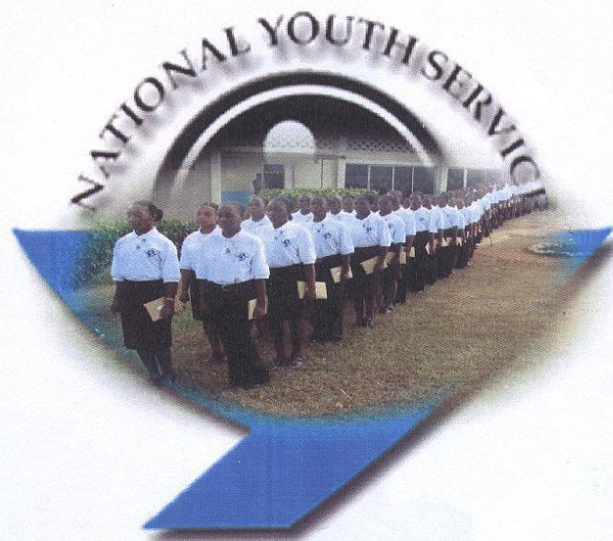


NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE
ANNUAL REPORT

2007/2008



Vision Statement

“A Powerful Youth Citizenry: Constructive in cultural and social relations and productive in wealth creation.”

Mission Statement

“To create a cadre of young people – well socialized, confident, self reliant and creative; who through involvement in voluntary activities contribute to personal, community, national and international development.”

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Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors



The National Youth Service (NYS) must be commended for the work carried out in the FY2007-08. The Agency which has been in an expansion mode for the past three years continued on the path of growth resulting in an increase in the training target for the Corps Programme. This Programme is of utmost importance in the national landscape due to its pro-active approach to two problems; the unattached youth and youth unemployment.

Essentially, the training offered by the Agency achieved the main objective of honing competencies and inculcating the right values and attitudes in the youth while equipping them for the world of work, thus preparing them to operate in the global economy. The experience acquired by these young people is of a high standard and places them in an advantageous position in the labour market.

We salute our partners both in the private and public sectors that have played a strategic role in national development. They assisted the NYS in developing the human and social capital of Jamaica. The input of these Organisations especially in corporate placement aided the NYS in its drive to offer positive alternatives to our nation's youth.

The Board of Directors express our gratitude to the youth. As they articulate and matriculate to new dimensions the National Youth Service gains in credibility. We are also appreciative of our partners who have assisted in making the FY2007-08 a success. Finally, congratulations are in order to the NYS team for carrying out their functions in a selfless manner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K.P. J.', written over a faint blue line.

Mr. Keith Duncan
Chairman, Board of Directors, NYS

Message from the Executive Director



The NYS advanced its commitment to both institutional strengthening and expanding its reach during the FY2007-2008. Remaining honest to its vision and mission, a number of significant growth areas were established in terms of milestones.

With reference to institutional strengthening, considerable progress was attained on several fronts of which three will be mentioned. Firstly, critical steps were made in making the case for a Policy Based, multi-phased loan for youth development from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). If agreed, the loan would make it possible to employ the requisite number of field staff to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the agency; upgrade select offices; undertake feasibility work towards a new campsite and increase ICT capabilities of the Agency.

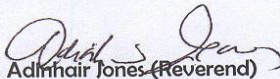
The loan will also provide for piloting a special project to target unattached youth with low levels of literacy and numeracy with a view to facilitating their entry into vocational training. In particular, students who exited the education system at grade nine and are unable to matriculate to vocational training aligned to national certification standards would be engaged through the project.

Secondly, the NYS is expecting from the IADB a Social Grant to conduct an Impact Study and to establish the mechanisms for longitudinal studies. The mechanisms will further accelerate the thrust of the NYS to become more evidence-based in its programmes and projects offering.

Thirdly, the Republic of Korea through their Korean International Cooperation Agency is in the process of arranging a grant to the Agency, in the form of state of the art ICT lab infrastructure for training sites, field work and wide area network. This will relocate the NYS strategically to diversify the technologies used in training and administration. The NYS will continue to work with the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

Every addition to the NYS must be linked to the overarching goal of impacting more Jamaican youth through positive youth development. As such, we note that 5,600 participants were involved in the 13 corps in the NYS. While the direction is positive, there are too many youth now excluded who must be brought into this service-learning programme. The situation of youth beckons all persons of goodwill to rethink a plan of action to facilitate hope for alienated and disfranchised youth, who are being called unattached in more recent times.

As the NYS stretch to become more and to do more, we extend appreciation to the Board of Directors, staff, donors, partners and all stakeholders for the enviable support and encouragement received throughout the year.


