kpege-Mokwa, Niger State, Nigeria as part of my contribution toward the development of the school and possibly, the local Government area. The projects executed are as under mentioned:

- (1) Development and organization of a library in Government Day Secondary School, Kpege-Mokwa.
- (2) Payment of school fees for thirty (30) students of the school
- (3) Labeling of offices in the school: Such as the Principal's office, the infant library, the Vice Principal's office (Academics and Administration) respectively, and other significant offices in my place of primary assignment (Government Day Secondary School, Kpege-Mokwa).

## MOTIVATION

When I reported at my place of primary assignment, I discovered that the school lacked a repository of knowledge which is an invaluable asset. Thoughts and ideas of how to go about such a project commenced in me, and before I knew it, my imaginations matured into realization.

Secondly, regarding the issue of payment of school fees for indigent students, I would say I had witnessed some cases of students who were not permitted to write some of their examination papers owing to the fact that they did not pay their school fees. But I personally discovered that it was not because those students did not wish to pay, but that they could not do so as a result of poverty. This discovery was made, after some series of interview and interaction with some of such students. Then I thought of helping some of them by assisting to pay their school fees for one term.

Thirdly, the issue of labeling of offices came up when I got tired of differentiating between the offices of the two existing vice principals as they were not labeled. I also could not imagine that a principal's office was not labeled, but it was so in my school. The above reason gave rise to my decision to label the offices, including the school library which I developed.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS

### **(1) PROJECT 1: Development and organization of a library in Government Day Secondary School, Kpege-Mokwa.**

The above-stated project comprises the under- mentioned:

- (a) A total of eight standard mobile shelves
- (b) Reading desks alongside some seats for the library clientele.
- (c) A total of One Hundred and Fourteen (114) most recent text books were donated by the National Library Lagos, virtually covering all subjects such as English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Geography, Agriculture, Commerce, etc.
- (d) Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan equally assisted in the project by donating Ninety Three (93) updated text books.

- (e) A total of 70 Newspapers were donated by Philanthropists in the vicinity and neighboring town.
  - (f) Forty Two (42) magazines such as TELL, Newswatch and other inspirational pamphlets were also donated and all the above listed number of books were adequately registered and serially organized in the library situated in G.D.S.S. Kpege-Mokwa.
  - (g) The library room with two ceiling fans to aerate the books.
- (2) **PROJECT 2: Payment of school fees for thirty (30) students.** A total number of thirty (30) indigent students were selected for this purpose. The school Principal assisted me in obtaining the students' addresses. The Parents Teachers Association (P.T.A) levy was part of the payment.
- (3) **PROJECT 3: Labeling of offices:** The offices labeled are as follows:
- (a). The Principal's office
  - (b). The Vice Principal Academic's office
  - (c). The Vice Principal Administration's office
  - (d). Staff room 1
  - (e). Staff room 2
  - (f). The school library

### **CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED**

I encountered numerous challenges/problems during the course of executing these projects. At the initial stage, I faced serious financial constraints as intended donors were not responding at all. This made me start off the project with my personal money which I did not budget or, because as a Corper who earned stipend as monthly salary, I did not have enough to even sustain me. Despite that, I made sure the project was at least on a crawling level for a start off.

As time progressed, people started responding to my call for financial aid. One of the major challenges I encountered was with my fellow corpers who probably underestimated my capabilities as I was one of the youngest corpers of my batch and most of my colleagues called me sarcastic names like 'small corper', 'smallie'. Nonetheless, I was not moved because I knew what was ahead of me and where I was going; I was focused on actualizing the project.

## **EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED**

Apparently, I gathered a lot of experience during and after the execution of the projects. In terms of human relationship, I learnt how to socialize and interact with people, irrespective of their age or position. When I was sourcing for funds, I met with all calibers of people whom I interacted with on several occasions.

Secondly I learnt how to express myself in a bold manner. I can say that boldness has become part of me. I remember when I visited the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) headquarter at Abuja, I demanded to meet with the CBN Governor (Professor C. Soludo). I mustered courage in spite of intimidations from workers there. I was eventually taken to the eleventh floor, the Governor's office, though I did not meet him on seat.

Thirdly, a lot of questions and worries arose from people I sought financial aid from, and so, I practically learnt how to negotiate with people by improving upon my negotiating skills which I had been trained to an extent, on how to negotiate with people during the NIA (Ndu Ike Akunuba) Leadership Institute training which I obtained as an undergraduate.

