

## I. Project Profile

<b>Project Title</b>	Mekelle Teachers' Library
<b>Project Location</b>	Mekelle, Tigray (Region 1), Kebelle
<b>Area Coverage</b>	The City of Mekelle
<b>Status</b>	New
<b>Project Components</b>	Creating awareness about the role of libraries in community development
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries will be more than 72,000 inhabitants of the city
<b>Budget</b>	Birr 1.8 million, out of which 800,000 is community contribution and the remaining outside fund
<b>Funding Partner</b>	Unknown yet
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Mekelle Teachers' Association
<b>Stakeholders</b>	The community, local schools, Mekelle Teachers' Association and the funding partner
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Continuous day to day monitoring will be carried out by the project managers, local community and the Mekelle Teachers' Association. Mid-term evaluation of project progress will be made every four months and final evaluation will be made at the end of the project period.
<b>Bank Account</b>	Mekelle Teacher's Association Agazi branch A/No. 421



## **Introduction**

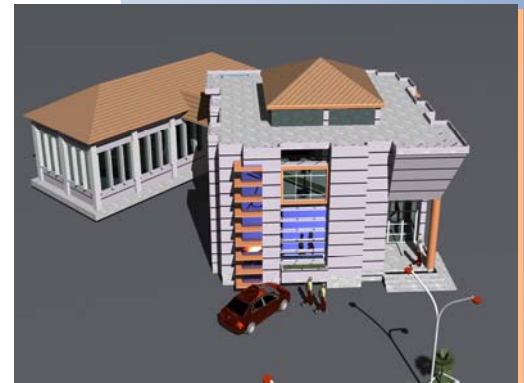
Mekelle Teachers' Association (MTA) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit association. It is established by teachers in 19..... MTA is a grassroots community organization dedicated to improving the educational attainment and the welfare of teachers in Mekelle. The Association provides a good opportunity for networking among teachers in different schools of the city and also provides resources to expand and enrich the teaching and learning process in the surrounding area.

## **Mission Statement**

The teachers' library offers learning services, develops reading habits, books and resources that enable all members of the teaching community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media.

## **Statement of the Problem**

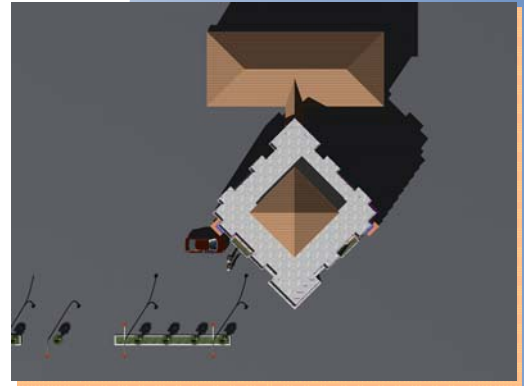
A school library is integral to the educational process. It is essential to every long-term strategy for literacy, education, information provision and economic, social and cultural development. As the responsibility of local, regional and national authorities, it must be supported by specific



legislation and policies. Unfortunately the local, regional or national authorities lack the resources needed to support the building of school libraries in the city.

Mekelle is the capital city of the regional state of Tigray. Located in the northern part of Ethiopia, the city's population is estimated around 225,000. It has one public library which is ill equipped. There are forty five schools within the limits of the city. Three of the schools have libraries serving about 60,000 junior and secondary school students, around 10,000 private college students and 2000 teachers. The collections of the libraries have and the hours the libraries are open do not meet the community's interests and needs. Besides of these libraries as being ill equipped and uninviting, each of the libraries has a maximum capacity of accommodating 60 to 70 students at a given time. These problems have been the sources of discouragements and frustrations for many aspiring students and teachers in the city. These problems certainly have a significant impact either directly or indirectly on the teaching and learning process. They have contributed much to the declining quality of education in the city.

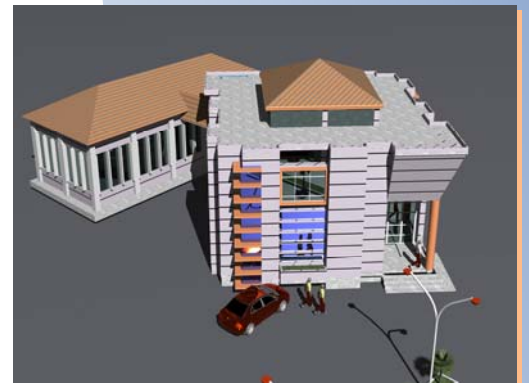
If teachers are expected to properly train the youth, who are expected to function effectively in today's modern economy, the community should



empower teachers in cultivating their reading habits. This, the community can achieve, by first making some funds available for building school libraries. The teachers, in turn, would then integrate the library into their classroom curricula. It has been demonstrated that, when teachers integrate their classes with library, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problems-solving and information and communication technology skills.

In the absence of school libraries, the level of motivation and educational well as the personal welfare of teachers (as professionals) is becoming very weak. This has affected effective performance of teachers and lowered the quality of education in the city.

The demand for education is growing higher everyday but the available resources are not keeping pace in terms of the development. This created a major gap between the resources provided by the government and the resource demanded by the schools. In order to minimize the widening imbalances of the educational demands of the schools and the availability of resources satisfying these demands, the Mekelle Teachers' Association is determined to do its best to address this daunting concern of the community.



For the laudable objectives of the Mekelle Teachers' Association to be achieved, the association is actively involved in raising funds for building teachers' library. In recognition of the association's effort, the local municipality has allocated a plot of land for the new library.

### **Expected Results**

The following will be essential results expected from the new library and are the foundation of the teachers' library services:

- ❖ Supporting and enhancing educational goals of the Mekelle Teachers' Association's mission;
- ❖ Developing and sustaining in teachers and students the habit and enjoyment of reading and learning, and the use of libraries throughout their lives;
- ❖ offering opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment;
- ❖ supporting all teacher and students in learning and practicing skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community;
- ❖ Providing access to local, regional, national and global resources and opportunities



- ❖ Working with students, teachers, administrations and parents to achieve the mission of the library;
- ❖ Proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are essential to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in a democracy;
- ❖ Promoting reading and the resources and services of the library to the whole school community and beyond.

The teachers' library will fulfill these functions by developing policies and services, selecting and acquiring resources and providing instructional facilities.

### **Project Summary**

The overall objective of the project is to develop the reading habits and learning enjoyments of teachers, students and the community at large through the use of libraries throughout their lives.

The project will operate on cost-sharing partnership with our funding partners. The community/beneficiaries will contribute about 44 percent of the total cost. In all the project



development period an effort will be made to genuinely involve the community. The prime motive of the project is to empower the community by actively involving them in developing the plan for the library, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Having secured the plot of land from the city municipality, the association will perform the following activities:

- Prepare a plan for the library.
- Bill of quantities will be prepared.
- Bid for the selection of a contractor will be advertised.
- Teachers, students and businessmen contribute Eth. Birr 200,000 (Birr two hundred thousands) for the execution of the project.

### **Community's Investment**

Local organizations will finance Eth. Birr 600,000.00 (Birr six thousands) for furnishing the library.

Teachers, students and businessmen contribute Eth. Birr 200,000.00 (Birr two hundred thousands) for the execution of the project.

### **Funding Request**

The grant request is Eth. Birr 1,000,000.00 (Birr one million), which is 56% of the total project cost.

