

Leadership Foundation For African Girl Child And Women

REPORT of mentoring seminar

Title: "Building Winning Attitude To Girl- Child Development"

Venue: Purple Event Centre, Ajibola Aluko Street, Okota Road, Isolo, Lagos

Date of Event: November 14, 2015.

All over the world, the girl-child is faced with lot of challenges such as poor access to education, poverty, health, violence and religious discrimination, among others. In much of the developing world, cultural constraints can impose additional barriers to the existing ones and thus hinder the development of the girl - child. In view of these issues and to position the Nigerian girl – child for the present global attention on empowering women, Leadership Foundation For African Girl Child And Women, organised an awareness and mentoring programme on how to overcome these issues by building a winning attitude in order to overcome some of them and maximise their development potentials.

Assumptions:

It is generally believed that one third of the world's girls are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15.

Research by International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), revealed that in 2010, 67 million women within ages 20-24 around the world had been married before the age of 18.

If current trends continue, it is assumed that 142 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade.

In addition, girls who marry before 18 are more likely to experience domestic violence than their peers who marry much later, which may be as a result of immaturity and other related issues, such as complications in pregnancy that is widely believed to be among the leading causes of death for girls within ages of 15 to 19.

The National Council for Children's Services (NCCS 2007) revealed that reasons such as preserving and ensuring virginity before marriage, promiscuity-control, rape, poverty and other economic reasons, among others, can also contribute to early marriage.

Sen and Grown in their 1998 research work argue that if the goals of development includes improved standards of living, removal of poverty, access to dignified employment and reduction in societal inequality, then it is quite natural to start with women.

It is worth noting that failure to grant the rights of the girl - child in childhood stage may have effects on the child's development programme in the future.

Collaborators

Organisations such as United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) had collaborated in addressing the development of the girl – child by launching a partnership that embraces the United Nations system, governments, donor countries, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, and communities and families in April 2000. This was done by providing stakeholders with a platform for action that galvanizes their efforts to get girls in school and was aimed at narrowing the gender gap in primary and secondary education to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education.

The Nigerian government to support the development of the girl-child, established some national laws and support centres but the question remains how helpful, accessible and effective these are to her development.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, laid a lot of emphasis on the rights of the Girl Child, and established the framework for advancing “the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of humanity.” Nearly 20 years after, this task still “require urgent action in the spirit of determination, hope, cooperation and solid reason can be cultural diversities and a unified approach.

In view of this, Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child And Women (LFAGCW) is ready to collaborate with the girls, women and other stakeholders in promoting women's rights and status in all aspects of their lives to enhance development and maximisation of their potentials.

The question remains how do we achieve this? We believe that pulling experiences together and sharing our success secrets with our girls, would position our girls better in facing the future challenges and that would enable them maximise their output.

While we wait for these agents of change, the foundation's initiative to set the ball rolling by organising awareness and mentoring programme tagged “Building Winning Attitude to Girl-Child Development” had revealed some areas of threat to the girl – child development which was part of the objectives of the programme. The main objectives of the event include:

- Creating a platform for discussing the issues, drawing insight and proffering solutions to the common ones that can be threats to the girls' development and maximisation of their potentials.
- Bridging the communication gap by enlightening the girls on the available help lines and how to use them when they need assistance.

- Showing them how to overcome or avoid these issues and become better persons in the society, with a rationale that building a winning attitude in girls can be useful to the transformational agenda.
- Transforming the girls' psyche on the issues as a source of their limitation would improve their personalities.
- Providing a platform where girls can discuss their issues with their peers and take decisions that can benefit them and the society at large would boost their morale and encourage networking.

THE PROGRAMME

The targeted audience were teenage girls, although some adults comprising of both male and female were present and it was also discovered that some of the attendees were below the age of 13.

Over 30 (thirty) schools within Lagos environs were invited and over twenty schools were in attendance including Government Secondary Schools, which were in the majority. Fourteen (14) public schools were approved by the Education District and schools such as Ilamonye Junior High School, A.U.D Comprehensive Senior Secondary and Okota Senior Secondary Schools among the schools that attended the programme. Privately-owned schools such as Apata Memorial Schools Okota, Excel College Ejigbo, Gideon Comprehensive College, Baptist Model High School Ijebu and Ikola also attended. The list of schools approved by Lagos State Government Education District VI would be attached to this report.

