

Education Changes Everything for Akrampa: Part 4

Dear Friends,

This is the last in the series of articles of the above heading, in which I have attempted to tell the story of what we have done as far as education is concerned in the community life of the people of Akrampa.

Community Participation:

The people of Akrampa have embraced the idea of educating their children and therefore they play a very significant part in the smooth operation of the school, as partners in delivering quality education to school children, and therefore in this instance, the children of Akrampa, and all other children within the community. Such relationship is found in the body of selected people - parents and teachers - known as **Parent and Teachers Association (P.T.A.)**. In recent times, the membership has been changed to consist of only parents and other significant members in the community, subsequently renamed as the **Parents Association (P.A.)**.

The Purpose of the Parents Association:

It is set up to be a partnership between parents and educators, to enhance student learning and enrich the lives of the students within the school. It is also a forum for parents to obtain knowledge and voice their opinions on the running of the school. Beyond this objective, there are three other duties that the Parent Association performs:

1. To work with teachers to ensure that students enjoy the appropriate learning environment.
2. To provide some charitable support for the needs of the school: e.g. -small projects or items the school may need, like buckets or repair of door locks.
3. To ensure that teachers are motivated to teach the children and promote discipline.

The current membership of the executive body of the Association is made up of **seven (7)** elected parents, *myself* and the area Pastor of the Episcopal Church of Ghana.

The Episcopal Pastor and I are not elected members, so are not "technically" members, like the others. We have an honorary membership in the Parents Association. We are considered ex-officio, but we have voting rights when the need arises.

Of the seven elected people, one of them is a **representative** of the chief of the town, and a representative of the teachers. We also deemed it very important to have a **chaplain** position in the executive. The reason should be obvious to my readers. We endeavor to place the Gospel in the center of life in the village - both at home and in school.

Akrampa School - in the Community:

Through the years, the parents of Akrampa have been very supportive of the school and activities held in the school, and hosted by the school. Needless to say, the school has raised the image of the town so much that people from far and near visit the town because of the school. And many new families have moved into Akrampa, as I described in Part 1 of this series.

As I was writing this article, I had the pleasure of taking a day to travel to one of our main towns, called Bereku. The District Education Administration was hosting **fifteen** of the local schools, (12 public schools, 3 private schools), including our Akrampa School, their students & families for this year's **District Cultural Festival**.

The District Cultural Festival is an event where Ghanaian culture is celebrated. It showcases aspects of our culture like **drumming, dancing, & some dramatizing of domestic life**. This concludes with sporting events (soccer, athletics, and volley) for the students of the participating schools. The events are organized on a competitive basis and school rankings are announced.

I will tell you more about this festival in my next article and give you the results of how the schools ranked. It's very exciting for our Akrampa School to be included in events like these. Many years ago, this would have never happened.

Pastor Ben