Admhair Jones (Reverend)
Executive Director

Introduction

The National Youth Service (NYS) offers training and placement opportunities to the nation's youth. However, there is a resocialisation component in all the Programmes administered by the NYS which is geared towards the modification of attitude and behaviour.

Annually, a Retreat is convened whereby the activities of the Organisation for the following year are discussed by the Board and Staff. Over the years, these discussions have resulted in the development and implementation of new initiatives as the Board and staff seek to further the cause of the NYS.



Although, the core function of the NYS is the implementation of the Corps Programme, the Agency administers Programmes such as:

- Success
- Jamaica Canada Youth Exchange (JAMCANYE)
- National Summer Employment (NSEP)
- Jamaica Values and Attitude (JAMVAT)

The Agency continued on the path of growth and the following reflects the achievements in the FY2007-08:

PROGRAMMES

Non-Residential Training

The non-residential training which was instituted in the previous financial year as a pilot was implemented islandwide in the FY2007-08. It was instrumental in meeting the needs of many young people who would have otherwise found it difficult to access the training due to numerous reasons. Of importance, the non-residential training also catered to the specific labour market needs in the parishes.

Partnerships

A number of partners from various sectors in the society were engaged in the FY2007-08. These partnerships were essential in assisting the Agency to meet the training needs of the youth. The partners who were instrumental in these initiatives were as follows:

GOVERNMENT OF KOREA

The NYS entered into discussion with the Government of the Republic of Korea in which assistance will be received to upgrade its MIS facility. Under this agreement, two state of the art IT labs will be outfitted at the two training sites, Knox Cobbla Campus in Manchester and the Eco-Village Chestervale in Chestervale, St. Andrew. Additionally a Lab will be constructed at the NYS Head Office to facilitate the training of young people from innercity communities in computer repairs.

This assistance is welcomed as the Organisation seeks to augment its functions in this era of technological advancement.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Youth Development Loan

The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) initiated discussions with the Government of Jamaica regarding a youth development loan. If approved, the loan will facilitate the much needed institutional building of the NYS in addition to the implementation of a new programme which will target young people with literacy problems.

National Youth Service Impact Assessment Study

The discussion also includes the NYS benefitting from a social grant which is earmarked for an Impact Assessment Study. It is expected that this Study will provide the NYS with vital evidence of the impact of its Programmes on its target population, the youth.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The NYS introduced an Emergency Corps in the FY2005-06 which facilitates the training of young people in emergency management. The partners include:

Red Cross
NSMWA
Fire Brigade
Parish Authorities

St. Johns Ambulance
NWA
Forestry

ODPEM
JCF
NGOs (conservation focus)

NEPA
JDF

Upon completing the training the young people are placed within Organisations and Agencies of Government, such as the Parish Disaster Committees, that are a part of the disaster response network.

To date a total of 864 young people have been trained and are available to be called in the event of disasters by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and other response agencies.

HEART TRUST/NTA CERTIFICATION

Steps have been advanced to fulfil certification standards in the NYS Training Programme; thus the alignment with the competencies of the NCTVET. This partnership facilitates the NYS participants being certified in their areas of competence.

EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION TASKFORCE (ETT)

Special emphasis was placed on the training of young people in the Early Childhood Corps. This was aligned to the Education Transformation Taskforce (ETT) in which the objective was that the NYS would contribute to supplying annually a total of 5,000 Teacher's Aide to Early Childhood institutions islandwide. The training is undertaken in collaboration with the Early Childhood Unit of the Ministry of Education. It is important to note that since 1999 a total of 9,265 participants have been trained in the Early Childhood Education Corps.

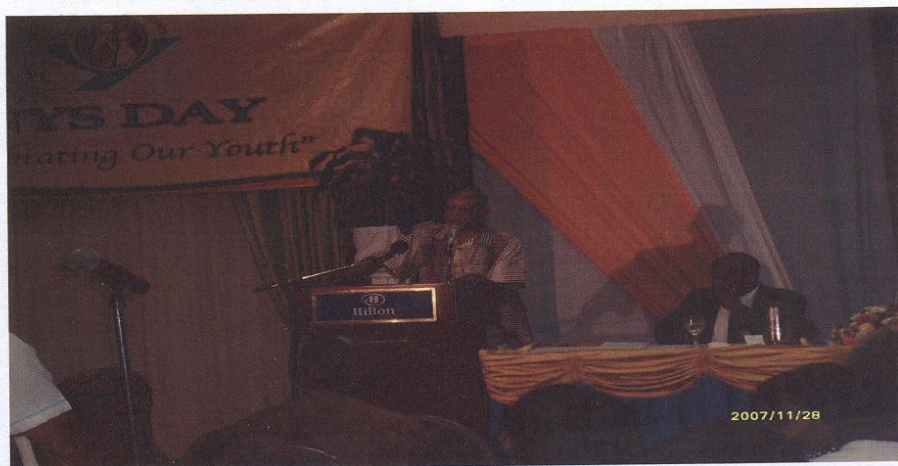
Mention should be made of the partnership with the Rural Family Support Organisation in which select NYS participants from the Early Childhood Corps are assigned to the Roving Caregivers Programme for a period of one year. The objective of the Programme is to provide early stimulation for children in the 0 – 3 age group from economically challenged households who are unable to support kindergarten services.