The programme outcome complied with the programme objectives and the rationale. These were achieved through presentations, questionnaire response, drama, dance, networking and Q and A sessions, among others.

During the programme, Mrs Viola Okoro, Executive Director of the Foundation, read an opening speech listing the goals of the Foundation and counselling the attendees on ways to stay focussed. She mentioned tactics such as forgetting the past and focusing in the future, walking in groups and not alone to avoid being raped, dressing appropriately, being security conscious, avoiding peers' negative influences, embracing education and above all, the fear of God, was highly emphasized. That set the tone for a lively discussion of the topic of the day, as other speakers, invited guests and participants freely expressed themselves.

The programme revealed the issues threatening girl - child development and some other issues that some of them are finding difficult to let go. These reasons lead to our decision of planning the same programme in other regions in Nigeria to have balanced information on the current issues and to enable us know how to manage them.

Questionnaires were administered to the girls alone. The questions in the questionnaire were used to test some of the issues raised by other researchers that can pose challenge to the development of girl – child if left unattended to. Some challenges such as gender discrimination, early marriage, and domestic work to early pregnancy, among others, were tested.

PARTNERS

Some organisations such as Lagos State Government School Management Board (Education District vi), National Agency For Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons (NAPTIP) – a government agency, CWAY GROUP, Media (both electronic and print) and some individuals offered their support. Mrs. Kehinde Akomolafe, the Head of Public Enlightenment Unit of the Lagos Command represented the Lagos State Area Commander of NAPTIP. Her presentation brought a lot of hope and confidence to the girls. She displayed a good knowledge of what the challenge of the girl - child is and her experience in her work place gave her an edge in knowing what the girl - child is experiencing in the recent time. She gave them special phone numbers to call when in danger and encouraged those girls to use the toll-free phone lines, especially those who may run out of air time in such situations.

The girls hardly got tired of asking questions and she was happy that the girls were opening up. It was an exciting moment for all of us seeing our girls in such mood. One of the girls asked a sympathetic question although, she presented it as an issue that affected a friend that is, another girl – child. She asked, “how can I forgive an uncle who had made me to abort for him on eight occasions? She continued, “my plan is to revenge in any way I can when I grow up but this programme is teaching us how to build winning attitudes to such issues so, how do I manage this?” The speaker replied her by encouraging her to forgive such uncle and be free at heart in order to maximise her output and advised her to use what happened to her to effect change in the society by either joining this NGO or other platforms that require her experience to prevent or bring change in the lives of other girls. The Foundation has planned a follow up strategy for girls in such situation.

Miss Precious Obiako, a young graduate from University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) made the second presentation, which was based on career plan. She was considered the most appropriate person to handle this because she just graduated at the rather young age of twenty, a student brand ambassador of one of the well known global brands and presently self-employed. Although, she is waiting for her call up letter for the National Youth Service Corp (N.Y.S.C), she taught the girls how to combine life activities in line with their passion to win on time and well. The world being a global village is not news anymore and it has come with a lot of good challenges and yet some youths are still finding it difficult on how to manage their internet activities such as social media presence and online business to maximise their output and to have a better understanding its benefits. She first showed them how to combine their love to do, can do and have to do with social media activities for a quick win. She showed them how to navigate the social media and get the best out of it. It was a

great time because the girls were asking question and a particular boy from one of the government schools asked the speaker this question "Can't one without internet and social media access win?" and ensured that he got answer to his questions. She concluded by mentioning that, however, one can still win without following these rules but it may take a longer time to achieve this. The guardians and teachers were not left out in the interacting session.

The girls asked her how she managed her time with all the activities and distractions associated with teenage life and she explained how she did it by saying, *"keep a running note of what works and what doesn't work for you, what you like and what you don't like what you 're good and what you aren't good at."*

We brought her because of her experience as a teenage girl that just graduated from university.