Fourthly, I learnt how to observe protocol in offices and other places and also, how to relate with one's boss at the office.

Additionally, I can say I learnt how to be persistent and resilient in pursuing a course. I practically visited an office for about ten (10) times without any positive feedback except at the eleventh (11th) visit.

I also learnt how to take risks. Risk taking formed a major aspect of my project because I was always on the move from start to finish of the project – both local runs and inter-state runs. My trips to Lagos, Ibadan, Ilorin and Abuja can attest to this.

Finally, I learnt how to be persuasive. It is not easy to persuade people, but by virtue of this project work, I persuaded an individual until he gave me the last dime in his pocket.

## SUGGESTION

### **Need for Continuity**

At this juncture, some reserved suggestion from me, are that the NYSC body should ensure that corpers embark on community development projects in their places of primary assignment.

### **Need for Improvement and Maintenance**

The projects already carried out by corp members should not be neglected. Instead they should be appreciated and maintained by the NYSC, the immediate community and and the society at large.

## CONCLUSION/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In conclusion, I would like to wholeheartedly appreciate God for his wisdom, grace, enablement, inspiration and protection upon my life during this project and always.

Indeed, a tree cannot make a forest. This is because good number of people contributed immensely both financially, morally, materially and otherwise, to ensure that my dream got fulfilled. Such persons I desire to list thus:

Chairman, Mokwa Local Government Area

Mr. Bala Shabba Makka (Manager, Nigergates)

Mr. Irelewuyi (Federal Road Safety Corps Unit Commander, Mokwa Unit Command)

Mr. K. C. Ochu (My Zonal Inspector, NYSC)

Dr. E. K. Tsado (Provost, College of Agriculture, Mokwa)

Manager, Modiya Yekope Community Bank, Mokwa.

Mr. Martins Kalu (Manager, Salihin Guest House, Mokwa)

Alh. Meriga (Manager, Conoil Filling Station)

Manager, of A. P. Filling Station, Mokwa

Manager, Total Filling Station, Mokwa.

Philip Obidinanwa (Manager, Golden Emman Filling Station, Mokwa)

Mr. Musa (Librarian, College of Agriculture, Mokwa)

Manager, 7up Bottling Company, Mokwa

Manager, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Mokwa

Mr. Rinaldi (Manager, Borini Promo, Mokwa)

Mr. Abubakar (F. R. S. C., Unit Commander, New Bussa, Niger State)

Mr. Martins (Dealer on Motor Spare Parts, Mokwa)

Mr. M. K. Musa (Mokwa Magazine editor)

Of course, I will not fail to acknowledge the National Library Director, Mr. Gbadamosi, for breaking protocols for my sake by attending to me promptly and despite his tight schedule, arranged a vehicle for me to be transported to where I could carry the books donated to me same day of my visitation to the National Library. I was indeed favoured.

Also, Mrs Scott of Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, acted like a mother to me and supported my efforts with 114 books and wished me well.

My fellow Corps members were of immense help to me during the commissioning of these projects by coming out en masse to grace the occasion, and also helping to arrange the library before the occasion kick-started.

Special thanks goes to corper Chinedu Nwani, who spent time with me at the computing centre, reading through the manuscript critically, with objective criticisms and valuable corrections. May you accomplish a bigger project and may God bless you.

Corper Chika Obiorah – our CLO (Corpers' Liaison Officer), thank you for your incessant phone calls to feed me with needed information and for helping me to give finishing touches to my Projects.

The entertainment for the day's occasion was supported and made possible with donations of drinks from Coca Cola and 7-up bottling companies, respectively.

My principal was very supportive from start to finish of the projects. He granted me leave for the short and long travels I embarked upon in the course of the projects. He also linked me up with his brother who helped me with accommodation when I went to Lagos National Library.

What more can I say? My Zonal Inspector was the one who actually engineered the inspiration I had regarding the Library development Project. He sparked up the desire in me to leave a mark with the projects. I am ever grateful.

And to my parents and siblings who have always been my source of encouragement in all endeavours, I say a big thank you. To my dad (Professor Anthony Nnaemeka Eke), I say 'thank you' for training me in one of the best Universities in Nigeria – University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I promise that by God's grace, I will achieve more than you have always wished me to achieve. May God satisfy you and mummy with long life, Amen!

