

The approach: *Learning from Success*

Learning from Success is a method developed by Prof. Jona Rosenfeld to allow a practitioners (a teacher, a social worker, a volunteer) to learn from his or her own action. Orna Shemer, a lecturer at the University of Jerusalem, who has studied this method, came to Tanzania to help the participants in this seminar to look at their action and commitment from the angle of success.



Orna Shemer

She said from the onset: "Everyone has some success in life. (...) We know that you work together, but we will ask each of you: 'What did you do?' ... You will say for example: 'I invited the children', I will ask you: 'How did you invite them?' ... With our questions we want to get the knowledge out of each one of you... The knowledge that comes from experience".

In this way, the focus was on what a person actually did, rather than on intentions or justifications. From this knowledge, the group then tried to formulate "Principles of Action". These ranged from very practical sentences (e.g. 'Adapt the setting of the action to the reality of the children') to very deep commitments. (e.g. 'Fight discrimination. Build peace between people').

What I learned? *Learning from Success* creates a positive mindset

In the Knowledge Action Commitment Team at the International Centre of ATD Fourth World based in France, we ask ourselves daily the question: How can the members of the Movement get the help they need to deepen their knowledge of the people they are involved with and to improve their action, so that it can be liberating and reach those who are still trapped in poverty. When we got to know Orna and her work with *Learning from Success*, we discovered the positive mindset it created. With the African Regional Team we invited her to share this approach in the Youth Seminar in Dar es Salaam.

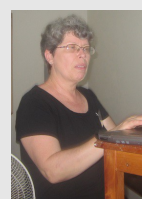
Coming to Africa for the first time and experiencing a new way of learning together with young people from different African countries, different ways of life, different backgrounds and experiences, was for Orna and myself an exciting endeavour.

All throughout the seminar, we discovered how each person is trying "To be friends with the friendless" through sharing time, skills, creativity and affection. The strict assignment by Orna to only ask for things "one can visualise" helped us see with our mind's eye Grace singing songs with the children and making more songs from children's messages; we could "see" how Christian prepares and facilitates a weekly radio program with Tapani children which is listened to by children, parents and teachers, and sometimes politicians.

We could "see" Shafi lead his friends to stop some criminals from stealing and beating up women in the neighbourhood. We "watched" Ally guide a child's hesitant hand to draw. We followed Pazi carrying water to the house of an old couple, saw him sit with the old man asking questions, and the man share things from a distant past that the young man does not know.

All these and many more stories showed the best of each participant, but also the price they pay for their commitment in their daily lives: Believe in your commitment even when you are all on your own, as did Eliza, who today is surrounded by a group of 15 other youths; face mockery like Pazi when helping others without asking for money. "Leave no one behind",

Everyone, including the group of facilitators, has learnt many things that can inspire our action. Thanks to all the dynamic, intelligent, resourceful, courageous and committed young people, there is reason to look to the future with hope.



Romy Hoffmann
ATD International

Coming soon...

- ✓ **Education For All: Research report and dissemination meeting**
- ✓ **Soon to be announced the new ATD International Leadership Team**
- ✓ **Opening of the Facebook page of the Young Friends of ATD**

Contact Us !

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ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER

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Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure these rights be respected is our solemn duty.
- Joseph Wresinski (1917–1988) founder of ATD Fourth World -

Editorial

Learning and committing together to be better friends to the friendless



We hope you are OK and doing fine, we are very happy and encouraged to let you know what exactly happened recently in our daily actions from ATD Fourth World Tanzania.

In March ATD organised a big youth gathering with different young people coming from Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia, which took place in Dar es Salaam for one week. Among us not everybody is strong, if we turn our backs on those who are weak, how could they go forward without us.

The meeting was to strengthen the young friends of ATD who are already committed themselves doing different activities in their societies in a way of being together with the people who are considered having no friends in our communities.

I had the chance to learn from the participants how they commit themselves and their involvement brings changes and positive impact in their communities, such as unity and thinking with each other. It enables them to create a platform in the society for everyone to contribute their ideas in a sense to overcome the problems as one.

They arrange their time because most of the young friends of ATD are students and some have already personal activities, but they are still in contact to offer their time to other people who are always suffering. Through their actions they strengthen their long-term relationship among the neighbourhood. I saw how the young people are ready to be with extremely poor people over many months and years to develop trust and go forward step by step with them.

Hemed (ATD volunteer)



Special Street Library in Tandale. People from Congo, Kenya met and enjoyed a time of friendship before starting the seminar.



Fabienne (African Region Team)

From 20 to 25 March 2016, thirty young people from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo met in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. We were happy to celebrate the first international ATD Fourth World event held in Tanzania since the Movement was born here.

Our Movement finds its strength in the commitment of each of us and bringing us together to share our beliefs, our doubts and enthusiasms is essential to endure...

The main objective was to strengthen the commitments young people are taking within their community and to enhance the enthusiasm of an active youth that carries with it the force to make proposals.