DIGICEL

A pledge of J\$3m was made by Mr. David Hall, CEO of Digicel to the Early Childhood Education Corps.

The NYS is grateful for this contribution as it is a reminder of Digicel's commitment to the youth of this nation.

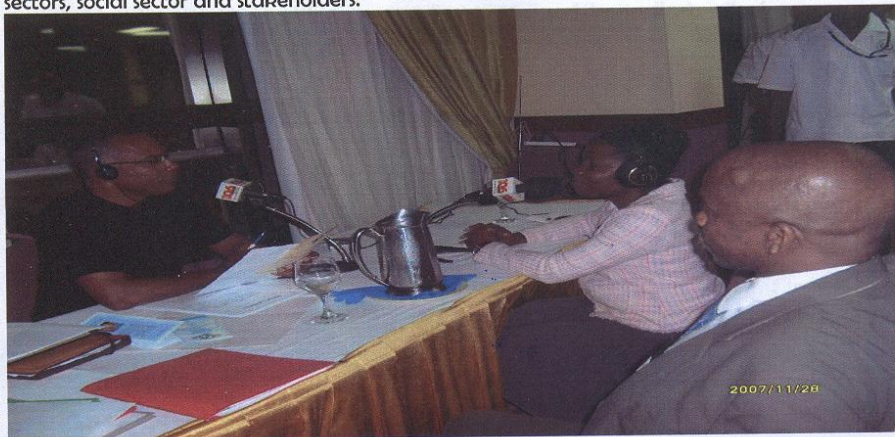
National Youth Service Day



The main activity on the National Youth Service Day on November 28, 2007, was the Second Annual Public Lecture which focuses on issues relating to the youth. The Lecture series was created as a result of a request from the members of the public for a forum to discuss the concerns surrounding the youth.

The theme of the Lecture was, *'Resocialisation of the Youth: The Way Forward for Jamaica'* and was presented by Professor Barrington Chevannes, Director of the Centre for Public Safety and Justice at the University of the West Indies.

In attendance were the youth, representatives from the diplomatic corps, public and private sectors, social sector and stakeholders.



The Corps Programmes

The NYS offers training for a period of four weeks and gives the participants the opportunity to gain further work experience in an Organisation for six months.

There are numerous benefits to be derived from participating in the Corps Programmes. Among these, the participants are afforded the opportunity to gain meaningful work experience which enables them to better secure permanent jobs. Of significance, each NYS participant who applies for financial assistance is granted 22% of their tuition fee once they apply within two years of completing the Programme. Additionally, they are given the opportunity to access NHT benefits based on the contributions made by the NYS on their behalves. All NYS participants are also afforded a stipend fortnightly.



A participant who has entered the Corps programmes is a benefit to both the workforce and the country in that the training would have started the process of behavioural change. This renewed social capital is important in facilitating a culture of citizenship, civility and productivity.



In the FY2007-08 a total of 5,600 participants were trained and placed in thirteen (13) areas:

- Clerical Administration
- Customer Care
- Sales and Administration
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Peace Facilitator
- Early Childhood Education
- Primary Education
- Leadership
- Health Facilitator
- Uniform and Conservation
- Emergency Management
- Micro-entrepreneurial

Graph 1: Number of Participants Trained in the Corps, FY2007-2008

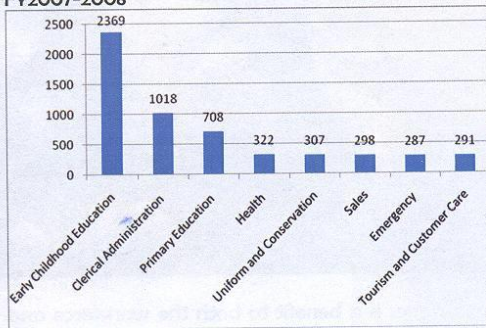
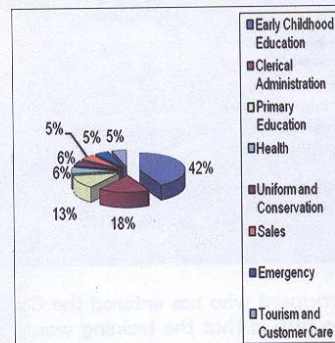