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Aside from the projects I executed, I participated in some other activities both in the NYSC Orientation camp and in Mokwa – my place of primary assignment.

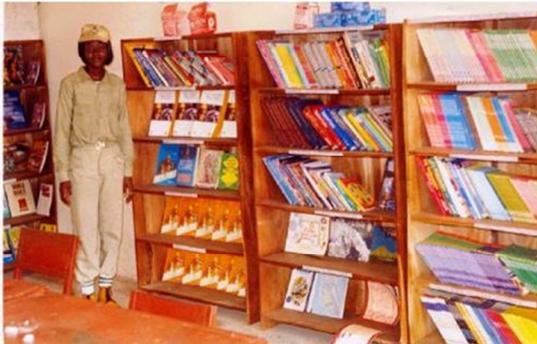
I assumed the post of the Cadet Registrar of my club – Federal Road Safety Club. As a UNICEF- trained Peer Educator Trainer, I trained forty (40) Peer Educators in my place of primary assignment.

### **CAMP ACTIVITIES**

In the camp, I participated in drama, inter-platoon cooking competition, HIV/AIDS Peer Education Training class, Miss NYSC, parade and early morning drills.

### PICTURE ATTACHMENTS

Helen posing in the library



Helen taking officials round the library



Helen receiving the Governor's Award



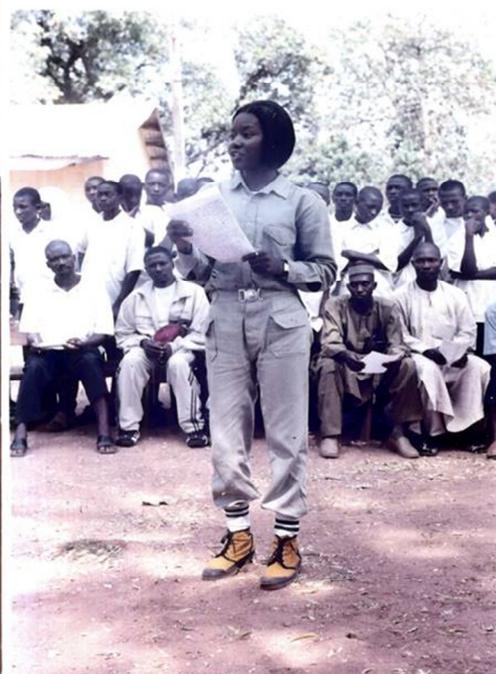
Helen taking officials round the library



Entrance to the Library



Helen giving an opening remark during the commissioning of the Projects



Helen presenting the bursary recipients



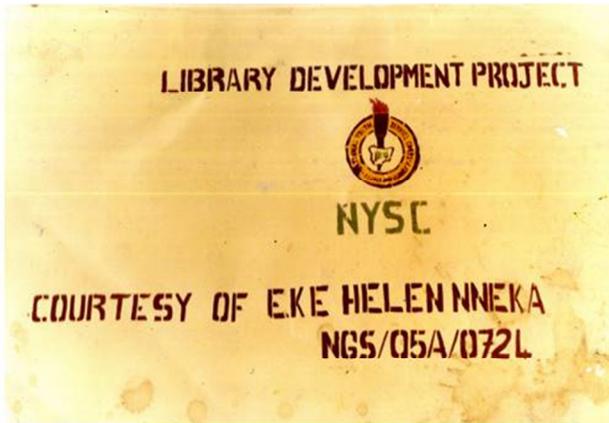
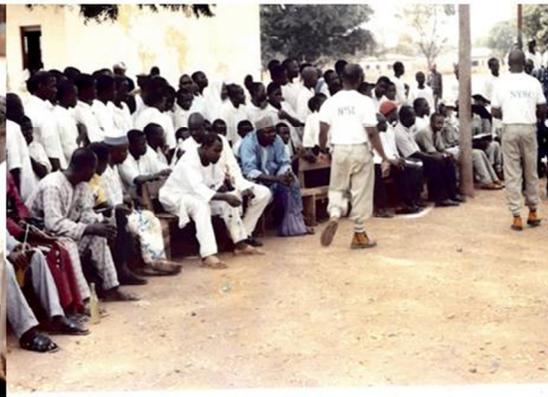
Commissioning of the library project



