



**CENTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY
ALLEVIATION INITIATIVE
(CYDPAN)**

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INTRODUCTION

Youth development is a key driver for poverty eradication and a pre-requisite for the growth of every nation. It is a paradox of our societies that with so many resources, technology, and innovation, poverty has not been eradicated. This is occasioned by high rates of youth unemployment (19.58% - UN International Labour Organization), monumental corruption, uneven distribution of national resources resulting in inequalities in wealth and power, limited access to education, etc. This has taken its toll on youth development in Nigeria. The Corona Virus Pandemic (Covid-19) has put into question all basic transitions. On the other hand, there is an attempt to identify the best ways of entering not just a short period, but a longer era of new normal that young people will have to cope with.

WHAT WE WANT TO SOLVE

» **Inadequate Human Capital Investment**

Human capital investment is one of the key factors in combating high and persistent unemployment and problems of poverty; yet it is on the low side as every average young person wants to acquire success, not minding whether it is legal or not. Other parastatals believe in capital investment which in little or in no way at the long-run is productive.

» **Unemployment**

This continues to pose negative influence on the economy and well-being of young people and women. It will over time, if not curbed bring about total demoralization of a country's economy.

» **Limited Access to Quality Education**

Education remains an inaccessible right for millions of children around the world. More than 72 million children of primary education age are not in school and 759 million adults are illiterates and do not have the awareness necessary to improve both their living conditions and those of their children. From overcrowded classrooms to poor nutrition. Though it is a basic human right, yet in many developing countries, children's access to education especially girls can be limited by numerous factors which include; language barriers, gender roles and reliance on child labour all stall progress in providing quality education. (<https://www.isustudentmedia.com>)

» **Low Cognitive Competence of Young People**

Cognitive competency's theory and creative thinking skills of an individual facilitate effective problem solving, decision making and learning for positive development. The inability to process these skills by young people has brought about basic societal and economic problems such as violence, financial dependence, among others.

» **Gender-Based Violence**

Gender-based violence is an issue faced by people all over the world. Women are disproportionately harmed by gender-based violence. Despite being so prevalent, gender-based violence is largely under reported because of stigma and lack of access to resources and support systems. While women and girls are the most at risk and the most affected by gender-based violence, boys, men, and gender minorities also experience gender-based violence. It can have serious physical, mental, economic, and social repercussions. For example, sexualized violence can lead to unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections, as well as isolation and depression. It can also prevent survivors from achieving economic prosperity because of stigma or physical and psychological trauma caused by the violence.

MISSION & VISION



Vision

A platform leading young people and women in identifying and expressing their inner strengths towards a restored and poverty alleviated society.



Mission

To inspire, equip & empower young people, women and children with accurate information, opportunities and resources towards all facets of development and poverty abatement.

Objectives



To promote education from grassroots level in order to enhance mental orientation and capacity building



To promote and provide accurate information and access to good health care services



To build and promote the leadership potentials of young people and women into civic engagements in local and national development



To empower and promote the acquisition of skills that cheers financial independence of young people and women to enhance sustainable development.

Now What?



Identifying a problem and providing solution is key to effective progress. Our platform aims to curb these problems, but not limited to:

1. Character development, life skills and ethical enrichment programs
2. Creativity and Innovation programs
3. Scholarship support program
4. Mentoring activities, including one-on-one relationship building and tutoring
5. Advocacy for access to good health care services through re-addressing health policies influencing young people and proper implementation
6. Advocacy for proper implementation of human right policies on gender-based violence
7. Training for health care practitioners and stakeholders on behavioural approach towards young people
8. Awareness creation
9. Free STDs/STIs, Malaria testing and advancement into counseling and distribution of drugs and mosquito nets in rural and urban areas
10. Young people involvement in peace building
11. Leadership and conflict management programs
12. Providing vocational skills to meet with established market demands
13. Financial and resource support for start-ups or small businesses and adequate monitoring for effective results.

WHO WE ARE

Center for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation Initiative (CYDPAN) is a youth led organization with a focus on sharing ideas with individuals and organizations in the promotion of gender sensitivity in human development.

CYDPAN aims at addressing challenges faced by young people, women and children by creating opportunities for holistic development through Education, Health Services and Skills Development.