Chart 1: Percentage of Participants Trained in the Corps Programmes, FY2007-2008



Percentage of Participants placed in the public and private sectors, FY2007-2008

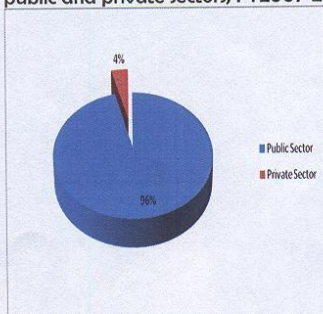
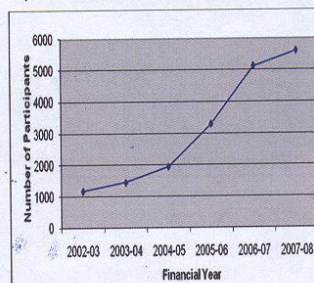


Figure 1: Number of Participants Trained and Placed, FY2002-2003 to FY2007-2008



Testimonial from the Corps Programme



Mr. Glenroy Mason
Clerical Administration Corps

Before entering the National Youth Service (NYS), I was classified as a "street boy" by society. From where I stood, it was impossible for me to see past my present because I had no hope until I was introduced to the NYS by Father Donald Francis of the Carter Hall Cathedral in Half-Way Tree, Kingston. The NYS was then a means of disguising my past, by trying to fit in with others I considered to be more fortunate than I was.

The day I was called by NYS was a very significant moment because that is when my life began. I was selected to attend the non-residential training Clerical Administration Corps. I was then placed at the Social Development Commission (SDC) where I worked as a Data Entry Personnel.

While working at the SDC, I learnt work ethics such as punctuality, professional attire, efficiency, time management and maintaining professional standards. I also realised that dedication is necessary for success and that I should engage in voluntary service.

I can proudly say that NYS has empowered me to educate myself and I have become more knowledgeable in areas that were once strange to me such as, the computer.

Today, I can say that I am definitely on my way to real success and thanks to the NYS I am more confident.

Testimonial from the Corps Programme



Miss Monique Smith
Primary Education Corps

I thought that life was over for me after I left high school and I was not as successful as I had hoped to be.

I was at home for several months not knowing what the future held for me. I was aware of the National Youth Service but was unaware of the Corps Programme until a friend of mine who had been a participant in the Programme told me about it. I did not know what to expect but I really needed a way out so I applied and anticipated my call.

The training was a whole new experience because emphasis was placed on time management and the importance of punctuality. Both, among other values have helped to shape my philosophy and world view.

After being trained, I was placed at the Cavaliers All-Age School and then in the Accounts Department of the Social Development Commission (SDC).

Thanks to the National Youth Service, at the end of every two weeks I was remunerated with a stipend which assisted with transportation, lunch and personal purchases. Although it was difficult I re-assured myself, that I could have been at home unemployed and where would I have acquired the experience and knowledge that I have gained.

I can say it was worth it because the National Youth Service has facilitated my independence. I am presently employed at the SDC and will be pursuing my level 3 certificate in Electrical Installation at the HEART Training Institution in Portmore.

The Success Programme

The Success Programme which has been in operation since 2004 is strategic in that it is a preventative measure to the social deficit that the country currently faces. It was introduced as a solution to the anti-social behaviour portrayed by secondary school students. The Programme which is year long targets students in the 13 – 17 age group and is made up three (3) components:

Pre-Residential

The activities include:

- Meetings being held islandwide with the principals of the secondary schools
- Assessment of each participant
- The engagement of the parents

Residential

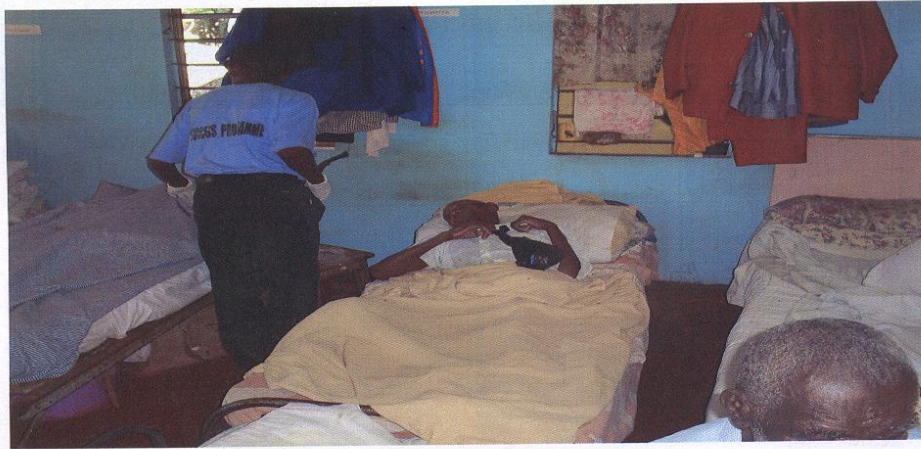
A three week behaviour modification camp is held in the summer for the participants.



