



**Ecole d'Enseignement Général,
Technique et Professionnel
"LAURA VICUÑA"**



**« The relevance of
exception rules for
learning achievement
in Benin: the case of
the Salesian school
'Laura Vicuña' »**

"LAURA VICUÑA"

Une
maison
qui
accueille !



"LAURA VICUÑA"

Une
école
qui
prépare
à la vie !



"LAURA VICUÑA"

Une
orientation
aux
valeurs
de l'Evangile !





**Our goal is to offer
youth
INTEGRAL
EDUCATION**

**« It takes several fibers
to make a rope »**



New in the context of Benin:

a style that aims to create confidence instead of fear, that seeks to integrate goodness and requirements, that listens to the children and their needs, etc.

- *A listening ear and welcome*
- *Non-violent communication and conflict management*
- *Educational « contract »*

Pillars of the Salesian educational system applied to 'Laura Vicuña'

- Reason: take responsibility of ones acts
- Love: reciprocal appreciation
- Religion: dignity

- Values: family spirit, goodness, faith, joy, optimism

Building an **Educational community**

Our educational community is in the making and grows ever more, knowing that it is privileged place for education. The community asks unity, good relationships and co-responsability of its members

*« Alone we go faster,
Together we go further! »*

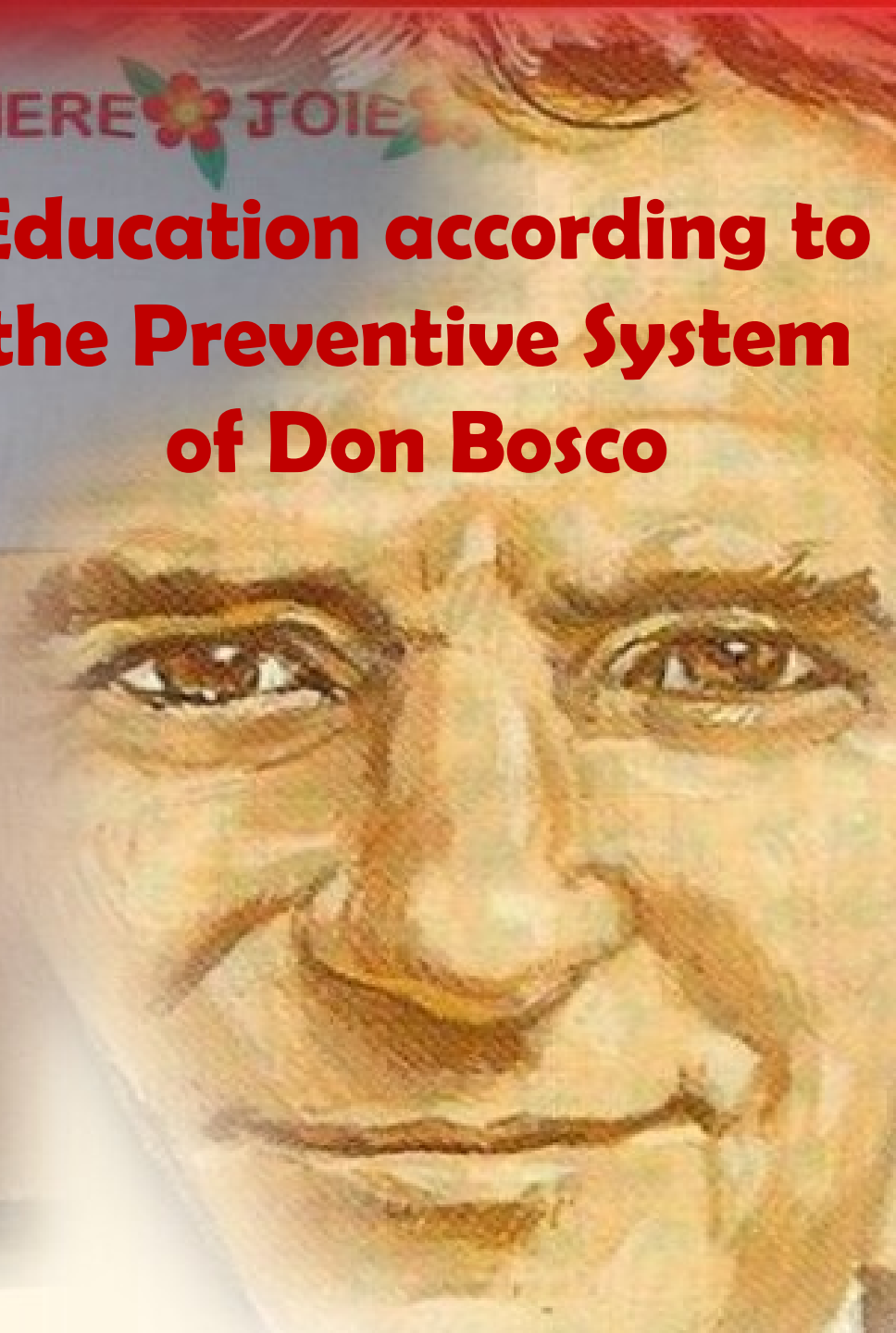
Educating together:

We say "*unity is strength*" and that "*one single straw does not sweep the house!*".

Many of us intervene on behalf of children and young people. If we are moving in the same direction with our actions, we are not merely teaching, we are educating! Thus we share the same educational standards and seek to implement the same educational methods.



Education according to the Preventive System of Don Bosco





**« Where the
needle goes, the
thread also
passes »»**

Like **Don Bosco**, we prefer to prevent instead of complaining! That why we educate following the preventive system.

The Preventive System is based on three pillars: reason, religion and love

Reason : no authoritarianism but reasonable dialogue.

Religion : integral education based on human and Christian values and on the certainty that every person is deeply loved by God.

Love : loving relationship that promotes success and encourages to let grow the goodness that is in everyone's heart



INVOLVING
students in their
educational path



**« The big tam-
tam
Has a voice.
So does the little
one »**

Pre back-to-school : studying the school rules – educational contract

Personal annual plan: personal analysis and planning

Quarterly Evaluations : students of each class evaluate different aspects: coordination, relation with the administration, etc.

School for leaders : concrete programme, exchanges, debates, etc.

Meetings with their head teacher :
dialogue, analysis of situations and
relations

**Extracurricular activities
and festivities**

Adapted school schedule





**Work
in
SYNERGY**



**« It's by
working
together that
termites can
build a big
termitary »**

- Board of Directors
- Coordination team
- Association of student's parents
- Friendly staff
- Student Council





SUPPORT



**« It's by relying on the
tree that a liana can
reach the sky »**

- **Academic coordination** : coordination meetings, educational activities by discipline, monitoring of teachers, parent meetings, class councils, mid-term advise from teachers and advise at the end of each term, etc.
- **Coordination pastorale** : listening team and social commission

- Monitoring of **head teachers**
- **Health** monitoring
- **Psychological** care
- **Welcoming and listening ear** by members of the administration



CHALLENGES **to tackle**



**« When the hand cannot reach the fruit,
the stick in the hand can ! »»**



- Some parents and teachers do not completely welcome the vision of the school management. Some of them come to the school because of the good results in state examinations, but they are not interested in the other educational solutions offered. The challenge is to convince them of the concept of integral education.

- Financial problems within families remain a difficulty for youth and children that suffers from the lack of means (nutrition, housing, school materials, etc.). The school therefore has to focus on monitoring and finding student grants.

- Families breaking down, conflicts within couples, single parent families etc. are real challenges to the educational success of children and youth. Education for parents is a challenge that should be addressed.

- However, the school doesn't have the financial means to engage a full-time psychologist or specialised teacher.

To us, educating is communicating. Therefore, relation has a central place in our approach and we are sure that working this way, together we can tackle the challenges, knowing also that the verb of hope is to act!



That youngsters **succeed in their life**, not just in life.... Education is a priority!