Among the mentors in attendance, were the likes of Mrs Gloria Mba (an actress) who was also the MC of the programme. She was an inspiration to the girls. Also there was Rev. Segun Akingbowa and Counsellors from different Schools within Lagos metropolis and other volunteers, as well.

THE PROGRAMME QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

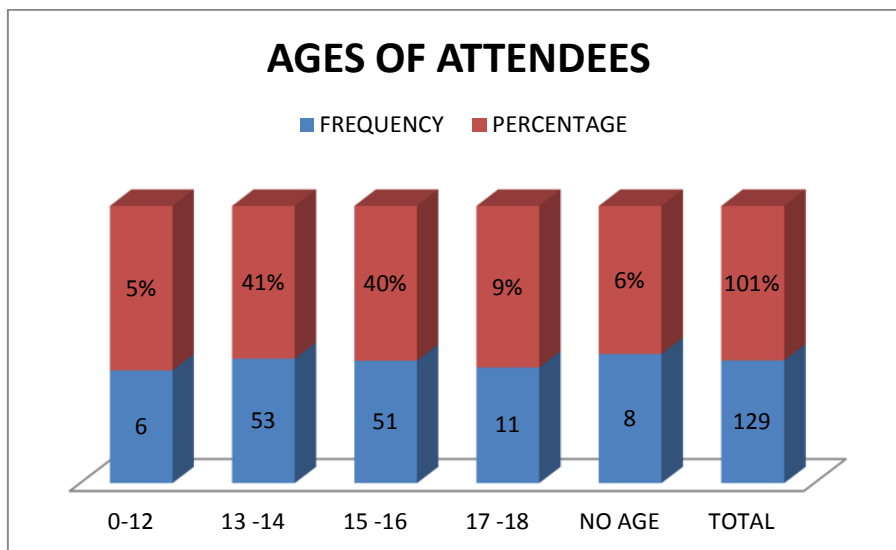
The programme questionnaire would be attached to this report.

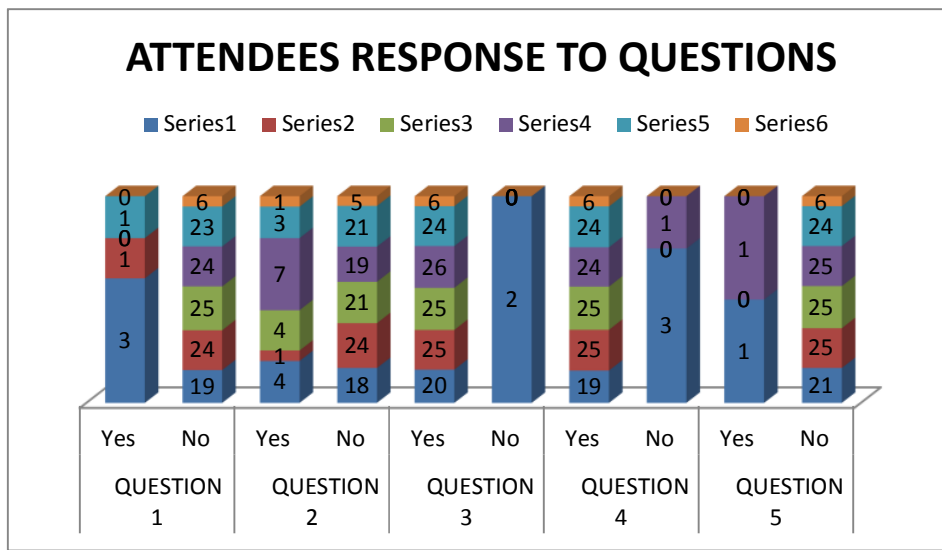
METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire was written in simple English and was randomly distributed to 130 girls. One questionnaire was returned unattended to and the remaining 129 returned comprised complete and incomplete response. The table below illustrates the age frequencies and percentages of the responders. The age categories of the girls that responded to the questionnaire are as such 5% represent 0 to 12 age group; 41% represent 13-14 age group; 40% represent '15 to 16' age group; 9% represent 17 to 18 age group and 6% represent the responders without age indication. It appears that '0-12' group of age has the lowest frequency and percentage followed by 'No Age' at frequency and percentage of 8 and 6% while 13-14 has the highest frequency and percentage of 53 and 41% followed by 15-16 at frequency and percentage of 51 and 40%. Age within 17-19 appears to have the least frequency and percentage at 11 and 9% and this can be attributed to most young people graduating from secondary schools in Nigeria at early stage or it could be that some of them are married.

