

SVSG PRESENTATION
SQA PSET ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019
11 – 12 APRIL 2019

On the theme:

**“Continuous Improvement in Partnerships between Post School Education
and Training and the Workplace”**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIFELONG LEARNING TO EMPLOYABILITY
An SVSG Perspective

INTRODUCTION

Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) was first established in 2005 with the vision of ensuring that *“Victims of crimes and those in need are well supported to be safe, and in control of restoring their lives through quality services.”*

After 11 years of service, SVSG started working with the Samoa Qualifications Authority in 2016, to have one of its training program namely ‘Introduction to Caregiver’, recognized as a Non Formal Learning. One of the organization’s missions is *“championing the interests and rights of persons with disabilities.”*

In 2017, the SQA Board approved recognition of SVSG’s Introduction to Caregivers, as a Non Formal Learning.

LIFELONG LEARNING, an SVSG Perspective

From 2005 when SVSG was set up to-date, the organization has been saving lives; from a sexually abused girl to an abandoned baby or child with disabilities, from a battered woman survivor of violence to a suicidal father, a troubled youth to a young pregnant teen, the list goes on.

From 2005 to to-date, SVSG has been condemned, ridiculed and threatened because of the nature of its work.

Looking back, we are humbled by the magnitude of our work, and how far we have withstood the inherit challenges.

In today’s forum, SVSG has put its support services of 14 years, in the perspective of Lifelong Learning.

Because at SVSG, every day is a learning experience; we learnt and gained experience from dealing with our people’s problems on a case by case basis. We look at constructive criticism with positivity to improve on our work. We do not rely on text book for answers, but rather, we look at global best practices and researches for guidance. At SVSG, we are where we are today, because of years of learning.

EMPLOYABILITY, an SVSG Perspective

The participants of the 'Introduction to Caregiver' training by SVSG now have a better chance of obtaining employment with the recognition of their training as Non Formal Learning. For those that have not been able to maintain their employment, it all comes down to their attitudes towards their work and their personal commitment.

More recently from 2016 – 2018, SVSG trained 5,000+ unemployed women with livelihood skills to enable them to earn an income and support their families. Today, 700+ self-employed women have become breadwinners for their families.

In both the Caregivers and the Self-employed women's cases, the challenge is sustainable employment.

From SVSG's perspective, there is more to employability than being capable of getting and keeping a fulfilling work.

Employability extends to include **personal attributes, the characteristics of a person** that no set of skills, knowledge or understanding on a specific work, can substitute.

There is a high staff turnover at SVSG. Why? Because of the nature of our work, the long hours, the commitment to help others, with very limited resources. And this is where one's personal attribute is put to the test.

So if you are looking at working for SVSG for the money, I'm afraid you are looking at the wrong place.

PARTNERSHIPS

SVSG is very much aware that partnership is very important to not only sustain its services, but achieve its vision and mission.

Our being here today is testimony of the importance of establishing genuine and durable partners that are vital in sustaining our respective work and programs.

We hope that this forum will help us form new partnerships and strengthen current partnerships to sustain the improvement of PSET and employability of graduates in Samoa.

Together, we can continue to provide sustainable support services to Samoa.

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