Helen presenting school fees to the recipients



A Cross-Section of the attendees



Inscription on the Library wall



Students reading in the library



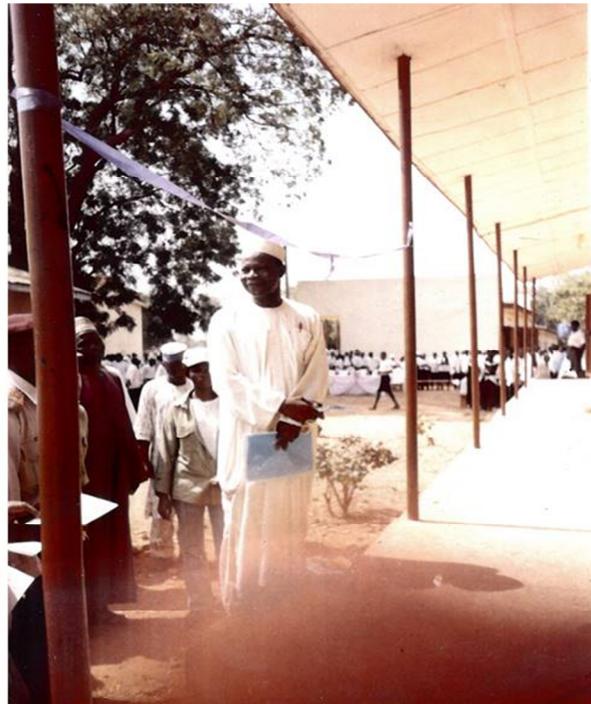
Officials at the occasion



Teachers and other visitors



Mr. K. C. Ochu (NYSC Zonal Inspector) at his speech



The Principal of the school, leading the officials to commission the library project



Snapshot with some of my female students



UNICEF-Sponsored NYSC HIV/AIDS PET Group



Ready to be called up for the Award



Snapshot with some of my male students

**NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS  
NIGER STATE**



**Certificate of Merit**  
THE N. Y. S. C. STATE GOVERNING BOARD  
Has awarded this Certificate to  
**Eke Helen Nneka (NGS/05A/724)**  
For his/her meritorious service to Niger State during  
the Batch A / 2005 service year

  
GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE

  
DIRECTOR, N. Y. S. C. NIGER STATE.

CHAIRMAN N. Y. S. C. STATE GOVERNING BOARD

**NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS  
NIGER STATE**




**CERTIFICATE  
Of  
Merit**

The Authority of **D.S.S. Kpege Mokwa**  
has awarded this certificate to  
EKE HELEN NNEKA.  
for his/her Meritorious Service to the School  
and Community during the Batch A  
2005 service Year

  
PRINCIPAL

**Day Secondary School  
KPEGE MOKWA.**  
P. O. Box 63, Mokwa, Niger State.



Our Ref:..... Date: 12-01-2006  
Your Ref:.....

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION IN RESPECT OF  
CORPER EKE, HELEN NNEKA (NGS/05A/0724)**

On behalf of the school authority staff, students and the community, I wish to express our profound appreciation for the time, money and energy spent on building a mini-library for the school (GDSS Kpege). This will in no small measure inculcate reading habit in staff, students and the community at large. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thanks

Yours sincerely,  
  
**A. KUSSMAN**  
Principal

**Certificate of Completion** 



This is to certify that  
**Eke Helen Nneka**  
Successfully completed the  
**PEER EDUCATION TRAINING COURSE**  
under the  
**NYSC Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Project**  
(Supported by UNICEF)

From 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2005.

  
NYSC Director - General

  
UNICEF Country Representative



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION  
NYSC ROAD SAFETY CLUB

**Certificate of Membership**

This is to certify that

EKE HELEN NNEKA

(Name of Corps Member)

Served satisfactorily as a member of the NYSC Road Safety Club with the MOKWA UNIT Sector Command

From 10TH APRIL 2005 To 20TH JANUARY 2006 As CADET REGISTRAR

In accordance with the provision of Section 11 (1) of the Federal Road Safety Commission Act 141 of 1990 Laws of The Federation of Nigeria

Dated This 20TH Day of JANUARY 2006

 [Signature]  
f: SECTOR COMMANDER

[Signature]  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
SPECIAL MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT  
RSHQ, ABUJA



**LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE**

Helen Eke

has successfully completed the NIA Leadership Institute and Skills-Based Training Program

