

PROBLEMSOLVING

While at University, I was Treasurer of a Student Society called ‘L’Afrique en Mouvement’(Africa on the move).

We decided to organise a conference dealing with economic issues in Africa. Our main goals were to help investors and individuals to set up new businesses in African countries. I was responsible for managing one specific project dealing with the place of women in Africa’s development. It involved planning the conference, raising funds and advertising.

I fully understood the problem at hand and took charge of the situation by contacting the relevant people to participate and share their experience and knowledge about the issue. As we were putting together the plan and assigning responsibilities to team members, some members decided not to take on any tasks as they had to study for their exams.

The problem at hand was to decide how to go ahead with the project and ensure all the tasks were completed on time. To analyse this problem, I decided to look at the different options available and evaluate each option against a set of criteria. It is important to always focus on the objective and make sure the decision meets that objective. I decided to speak to each member individually and I reminded them that we needed their skills and commitment in order to make this conference a success. I checked their availability and agreed with each member a task that they could complete, without putting their exams at risk.

We managed to complete the tasks on time for the conference and the debate ran smoothly. This conference was a real success with eighty-nine attendees.

We received very good feedback from both visitors and partners.

This experience has taught me to take charge of a project and manage different tasks in a short period of time. I really enjoyed participating in this project because it has helped investors and individuals to set up new businesses in Africa. If I were facing a similar problem in the future I would make sure each member of the society is definitely ready to put 100% of himself and put all his effort to participate in the success of the project.