

What were your main reasons or motivation to come to the Chrysalis Academy?

First of all is to find myself... I never really knew who I am... I always wanted to find out... stop the substance abuse, stop smoking...I came here also for the fitness and drilling... I just come here to change my life, just to turn the page and re-chapter my life.

How did you experience the three months being student at the Chrysalis Academy?

It was really tough, was not really what I expected to be...but it was worth it, there were really a lot of conflicts... for me it was a big challenge.. god give me this opportunity.. opened my eyes.. and I'm grateful for that.

What were the main challenges you were faced with during that time?

In the course? Main challenge was... try to adapt to this environment and to try to communicate with other cultures... built serious relationship with them...half of others were not our cultures... keep myself focused and motivated during the time I was here.

What skills and knowledge did you acquire through the program?

Leadership for one... basic fire fighting, first aid, sports coaching... yeah I developed a lot of things I never knew... teach you more about what life is all about... how to appreciate life... so some people don't appreciate life and like I never cared about life, I was just like if I should die tomorrow- I should die- so I didn't care.. but now I am more focused, more dedicated now, I wanna achieve my goals and dreams.

What experience had the greatest impact on you during that time ?

For me it was to... the graduation was one of it... for me to built the relationship with all students and with facilitators.. and facing the challenges during the three months...

Did you see any changes in your life AFTER your graduation at Chrysalis Academy?

If: what were the main changes you experienced as a person?

Yeah, actually I developed a lot but most important thing is that I became very mature.. this place develops you into a man... I'm more responsible, can take of myself, I don't need to ask my mommy nothing... more responsible, more focused... dedicated.

What were the main challenges you were faced with when going back to your old environment that has not changed?

Drugs, gangsterism , peer pressure, community... the community people not liking me for things I did in the past... adapting to my home, because I'm a changed person but the world hasn't.

Can you apply some of the acquired skills, knowledge and experience of the Academy and if yes: in what way?

Yes, I can in my communities... I tried... and I'm still busy trying coz won't give up.. because I did sports coaching for under 11.. and trying to involve myself also in Bambanani...in crime watch in the neighbourhood watch.. try to teach my skills to other people as welding, because I've done welding here...and I try to teach them basic fire fighting...

Were there things (skills/knowledge) that you expected but missed in the Chrysalis program that you would need to face the challenges in your daily life.

I think the skills that I learned were more then enough.. couldn't ask for less .. or for more.

What did you expected?

My cousins only told me the nice sides.. not to get up early... thought getting up at 8o clock.. going to school... just relaxing...(laughs).

What are you currently doing as a job or for education?

I want to go study further... I wanted to study engineering.. become a fitting turner or taking welding further cause I am very good at it.. at the moment I'm helping my dad...I'm a driver.. and with customers... just helping him out.

Do you think that your chance on the job market increased through your experience at the Chrysalis Academy and the received certificates?

Yes, definitely, because people look at it.. and Chrysalis has a very good name out there in the job industry.. you are disciplined, dedicated.. determined.. and more mature... I want to work... I know how to work....it's about passion.. not only for money.

How do you see yourself within your community? Do you see yourself being an integrated member of the community, as a role model, as an agent of change or even as a leader in your community- if yes: in what way?

Yes, as an agent of change and role model... because I am a mirror to other people now in the community ... they can see me now.. and how I was before, they see a whole different me now... obviously inspires them to come to this place...

Final question: What are your personal dreams and hopes for your future and how do you want to realize them?

Like I said I want to study further... I would like to work as a fitting turner in an engineering company.. start my own business further.. welding, making gates etc. and ... I don't want to get married now...hard work, that's all I can say.. it takes hard work to really achieve what you want in life... keep yourself focused, disciplined and dedicated...otherwise you don't know what's worth it.

Are there any other things concerning the Chrysalis Academy you want to mention?

I would just say, that when guys come to this place, they should not take it for granted, they must appreciate it... because that is something the government is doing for us, they should really appreciated it and don't take it as a joke...when I came here the first week I thought what did I get myself into... and I'm like.. after two week I saw the changes.. and how I developed especially in the outdoor. I had to wait two years to get into it.. more then 1000 applying... people waste chances... smoking, fighting... When I was in high school.. had no control.. no direction after Matric.. involved in drugs... but if you sent someone here and it's not his decision it won't work.. I told my parents I want to come here.. don't wanna die.. my parents were at the parent workshop... while I was here. They were at the parents meeting.. they saw me changing.. and they know how to handle me, how to answer my questions... I think they told the parents how to treat us when we come home..they wanted to show me that they love me.. support me.. my life today is sorted out.. I'm clean, I'm enjoying my life now!

Thanks a lot for your time!

Annex H:

Thanks Mum & Dad

*I never forget you Mum
I never forget you Dad
In my dark days,
In my bad days
In my happy days
You are always with me
You are my heroes
I salute you Mum & Dad*

*You never give me up
To all of those things I do
To broke your heart
To broke my sister's heart
To disappoint my family
And those people loving me
That's why I salute you
Mum & Dad*

*Thank you Mum & Dad
To forgive me
I never forget you
I'm always thinking
About you Mum
I'm always thinking
About you Dad*

*I remember the days
You shout at me every day
To show me the good way
But now your words make me strong & proud
I remember the day you say
it is better that God takes you away from me
To leave me alone in this world,
But now, Mum I say sorry to you
I will never break your heart again
I'm still your son
I will make your dream come true
Thanks Mum & Dad*

*To keep me out of troubles
Now I'm a man, I know who I am*

*I remember the day
You saved my life to protect my life
Your clothes and your hands
Smelling my blood
I never forget you Dad
You are my hero
I never forget you Mum
You are my angel*



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