Post Residential

The values that were instilled in the first phase are reinforced. The activities are as follows:

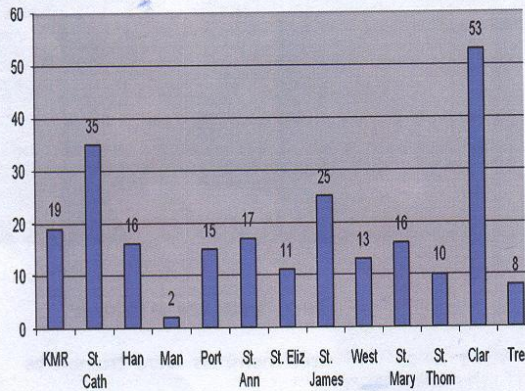
- Enrichment Workshops
- Mentoring Programme – For the first time 15 NYS staff members were trained as Trainers of Mentors by the HEART Trust/NTA-NCTVET
- Community Outreach Project – This was a new initiative and some of the projects undertaken were; refurbishing of golden age homes, painting of the Bustamante Childrens' Hospital as well as motivational presentations at school



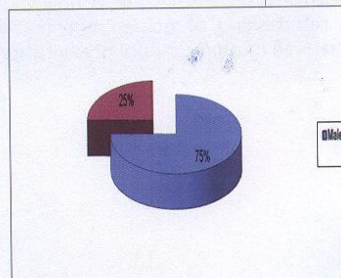
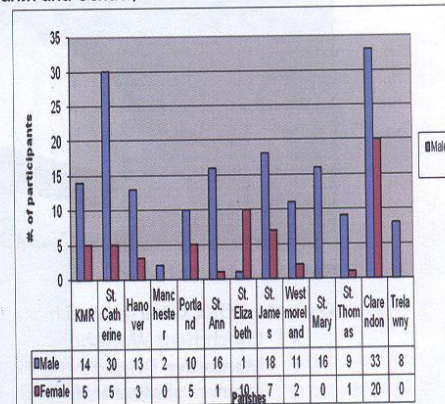
The residential camps were conducted in two phases, July 12 – August 2, 2007 and July 14 – August 3, 2007 at the Sydney Pagon Agricultural High School in St. Elizabeth and the Garvey Maceo High School in Clarendon respectively.

A total of 247 students were selected to participate in the Programme. Since it is more likely for males to display anti-social attitude and behaviour 186 were selected and 61 females.

Graph 2: Participants in the Success Programme by Parish, FY2007-2008



Graph 3: Participants in the Success Programme by Parish and Gender, FY2007-2008



Testimonial from the Success Programme

Mr. Rushaine Grant
Kingston

The National Youth Service has done a good job on me because I was really troubled and needed help. I use to smoke, was disrespectful to teachers, read about guns, fought a lot in school especially the younger children and steal their lunch money. I once stole from a supermarket and my mother had to pay for the goods.

My behaviour became so unbearable that the school that I attended recommended me for the Success camp. On the camp I learnt about farming and also self esteem. Now, I attend the workshops and we are taught how to behave in school, we are also encouraged to attend school and that we should learn to read and write.

Through the NYS Success Programme I have turned my life around. I have been shown a better way to live and not to destroy myself, my hope and my future.

Today, I am not a perfect person because I still have some behaviour that need to be changed or improved but I know I am a better person. So I want to encourage others to go to the camp because if it was not for the NYS I would not be where I am today.

I want to thank the NYS for making me into who I am because of their belief that I have what it takes to succeed and achieve my goals

The Jamaica Canada Youth Exchange Programme

The Jamaica/Canada Youth Exchange, is an outcome of a protocol agreement between Canada World Youth and the Government of Jamaica for the purpose of jointly carrying out an inter-cultural youth exchange programme. In the FY2007-08, nine (9) Jamaican participants were selected to participate in the Programme which was based in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada and in Brown's Town in St. Ann, Jamaica. The duration of the Programme is seven (7) months.