*Congratulations!*

[Signature]  
Mrs Ndidi Nwuneli  
Founder

[Signature]  
Dr. (Mrs) Rina Okonkwo  
Executive Director

NIA is a nonprofit organisation which is committed to empowering young Igbo women to achieve their highest potential in life

## EXPENDITURE

### EXPENSES ON TYPING AND PHOTOCOPYING OF MATERIALS

MATERIAL	NATURE OF EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Appeal Fund Letters	- Computer typing and printing - Photocopies (100 copies)	<del>₦</del> 60 <del>₦</del> 5 each
Proposal Letter	- Computer typing - Photocopy of 3 copies	<del>₦</del> 30 <del>₦</del> 15
- Computer typing	- Computer typing - Photocopy of 3 copies	<del>₦</del> 50 <del>₦</del> 15
Donor Card	- Photocopy of 50 copies	<del>₦</del> 250
<b>Total</b>		<b><del>₦</del>920.00</b>

### EXPENSES ON TRANSPORTATION FARE OUTSIDE MOKWA

DESTINATION	DURATION OF DAYS	AMOUNT
Kenneth Dike Library, Ibadan	Five	<del>₦</del> 10, 700
National Library, FCT Abuja	Two	<del>₦</del> 4, 500
National Library, Lagos	Four	<del>₦</del> 7, 200
Rofap Bookshop Tanke, Ilorin	Two	<del>₦</del> 2, 000
<b>Total</b>		<b><del>₦</del>24, 400.00</b>

### EXPENSES ON BIKE FARE TO VARIOUS DONORS

Four Thousand Naira (~~₦~~4, 000.00) only, was spent on bike fare both within and outside Mokwa. This was as a result of repeated visits to intending donors who would always give repeated appointments.

### EXPENSES ON PHONE CALLS

Phone Call Recipient	No. of times	Amount spent
Oladunni Pharmacy	3	<del>₦</del> 60
Unit Commander, FRSC	6	<del>₦</del> 120
UBA Manager	4	<del>₦</del> 80
D. P. O.	1	<del>₦</del> 20
UTOPS, FRSC	2	<del>₦</del> 50
Zonal Inspector	20	<del>₦</del> 400
Mr. Philip	10	<del>₦</del> 200
Coca Cola Manager	6	<del>₦</del> 120
Mr. Martims	2	<del>₦</del> 40
Mr. Arinze	1	<del>₦</del> 20
Mr. Gbadamosi	5	<del>₦</del> 100
Salihin Manager	7	<del>₦</del> 140
<b>Total</b>		<b><del>₦</del>1, 350.00</b>

**EXPENSES ON CONSTRUCTION OF SHELVES**

<b>Number of Shelves</b>	<b>Amount of each shelf</b>	<b>Total</b>
Eight (8)	<del>₦</del> 2, 000	<del>₦</del> 16, 000

**EXPENSES ON PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES FOR GDSS STUDENTS**

<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>School Fees Per Student</b>	<b>PTA Levy per student</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
30	<del>₦</del> 200	<del>₦</del> 100	<del>₦</del> 9, 000

**TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ALL EXPENDITURES**

$$\del{₦} 920 + \del{₦} 24, 400 + \del{₦} 4000 + \del{₦} 1, 350 + \del{₦} 16, 000 + \del{₦} 9, 000 =$$

~~₦~~

**55, 670. 00**

**CITATION ON EKE, HELEN .N. (NGS/05A/0724)**  
**BY MR. K.C. OCHU (ZONAL INSPECTOR)**

On April 13 1982, when a baby girl was delivered into the family of Prof. & Mrs. A.N. Eke of Enugu-Ezike, Enugu State, little did they know that young Helen was going to be an award winning Corps member someday, somewhere. Today, we are all assembled to witness the actualization of Miss Helen Eke's entry into the hall of fame, for outstanding corps members who have served the nation outstandingly.

It is therefore with exhilaration joy and with a very high sense of fulfillment that I rise to introduce this young lady, Helen Eke for the conferment of an honour award.

Such is a graduate in Library and Information Science from university of Nigeria Nsukka, where she made second class honours (Upper Division) in 2004.

