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'Never drink from the same cup'

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#OMA GIAQ'O

EXPERIENCES OF A STUDENT TEACHER

My name is #Oma G/aqó. I am 22 years old and married to Sebe. She is 18. I have one child, #Oma. He is one year and nine months old. My wife will have another child soon. We live in N!aici, a village with 23 people. Of these 23 people, twelve are children. N!aici is quite small. A big village has about sixty people. //Auru is such a big village. There we are building a school.

In N!aici, where I live, we have a garden. The people of the village work in the garden. Others collect firewood. We also have five cattle. My grandfather still hunts. The young people in N!aici do not hunt any more.

In Eastern Bushmanland, there are 32 villages. We call them *n!oresi*. Many villages have small gardens and cattle.

The Namibian government helped us with food. We did not have much food because of the drought.

I am a student teacher. I want to teach the children of Bushmanland. I myself went to school for nine years from 1980 to 1989. The school was in Tjum!kui, the centre of Eastern Bushmanland. In the beginning it was o.k., but there were not many Ju/'hoan people. The Damaras and Hereros made life difficult for us. Many of us left school after only a short time. They got no education.

In our training, there are ten students. We learn how to read and write English and Ju/'hoan. We will teach the children in Ju/'hoan. Up to now, there have not been any schools in Namibia that teach in Ju/'hoan. We Ju/'hoan people had always to learn in a foreign language, mainly Afrikaans. This will all be over when we teach as teachers in our village schools. Then all our children will be able to learn in our own language.

At the moment, we do practical teaching in our villages. This is our first experience with teaching. We teach the children how to write their names. We read Ju/'hoan stories to them. We play with

them, and they draw pictures. We want the children to have fun in school. They must not be afraid of school. They are all very keen to learn. They like to play and to have fun.

The adult people in the village like it too. They helped to build the school building with us. Next year in January we will start our class 1 in //Auru and in four other villages.

I think it is important to learn from an early age. We must be able to do things on our own. We must be able to understand what we are doing. Only then we can be independent of other people.

For me it is a very exciting experience to be here in Copenhagen. It is good that I can talk to you people far away from Bushmanland. We must talk to understand each other. I will tell my people what we discussed here. It is so important that we communicate. It is so good that we are being heard. I am looking forward to hearing about your experiences. I would like to thank you all for the invitation to this conference.

Thank you very much.

(Mr. #Oma G!aqó represented the Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia, Baraka Training Centre, Eastern Bushmanland, at the conference)

KXAO MOSES #OMA

CO-OP MANAGEMENT AND LAND RIGHTS

Work Experiences within the context of the Question of Human Rights

I would like to thank you for the invitation to speak at this important conference today. You have given me the opportunity, apparently a human right, to speak on behalf of my Ju/'hoan colleagues.

I would like to point out that we, the Ju/'hoansi, did not have this right to spell out our concern before independence. I am not used to addressing such an international forum, but I will try my best and I am sure I will learn more from this experience.

I would like to speak on behalf of my brothers and sisters in Bushmanland, about Land Rights and our traditional *N! ore* system. I myself work as the manager of the *Nyae Nyae Farmers' Co-operative*, where I consider myself to be the „trouble-shooter“ for whatever problems may occur. It is a very demanding position, and due to the vast area of Bushmanland it is not always easy to communicate efficiently with all our 32 *n!oresi* (villages).

I consider it very difficult to live in Bushmanland. Since the South African army attracted a considerable number of Damaras to work for them, these people have made life difficult for us. The high salaries paid by the South African army introduced money into a moneyless society, which led to problems like alcohol abuse and the exploitation of the Ju/'hoansi by other peoples who were more used to a money-orientated economy.

I would like to point out, however, that despite all the problems I am not at all interested in leaving Bushmanland: I was born here, and I am prepared to do my share to make things work again.

Within the Co-op, we work together to enhance the quality of life for all the Ju/'hoansi. We want to be independent and to produce agricultural products on our own, including cattle farming and the maintenance of technical equipment. The structure of the Co-op is democratic, with every *n!ore* electing two representatives who then