

Report on Workshop - Social Innovation for Employment in Ghana

Facilitator- Peter Oeij (SI-Drive)

Coordinators- Ewurama Minka (Engineering Ops, DreamOval Ltd.) & Samuel Quain (Lecturer, Ghana Christian University College)

November 2014, Accra



I am Peter from The Netherlands. Here to Guide a workshop on Social Innovation

Medaasi!
Social Innovation means "creating solutions for social problems with the ingenuity of local communities"

For example housing, education, energy, transport and employment

Together with students we will look at issues of employment and try to create local based solutions for these issues

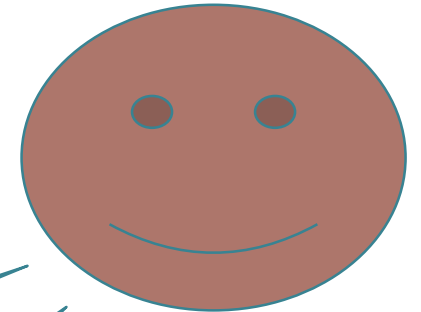
Hello.
Who are you?

Akwaaba!!
What is Social Innovation

Oh wow! And with what problems is Social Innovation dealing with?

And what brings you here?

Thats sounds good and important. I can't wait to hear about the results?



The Programme

The workshop was organized as a public forum on social innovation practices to:

- Address the challenges in (youth) employment
- Discuss those challenges as a community of employers, educators, and students
- Find solutions to these pressing challenges

It was hosted by the School of Development Management at the Ghana Christian University College

Workshop-Social Innovation for Employment

On Monday October 27, 2014

GCUC

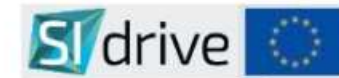


In collaboration with

DreamOval Foundation



will organize a workshop on 'Social Innovation for Employment' directed by Peter Oeij from The Netherlands, who is associated to SI Drive: an EU project on Social Innovation [<http://www.si-drive.eu>]. Social Innovation means meeting social needs by social practices through innovative and creative solutions.



The workshop will concentrate on a national issue facing many Ghanaians:

How can we improve employment for more people?

LOCATION OF WORKSHOP-GCUC CONFERENCE ROOM

TIME- 1.30 PM TO 3.30 PM

Target Audience are Employers, Employees, Teachers and Students . GCUC Lecturers and students are particularly encouraged to attend. The workshop will be hosted by **The School of Development Management**. The execution of the workshop will be supported by Ewurama Minka, Operations Engineer at DreamOval Ltd.

The Organizers

[The Ghana Christian University College](#)

[DreamOval Foundation](#)

[SI-Drive](#)

(Social Innovation: Drivers for Social Change, www.si-drive.eu)



The Target Audience-Students, lecturers employers and employees

The Participants were:

- Two Lecturers
- Eight (8) Student-employees and eighteen (18) Student-Non employees of GCUC (Ghana Christian University College)
- Total participants- 26
- Gender- Male-16/Female-10

The workshop was open to the general public at no fee.



Workshop Methodology

Structure- Participants were organized in groups of five (5)

Approach- Participatory through interactions by sharing information, learning together and working together to solve employment constraints/challenges

Facilitator techniques- Interaction with participants, group dynamics, kept the work practical and relevant, encouraged the participants to share the information and knowledge

Data collection and analysis- Thematic analysis techniques (collated and presented main issues with employment as identified by themselves)

Workshop evaluation- the use of survey through questionnaires

The Programme

1:30pm Welcome
Address by the Dean of
GCUC

1:40pm Short
introduction: What is
Social Innovation? By
Peter Oeij

1:50pm Discussion 1:

What is the
most
pressing
employment
constraints or
challenges in
Ghana
today?

2:30pm Discussion 2:

What is a good
idea to address
employment
issue by the
local
community?

3:20pm Discussion 3:

Who can help
the community
and in what
way?

