

Report local hero Kwame from Ghana

“Tug of war between alcoholics and non-alcoholics”

Alcoholism is one of the main factors of violence in Ghana. I say this because each and every day, there are people fighting on streets but most at times at homes. This happens as a result of cheap and very strong alcohol sold here. So even poor man can afford to buy himself a shot or a bottle of strong alcohol. I will say alcoholism is a problem here because the youth have embraced it and at times abuse it ending them in fights, accidents and at times rape.

It wasn't easy convincing both the alcoholics and non-alcoholics into participating in the tug of war. I tried to tell them it was for good deeds but most at times I got no answer since they thought I was going to make money out of them. Now this is what I did, I had to tell who participated I was testing those who were stronger (alcoholics and non-alcoholics) and they agreed on that.

It went really well, I thought it will turn into a tough competition but I realized they were having fun because they started teasing each other before the tug of war began....the alcoholics claim they were stronger even though they loved drinking alcohol and the non-alcoholics also said they proved to them that they were weak. So the whole thing was really interesting.

Their reactions were okay apart from the fact that I was taking some time out of their daily activities because some of them are workers and needed to be at work. Again they were shy to do this in an open place so we had to go to a football pitch since it was a bit away from the street.

I didn't encounter many problems at all because most of them are people I know very well and the venue where the pictures were taken is an open place for all who wants to play soccer. So I didn't face any problems at all.

I wasn't able to acquire a strong rope so I had to use a strong and long cloth and it worked perfectly. That was the only problem I had.

The interesting thing was that, those on the right who representing the non-alcoholics wanted to take off their shirts to flex their muscles. The alcoholics on the other hand didn't like the idea so we all decided on not taking any shirt off.

(Additional information by Sabine: The non-alcoholics won!)