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
0-12	6	5%
13 -14	53	41%
15 -16	51	40%
17 -18	11	9%
NO AGE	8	6%
TOTAL	129	101%

The bar chart bellow illustrates the frequency and percentage of the responders.





The bar chart above illustrates how the responders responded to each question. There were five questions in all and the questions were responded to as follows:

Question 1 *(Do your parent discriminate against you because of your sex?)*

A total number of 126 girls responded to this question, five responders agreed that question number one is a threat to their educational development while 121 responders disagreed with question number one as not a threat to their development and 3 did not respond. In question 1, 4% agreed is a threat while 94% disagreed question one being a threat to their development.

Question 2 *(Does excessive domestic work affect your performance in school?)*

A total number of 128 responded to this question, 20 girls agreed that this can be a threat to their development, 108 responders disagreed that this question can be a threat to their development while 1 person did not respond. In this question, 16% of the responders agreed that it can be a threat while 84% of the responders disagreed that it cannot be a threat.

Question 3 *(Does early marriage affect the girl child development?)*

A total number of 128 responded to this question, one hundred and twenty six (126) responders agreed to this question as being a threat to girl – child development, two (2) of the responders disagree that this is not a threat to girl – child development while 1 person did not respond. In question 3, 98% of the responders agreed that this question can be a threat to girl – child development while 2% disagreed that it cannot be a threat to her development.

Question 4 *(Does teenage pregnancy affect the girl child development?)*

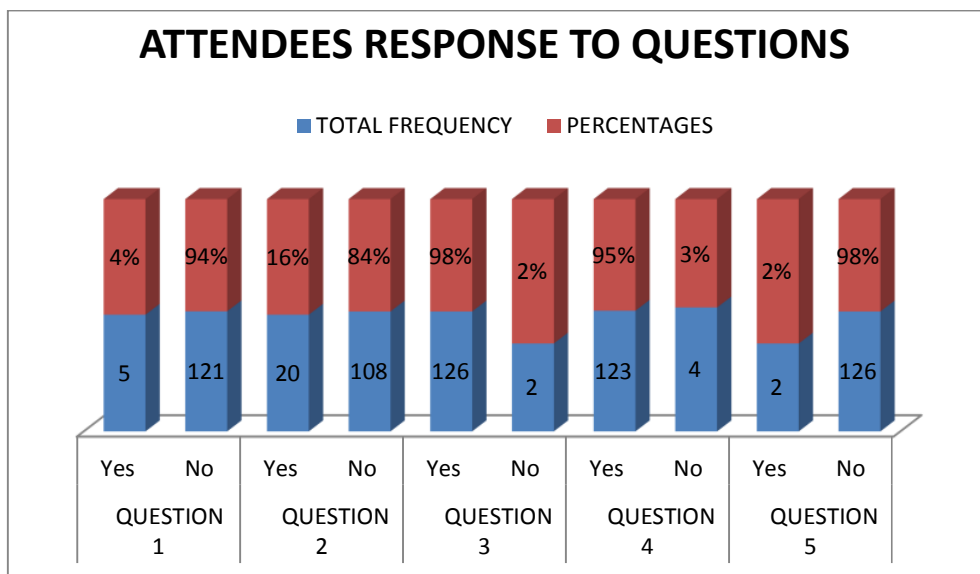
A total number of 127 responded to this question, 123 responders agreed that this can be a threat to girl – child development, 4 responders disagreed that it can be a threat while 2 persons did not respond. In question 4, 95% agreed that this can be a threat to her development while 3% disagreed that it cannot be a threat to her development.

Question 5 *(Does being a girl have an effect on your educational performance?)*

A total number of 128 responded to this question, 2 responders agreed that this can be a threat to girl – child development, 126 responders disagreed that this question cannot be a threat to their development while 1 person did not respond. In question 5, 2% of the responders agreed that this can be a threat to her development while 98% of the responders disagreed that this question cannot be a threat to her development.

