

EZZY'S EXPERIENCE

Growing up as a child in St. Lucia with a disability was a major challenge as not much opportunity was been provided to help strengthen the development for the blind community. As a result I experienced a number of challenges in the education system, because there were not many resources available which would have provided me access to function effectively during my classroom activities. Having a disability in the form of blindness is for sure not a bed of roses, there were times when the teacher would write on the blackboard and I would take my notebook and start writing nonsense on the pages. I pretended that I was copying what was on the board. I was continuously denying that there was something wrong with my eyesight. I denied myself to everyone around me, back then as a child growing up most people around me was afraid of blindness simply because they did not understand the nature of being blind. As a result most persons could not relate to people who were blind, so instead they felt pity and sorry about the situation, which would further resulted in being teased, even made it more complicated by not asking for help and hiding my condition from everyone.

In the year of 2002 through the efforts of the Poverty Reduction Fund in collaboration with the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association I was sent on a one-year training program in the area of information technology at the Abilities Foundation in Jamaica. The institution offered a number of different skills and also made accommodation for person with various types of disability to help facilitate it programs.

Upon my returned to St. Lucia I commence work at the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association in the capacity as an information technology instructor. That provided me the opportunity to pass on my skills to the clients of the Association.

At the association we have a computer lab equipped with screen reading software, which would provide our client access in learning the skills, which would prepare them to be more effective in the working world. We offer Microsoft word, excel, access and conduct Internet searches, using the keyboard command, which would allow trainees to navigate through the computer effectively. It gives me great pleasure working with the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association as blind people now have the rest of the wider world right before they fingertips, and also are more independent an effective at the working environment.