The focus of the Programme is on community development, literacy and cultural exchange. For both phases of the programme the participants were placed in schools, literacy outreach centre, resource centre and learning centres in keeping with the objectives.

Participants organized Literacy camps in the communities, for children in early childhood and primary educational institutions. They also conducted workshops on topical issues such as globalization, politics, culture and the environment.

Community activities in both phases of the Programme included socials, cultural presentation and fundraising activities. While in Canada the group along with assistance from the Rotary Club of Truro secured books and distributed them to schools and libraries in the Browns Town community and adjoining areas. There was also a writing competition for students in the community, where entrants were asked to write stories about the community of Browns Town. Weekly French classes were held at the Brown Town Community College for member of the community, these classes were conducted by the Francophone Canadians.



Testimonial from the JAMCANYE Programme



Mr. Simon Malette-Brochu
Quebec, Canada

I have grown so much as a result of participating in this Programme. I found the experience at first to be challenging but my Supervisors advised me to "trust the process," and I am glad I did.

The experience has assisted me in learning a lot about myself, that is, the contribution that I can make to the world. I especially value the lessons I learnt from my Jamaican host mother who showed what it is to love unconditionally.

While dealing with the shock of living in another culture was intense, my experience in Jamaica has inspired me to take a closer look at becoming a teacher, something which I never imagined.

I am glad I applied, happy I stayed and confident that I have become a stronger, more aware citizen of this world.

The National Summer Employment Programme

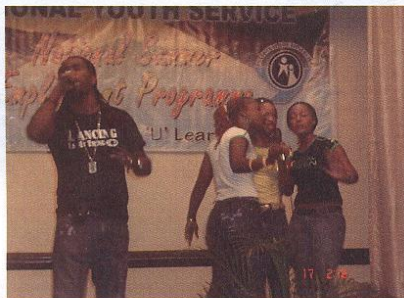
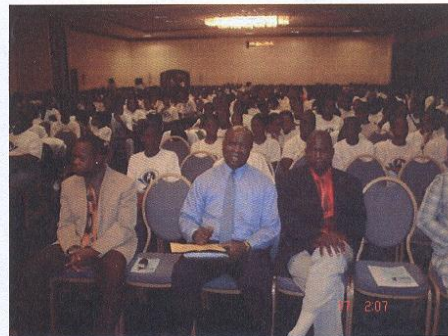
The National Summer Employment Programme (NSEP) which targets secondary (4th to 6th form) and tertiary students has assisted students with their back to school expenses since its inception in 2000.

An increase in the budget from J\$40m to J\$60m resulted in a total of 5,569 participants being engaged. The distribution ratio of 70:30 was maintained in favour of secondary school participants. Significantly, there was an increase in the stipend received by secondary school participants from \$2,500 to \$3,000 while for tertiary students it moved from \$3,000 to \$3,500 per week.

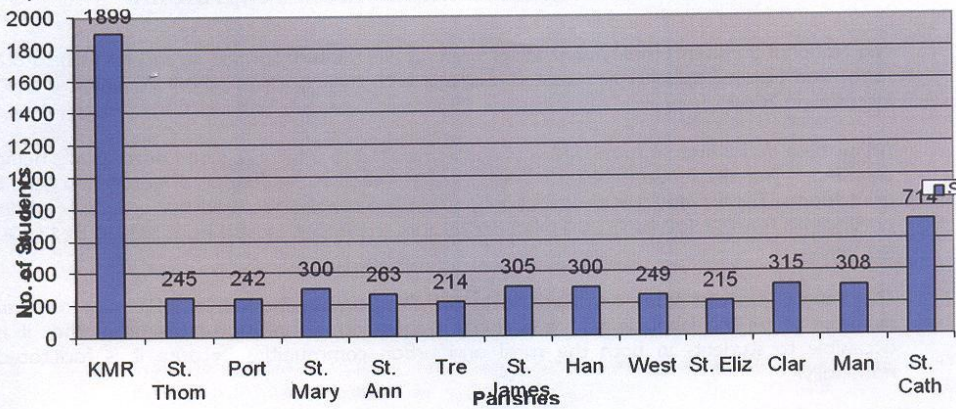
The benefits derived from participating in the Programme include, employment and an exposure to on the job training. It is also an equal opportunity programme in that it is accessible to students in both the rural and urban communities because it is facilitated nationally.

A Comic Strip Competition was introduced and the eight (8) winners who were from the parishes of Clarendon, Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Mary, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas and Manchester received book grants in the sum of J\$10,000.

The two placement periods within which the Programme was conducted were July 9 – 27 and August 7 – 24, 2008.