Helen, a repository of knowledge, an embodiment of hard work, coupled with a very high sense of responsibility and initiative, is a corps member of worth that cannot be easily forgotten, overlooked or neglected. Helen reported faithfully to camp with other potential corps members the day camp opened for their batch. To her, coming to the orientation camp was just one of the exciting moments she had been looking forward to during her undergraduate days. To her it was an experience that God had mapped out for her to take her into her great destiny. So, her successful completion of the orientation came as a dream come true. With her mind made up and prepared, she accepted her posting to Niger State with great zeal and enthusiasm. It is common knowledge that most prospective female corps members prefer to be deployed to serve in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt or other choices taken (where they can "bubble" maximally). Helen was less concerned with influencing her posting to any choice state. She came to camp with her mind prepared and ready to participate in all the camp activities, which according to her, held the glamour and challenges of the service year, she quickly registered and settled

down to active camp life, while others were still grumbling about the camp. Right from the onset she understood that the orientation course was designed to prepare corps members for a successful and effective service year. She took every aspect of it seriously, took part in all the camp activities such as drills physical exercises, parade, Man .O.War activities, endurance trek, mountaineering, Miss NYSC, Drama and other inter-platoon competitions. At the end of the orientation course, she reported quickly to Government Day Secondary School Mokwa, where she was posted. She was assigned to teach English language, which she carried out diligently and **excellently** throughout the service year. The commendation letter can be testified to by the **commendation** letter from her employer.

In addition to being effective and efficient in her primary assignment, Helen distinguished herself in other tasking endeavours. It is recommendable to note that Helen was a **Peer Educators' Trainer** and an Executive member of the **Road Safety Club** as the **Cadet registrar**. She manifested her inbuilt personality traits of reliance, adaptability, determination endurance, ingenuity, and resourcefulness in all the activities she took part in.

In the course of the service year, Helen as is characteristic of her, always determined to leave a mark in the sands of time, decided to bring the impart of her career to bear on the school. The zeal in her to dissipate knowledge and information, which is her calling by training, drove her into establishing a school library for Government Day Secondary School, Mokwa.

She quickly approached the school principal, who allocated a room for the project. Before then, there was no school library in the school. The PTF books belonging to the school were locked up somewhere in the principal's office.

Helen quickly made bookshelves and renovated the room and set out to acquire books for the library. She embarked on books drive to the National Library, Lagos; Kenneth Dike Library at University of Ibadan; Book publishers at Illorin and other individuals.

It is pertinent to note that the project involved a lot of funds for their execution. She successfully survived for funds and was able to complete the following projects.

1. Library Development project for G.D.S.S., Mokwa: This Library houses textbooks in almost all the core subjects e.g. Mathematics, English Language, Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, agriculture, Economics, Commerce, General Knowledge, Social Studies, Technology, and Encyclopedia etc. In all, Helen donated the following books to the library.

-Books from National Library, Lagos	-- 114
-Books from Kenneth Dike Library, Ibadan	----93
-Newspapers	----70
-Magazines	----42

2. Payment of one term school fees and PTA levy for 30 students at a cost of ₦9,000.00(Nine thousand Naira).

3. Labelling of key offices in the school. Such offices include the principal's office, the VIPs (Academics and Admin.), the two staff room and the school library.

4. Seminar on the use of library for students.

Earlier, Helen had organized services of sensitization and enlightening lectures, on the use of library for the students. She will continuously develop a library staff on the issues involved in mandating, cataloging and rendering library services in a secondary school.

It is obviously clear that these projects have been successfully executed. It is however difficult to qualify in financial term, what Helen has accomplished in these projects. The cost of

procuring these materials (207) of standard textbooks from National library and University College of Ibadan library best imagined. The impact of the knowledge that these books and magazines will impart to the users cannot be assessed easily. The result of the training on the use of management and cataloging of the library for staff and pupil's of the school is also better imagined.

On the whole, the total communal empowerment accruing from these lofty projects, over the years to come is with millions of dollars, which the community may not be able to afford or receive from the Government like the saying goes; knowledge is power, Helen, by these projects have empowered the children of Mokwa and deserves to be so recognized and rewarded with a meaningful award such as the state governor's award.

May I therefore, on this note present Miss Helen Eke, an irrepressible achiever, who in the face of discouragements, and criticisms from cynics, starred, sweated, struggled and made sacrifices just to empower the youths of GDSS Mokwa for this prestigious award. May I therefore, with a salute for her patriotic zeal and commitment to the growth and development of children, may I now call on Miss Helen Eke to step forward for her award.