3:30 pm Talk about
DreamOval and its
Products

4:00pm Closing
Ceremony

Some Employment Challenges Identified

Lack of Jobs

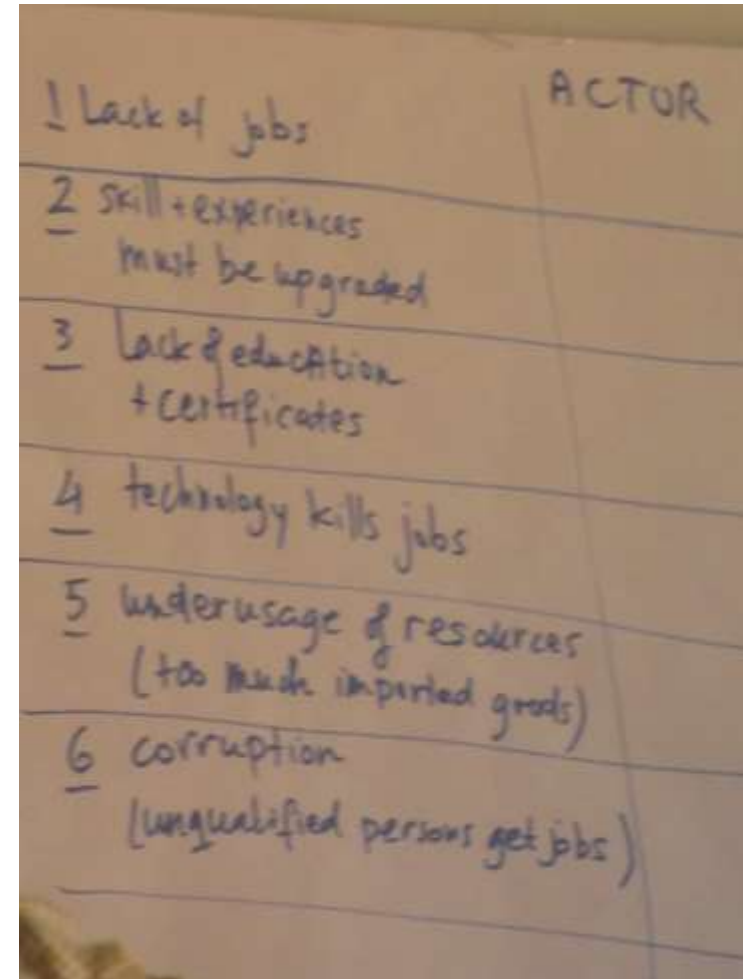
Technology Killing Jobs

Poor Education

Under-utilization of local resources

Corruption

Lack of appropriate Education or Certificates by the Workforce



Some Employment Solutions Proposed

The government should give local governments more power to create jobs in districts.

More job opportunities should be given to fresh graduates.

More people should receive training in using machines to assist not replace them

Encourage more people to use machines to process our raw goods into finished goods and create new industries and jobs.



Lessons learned

It was a major learning event for our students, who will be at the heart of solving social issues after their study

Sam, GCUC



Peter, SI-Drive



Learning how local communities solve social issues in creative ways is important to Europe and the world as well

DreamOval's Role



Ama, DreamOval

I acted as the Co-Coordinator of the workshop.

I made a presentation about DreamOval's product line-up including iWallet, Xylo, and myTXTbuddy

I fielded questions from many students who were impressed and curious to know how these services worked

Those students with laptops were encouraged to go to the websites and sign-up for the services immediately

I positioned DreamOval as a company that is driven by socially sustainable topics and products

Lessons for The Future

In the future Ghana can use and develop its own human talents to tackle social issues by applying workshops like these

Joint cooperation between Ghanaians and international experts – co-innovation – offers new opportunities for both worlds

T H A N K Y O U

A row of seven white dice with black letters on their faces. The dice are arranged to spell out the words 'THANK YOU'. The 'N' die is tilted at an angle. The dice are placed on a white reflective surface, creating faint reflections below them. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.