Graph 4: Number of Participants Placed in the NSEP, FY2007-2008



Graph 5: Number of Participants Employed in Phases 1 and 2 of the NSEP, FY2007-2008

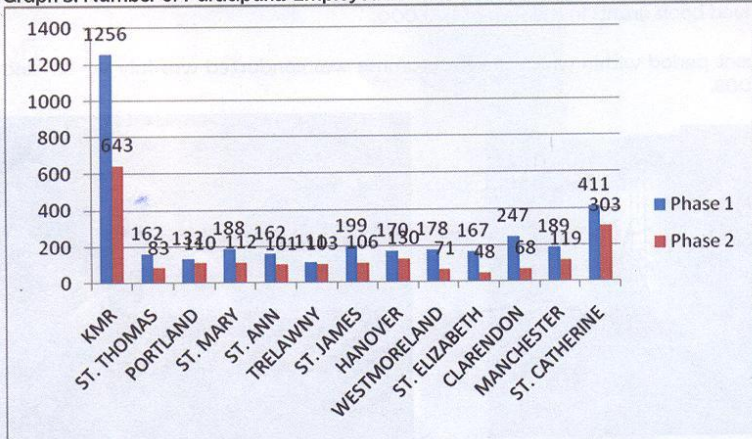


Chart 4: Number of Participants Employed in Phases 1 & 2 of NSEP, FY2007-2008

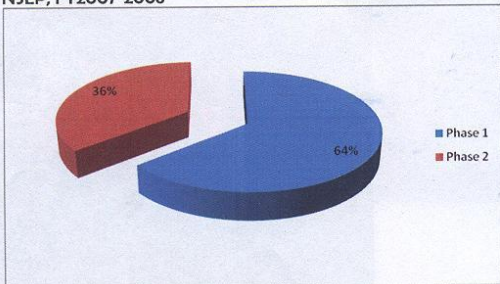
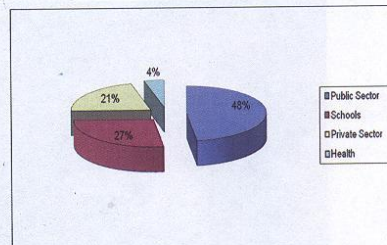


Chart 5: Percentage of Participants Employed by Organisations, FY2007-2008



The Jamaica Values and Attitude Programme

The Jamaica Values and Attitude (JAMVAT) Programme was created with the view to assisting tertiary students with 30% of their tuition fee in exchange for 200 hours of voluntary service in a non governmental or public sector organisation. The voluntary aspect of the Programme was designed to develop and strengthen the participants' sense of civic responsibility while encouraging positive values and attitudes towards community development and nation building.

Strengthening the sense of volunteerism among tertiary students is a step in the right direction as the Organisation seeks to get the future leaders and policy makers involved in assisting others.

A total of 1935 students completed the 200 volunteer hours. Cumulatively a total of 409,882 voluntary hours were contributed to national development.

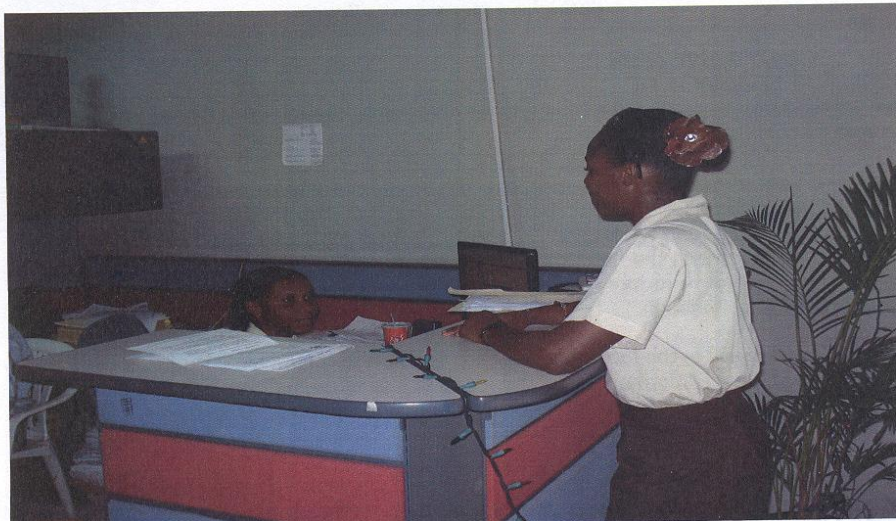
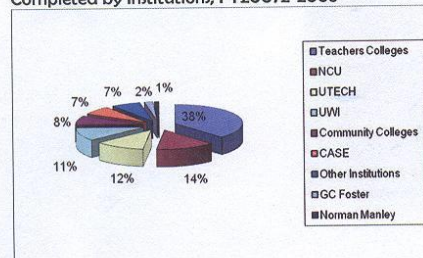
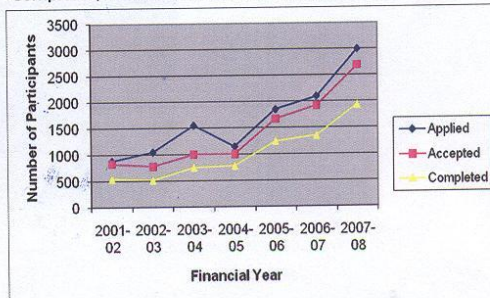