We embrace an inclusive approach in addressing issues of economic deprivation especially among the youths and women in the society and take the course for research to nip in the bud those factors that promote moral decadence and the emergence of conflicts and gender based violence in the family, community and the larger society.

OUR CORE VALUES

PASSION

Putting our best into positively influencing our targeted audience in self-discovery, decision-making and capacity building in order to harness the change they need for a better future.

EQUITY FOR ALL

Non bias in our practices, programs and interventions and also promote social and mental development of young people notwithstanding their gender, location, economic or social backgrounds.

TEAM WORK

Synthesizing ideas, contributions and resources from our experienced professional and volunteers representing diverse communities with same interests for effective outcome of our programs.

WE ASK

We request for your organization/agency to sponsor any of our training packages or invite us for more detailed partnership conversation as to how we can work together to create extensive impact through all programmes.

CONTACT US

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THE INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AT SHAKESPEARE ROOM, WATBRIDGE HOTEL & SUITES, UYO ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

A Report by Anietie Essia

A Non Governmental Organization in Akwa Ibom State known as Centre For Young People Development And Poverty Alleviation has joined the state government in the fight against poverty alleviation which is the key component of Governor Udom Emmanuel's completion agenda. Centre For Young People Development And Poverty Alleviation announced her readiness and preparedness to address challenges faced by young people in the society by creating opportunities for holistic development through Education, Health and Skills development. This, Mr. Robert Boniface, the Director of (CYDPAN) stated on Friday during an inaugural ceremony of the organization in Akwa Ibom State at Watbridge Hotels and Suites.

Mr. Boniface noted that the creation of the organization was necessary most especially at a time when the world is battling with the novel Corona virus pandemic which the organization is poised to creating enabling environment for innovation to flourish, for the culture of entrepreneurship to be intelligently fostered. He also noted that over the years, poverty has been an obstacle to the attainment of the sustainable development goals and has affected many facets of human life, most especially the physical, moral and psychological behaviors of young people in the society. "We intend to create platforms where young people can identify and express their inner strength towards a restored and poverty alleviated society. It's about the future, prosperity of the economy, development of the young people, Mr Boniface said.



He however reiterated the organization's first assignment to train more than 50 young persons in cinematography, paint production, catering and fashion design by October 2020.



While commending Governor Udom Emmanuel on his giant strides towards charting a new course for Akwa Ibom State and changing the economic narrative of the state, Comrade Ini Ememobong, the Honourable Commissioner for Information and Strategy stated that entrepreneurship remains one of the key economic variables that serves as a catalyst to the growth of any economy. Comrade Ememobong hinted that Governor Udom Emmanuel's drive in promoting entrepreneurship could further strengthen the overall economic growth and development of the state and hopefully create a positive rippling effect for the entire country.

Represented by Akparawa James Edet, the Director of Information, Ministry of Information, the governor's economic empowerment and entrepreneurial development policies have formed an integral part of his administration in the last five years which he has aligned this with several focused

on legislative and policy decisions aimed at creating conducive environment for economic development in Akwa Ibom State.

The Information Boss further added that the entrepreneurial development policy is built upon the twin pillars of wealth creation through industrialization, geared towards increasing the level of participation in the mainstream economy through job creation, employment creation and enterprise development. In their separate remarks, The Member representing Etinan Federal Constituency in the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. Onofiok Luke, represented by his Media Aide, Mr. Aniekan Udofia, The Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Mrs. Ini Adiakpan, represented by Mrs. Mary Atan, Director, Women Development, Ministry of Women Affairs, Chief Janet Amba, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Small And Medium Scale Enterprise (SMEs) as well as Prof. Margaret Bassey, a Lecturer in the University of Uyo revealed that entrepreneurship is very vital which has the ability to improve standards of living and create wealth, not only for the entrepreneurs, but also for related businesses to drive change with innovation, create employment opportunities, impact on community development where new and improved products enable new markets to be developed. High point of the event featured a formal inauguration of Centre For Young People Development And Poverty Alleviation and unveiling of the organization's official logo.