As one of the youth said: "Any success or development of the world is in our hands as young people: a world where there will be no discrimination, a world without poverty. But we can only do that if we remain united. If we were not united, this meeting here in Dar es Salaam could not succeed. I learned to feel concerned by the problems of the other, that the problem of the other, this is my problem, and I have the right to help him get by. It is from this that becomes friend of the friendless."

(continued...)

(...)

This seminar gave all of the participants the assurance that what they do is serious, it is not a hobby and they acquired the certainty and pride that *"the little things that everyone does become big things"*. Being friend of the friendless, this is a real success, and this success helps to build peace.

We often talk about 'group-leaders' or 'activity-organisers', but this session and its exchanges have shown us that these terms are inadequate. Those who are involved to be friend of the friendless are 'sharers of knowledge', people who unite communities, 'builders of peace', the big brothers and sisters who show children the way to a better future. For us, the African Regional Team, it is a source of great pride and inspiration to see these commitments



Our actions catch attention of many young people and we wish others followed our lead.

I left with great strength and awareness of the importance of our commitment to society. I understood the value of our commitment to our communities. The testimony of Pazi concretely explained this when he showed how he helped an old man doing the housework. This allowed me to come back to decide to approach and support two elderly people in my neighbourhood (a couple) who are despised by all. They have no home, they live in a construction site which they assume custody. Now that the building looks finished the owner wants to take back his home. They must seek to go, they are stressed. Many times I shared my lunch with them. They have become my friends.

The testimony of all young people present at the meeting made me dream. And I am confident that all young people of Africa will meet one day to the call of Father Joseph. Our actions catch attention of many young people and we wish others followed suit and our lead. That's why we opened a group on Whatsapp. It allows us to keep the link and to continue the exchange. We reflect on the possibility also of a Facebook group. So we will continue to communicate our actions.

Christian (DR Congo)

From this seminar I have found a conviction that is very important, to be a friend to the friendless.

My family was happy to see me when I returned home from the seminar. The difficulty was the neighbours, they were sure I had come home with something in my pocket, they said you must have something, even to buy a soda.

When I told them 'no' they said you waste your time if you come back with empty hands. In the community, when you are the first to help people in need, other people ask are you a relative, why are you the first, why are you touched more than others. Some people try to discourage you. Myself I am not discouraged, I am a pillar, I use my strength, my courage, my mind.

I do not listen to those who try to discourage those who commit themselves. I will continue to help my friends who have no friends. I will tell people this is the fruits of the ATD Young Friends. From this seminar I have found a conviction that is very important, to be a friend to the friendless. When you say this to people they will have a feeling there is a strong conviction on this saying, it is taken deeply, it is taken as something serious, this conviction for me goes very deep.

Oscar (Tanzania)



When you make somebody recognise something it is development. The suffering of very poor people can be reduced when you join with them. In my community I help fetch water for an old couple, it is not only to help them but also for them to see society cares for them. Pazi (Tanzania)

I was very interested in the story from Senegal and how people there work together to create water channels in an area that is regularly flooded. They shared their knowledge of how to make the area clear and safe, everybody happy at the end. With the youth from other countries we had a good collaboration, as youth when you stay together you create love. This enabled us young people to do more than I had expected. Ally (Tanzania)



I was impressed by a story from the youth from Congo, There was a man who was sick, the way the youth helped this man was like he was their relative and this man improved and became well. This seminar strengthened me to do things without caring what people say if you know you are right. Alfredi (Tanzania)



Being a friend to the friendless is not an individual responsibility but an obligation.

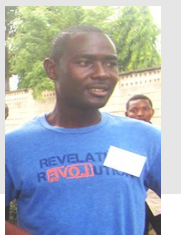
I was privileged to attend the Youth Seminar organised by the ATD Movement in Dar es Salaam. In my life I never experienced this before. We visited the community of Tandale, where some youth are fully engaged in the Street Library. Children were eager to learn. I was really moved how the youth are self-motivated living in the spirit of Father Joseph Wresinski who said thinking and knowing are acts which all human beings perform whatever life has provided. What I have is the knowledge and skills acquired from University and I would be happy if shared with children.

Being a friend to friendless is not an individual responsibility but an obligation. The most enduring value as a youth you will ever be able to give the community is your commitment. Try as much as you can to be friendly to the marginalised, they don't need your money but acceptance as human beings.

To my community, I was challenged that I have an obligation to act in ways that maximises the happiness and minimise the suffering of our children. I have decided to be a channel through which my contributions are a blessing to children. Children need us. Education will empower them but what will make them better human beings are our love, care and attention.

We are having one love but divided by greediness. Let us decide to have a little for everyone to have enough, do not target possession but contributing is the valid evidence of your existence.

Patrick (Kenya)



Participants came from...

- **Young Friends of ATD Tanzania**
 - **Congo ATD Youth Group (Bukavu, Goma and Uvira)**
 - **Edmund Rice Kibera Camps (Nairobi, Kenya)**
 - **Tushirikiane (Kenya)**
 - **Together (Ethiopia)**