Chart 6: Percentage of Participants who Completed by Institutions, FY2007-2008



Number of Participants Applied, Accepted and Completed, FY2001-2001 to FY2007-2008



Testimonial from the JAMVAT Programme



Miss Chantal Lewis
Bethlehem Moravian CollegeN

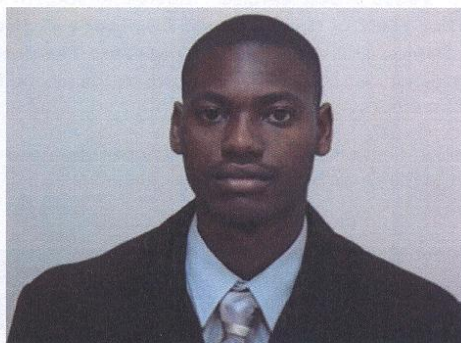
I am currently a student at the Bethlehem Moravian College who has benefited greatly from the JAMVAT programme. I have had the greatest opportunity of being on the programme for two consecutive years. It is because of this financial assistance why I have been able to complete school.

In my first year of College I can remember distinctly wanting to give up on my studies as a result of the challenges I faced financially. I needed finances for tuition, accommodation, transportation, books and subsistence. In order to continue my studies I decided that a summer job was a necessity with the hope that the money earned would be able to assist with my tuition and other cost associated with my studies. However the earnings received from the summer job was not enough.

I then resigned myself to the fact that I would not be able to continue my studies. It was during this time that I was informed about the JAMVAT programme. On enquiring about the programme I found that it provided financial assistance in exchange for 200 hours of voluntary service.

Having participated in the Programme over the past two years I have gained valuable work experience and a deep appreciation for volunteerism. However, most importantly it is as a result of this Programme that I have been able to complete my studies as a trained primary education teacher.

Testimonial from the JAMVAT Programme



Mr. Sean Williams
Northern Caribbean University N

I was introduced to the JAMVAT programme by a friend. And I was attracted to it because of the financial benefit. The thought of working 200 hours for 30 % of 1 year's tuition plus \$10,000.00 was quite inviting and I applied.

As I served the required hours I came to appreciate the programme for benefits other than the financial ones. JAMVAT provided an introduction to a new working environment. This experience contributed to my personal and professional development. It provided an opportunity for me to practice the employability skills I had learnt, and also the opportunity to garner new skills. As a result of the programme I was introduced to individuals who I have grown to appreciate and they are now a part of my social and professional network.

I recommend this Programme to all young Jamaicans in tertiary institutions. It teaches responsibility and accountability; sharpens employability and interpersonal skills; and enhances personal and professional development while providing financial assistance.

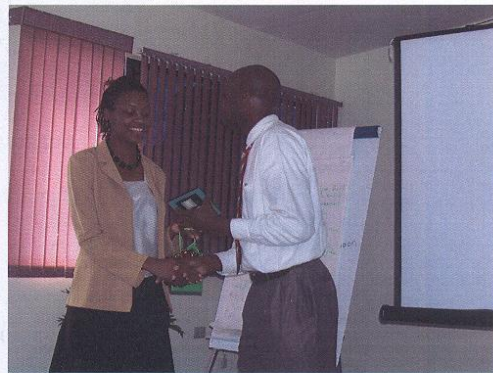
Staff Awards

Congratulations to **Mrs. Janet Allen** (Project Supervisor, Success Programme) who was awarded the **Head Office Staff of the Year** and **Employee of the Year** and **Miss Kay Hendricks** (Corporate Services Officer, St. Mary) **Corporate Services Officer** of the Year. Both Mrs. Allen and Miss Hendricks received their awards at the second National Youth Service Award and Recognition Ceremony.

The Award and Recognition Ceremony was conceived out of the need to recognise the work that the staff contributes to the Organisation.



Mrs. Janet Allen receives her award from Mr. Omar Steer, Corporate Services Officer



Miss Kay Hendricks is being awarded by Mr. Hewitt Walker, Deputy Director of the Corporate Services Unit