From the results above, it appears that some of these issues are less threatening to girl – child development than others. What happens if the issues with high threatening risk remain unattended to?

	QUESTION 1		QUESTION 2		QUESTION 3		QUESTION 4		QUESTION 5	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
FREQUENCY 1	3	19	4	18	20	2	19	3	1	21
FREQUENCY 2	1	24	1	24	25	0	25	0	0	25
FREQUENCY 3	0	25	4	21	25	0	25	0	0	25
FREQUENCY 4	0	24	7	19	26	0	24	1	1	25
FREQUENCY 5	1	23	3	21	24	0	24	0	0	24
FREQUENCY 6	0	6	1	5	6	0	6	0	0	6
TOTAL FREQUENCIES	5	121	20	108	126	2	123	4	2	126
PERCENTAGES	4%	94%	16%	84%	98%	2%	95%	3%	2%	98%



ATTENDEES ZERO RESPONSE				
QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3	QUESTION 4	QUESTION 5
3	1	1	2	1
2%	1%	1%	2%	1%

An open question was given in order to determine if there are other issues that are new and can be a threat to the development of the girl-child which the foundation has not mentioned during the cause of the programme and it was discovered that:

Out of the 129 responders,

5% has issues relating to sex and relationships, and this group are between the ages of 15 – 17.

22% has issues they were not ready to disclose and this could be attributed to lack of trust and lack of awareness of the foundation platform which they can relate with.

In conclusion it was also discovered that with proper mentoring and counselling the girl- child can be trained into developing the right winning attitude to face the challenges and distractions of life.

Watch out for our next programme report, which would come up after the conclusion of the Owerri programme on July, 2015.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Girl-Child,

Kindly fill this questionnaire, there is no right or wrong answers and the answer will not be traceable to you rather it would help the organisers of this programme to know the issues that are threatening to Girl-Child Development. Always remember that you have the right to SPEAK.

Please be honest with your answers.

Age group 13-14 15-16 17-18

Yes/No

Do your parents discriminate against you because of your sex?

Does excessive domestic work affect your performance in school?

Does early marriage affect the girl child development?

Does teenage pregnancy affect the girl child development?

Does being a girl have an effect on your educational performance?

What is your deepest secret?

The list of schools contained in the letter below covered only Government owned Secondary Schools.



LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION DISTRICT VI

IKEJA, MUSHIN & OSHODI/ISOLO LGAS.

Fax:.....
Telephone: 01-7404208
P.M.B.....
All Correspondence to be addressed to:
The Tutor General/Permanent Secretary Quoting

C/O Ideal Pry School Complex
Apapa - Oshodi Express Way
Charity B/Stop. Oshodi.
Lagos.

Ref. No.....

Date: 12th Nov, 2014

Leadership Foundation,
For African Girl Child,
And Women.
45, Muyiliu Oshode Street,
Ori-oke Ejigbo, Lagos.

RE: BUILDING WINNING ATTITUDE TO GIRL-CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

The above subject matter refers please.


I am directed to convey the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary approval for you to organise training for the schools listed below with ten girls and the school counsellor in each of the schools listed below:

Date: 14th Nov, 2014

Time: 9.00am

1. OKOTA SNR GRAM SCHOOL
2. OKOTA JNR GRAM SCHOOL
3. OKOTA SNR SEC SCHOOL
4. OKOTA JNR SEC. SCHOOL
5. OKOTA SNR HIGH SCHOOL
6. OKOTA JNR HIGH SCHOOL
7. IRE AKARI JNR GRAM SCHOOL
8. IJESHA SNR GRAM SCHOOL
9. IJESHA JNR GRAM SCHOOL
10. METROPOLITAN SNR GRAM SCHOOL
11. EKO JNR GRAM SCHOOL
12. MATORI SNR HIGH SCHOOL
13. ILAMOYE JNR HIGH SCHOOL
14. A.U.D COMP SNR.

2. I am to add that the training should be at no cost to the school
Thank you.


DARAMOLA, A (MRS)
Director, CS&T Dept.