CYDPAN FLAGS OFF A STATE-WIDE SENSITIZATION OF YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN AKWA IBOM STATE

The Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation –CYDPAN has flagged off a state-wide sensitization of young boys and girls in select secondary schools in Akwa Ibom state, and has also distributed over 200 free sanitary pads to secondary school girls, as well as education and distribution of pamphlets on menstrual hygiene and general information on the different manifestations expected at the age of puberty. Speaking at the Community Comprehensive Secondary School – CCSS, Four Towns, Uyo, where hundreds of sanitary pads were distributed to underprivileged girls in the school, the program, according to CYDPAN's Executive Director, Robert Boniface is aims to, among other things, on raising awareness on personal hygiene of girls in secondary schools during menstruation.

Robert noted that ensuring access to sanitary pads and sanitation facilities should be given priority to female students in secondary

schools, as the frightening state of their minds during the early stages of their menstrual seasons, cannot be overemphasized. CYDPAN's Director further noted that these fears by the vulnerable girls are further compounded, especially when their parents and guardians lack the required funds to ensure that their girl child procure all necessary materials to cater for their menstrual needs at the setting in of the puberty age. Worst of all, Robert noted that the deficiency in proper and accurate information, further leaves innocent girls wondering about the meaning of their altering body metabolisms. He noted that the girls' perception of the phenomena, at times get further complicated with erroneous stories peddled by ignorant parents and guardians to scare the girl child on the possibilities of getting pregnant by a mere touch from the opposite sex when they are menstruating or about to menstruate.

Mr. Robert stressed that these wrong information which parents peddle, thinking it is best, as it will



The Executive Director of CYDPAN, Robert Boniface sensitizing students of Community Comprehensive Secondary School – CCSS, Four Towns, Uyo



Executive Director, Robert Boniface sharing sanitary pads to students of Community Comprehensive Secondary School – CCSS, Four Towns, Uyo

help protect their girl child from unwanted pregnancies, are very risky and dangerous, as they expose the girl child to untold traumas of uncertainty and inquisitiveness, as to what is really obtainable in the real world. He noted that the parents themselves stand the risk of losing their girl child's trust, when they manage to figure out the truth by themselves. These he said leads the girls into making all kinds of experiments, since at this point, they believe nothing can go wrong, as all the stories they have been fed with since assuming puberty are lies.



The CYDPAN Director vowed that the NGO, concerned with the alleviation of poverty and rendering assistance to the worst hit and vulnerable in the society will not relent their efforts in reaching out to address issues of these magnitudes in the society. Robert said CYDPAN has begun to address the issues by working with schools and communities to raise awareness on hygiene, as well as give out invaluable assistance and education on the girl child and puberty.



Narrating her experiences, a 14-year-old Emediong shared with CYDPAN in CCSS Uyo her ordeals in managing her menstrual flow, prior to the visit of CYDPAN to their school: 'I used to use clothes that I would cut from my old T-shirt to keep the blood from staining my school uniform, but they were not enough and blood would still stain my cloth'. In the same

vein, another student told the CYDPAN team that she would usually miss school during her period due to poor management of the phenomena, and also to protect herself from the embarrassments that ensue, considering her circle comes quite heavily. Speaking further on the afore-highlighted realities in the society, CYDPAN Director, Robert Boniface noted that providing for even the basic needs of girls between the ages of 9 and 15 in secondary schools has been an overwhelming and tremendous challenge, leaving CYDPAN dependent on the generosity of philanthropic individuals, humanitarian agencies and the private sectors to continue discharging its core mandates. He thus solicited the continued support of well-meaning parastatals and individuals poised to effect positive changes in the society, to partner with CYDPAN to be able to reach out to as many needy as possible. This will collectively help in accomplishing the greater good of empowerment and poverty alleviation. Training the students on the imports of puberty and what to expect, a senior nursing officer (Patience John), an intricate part of the CYDPAN team, led the students through topics in puberty ranging from its correct

definition, the general changes that occur during puberty, the importance of maintaining good hygiene as well as boosting their confidence to participate, wherever subjects of puberty and the likes are up for discussion.



On his remarks; the Vice Principal Academic of CCSS, Mr. Thompson, applauded the CYDPAN team for the initiative, and prayed for needed funds to continue reaching out to communities and schools in need of their selfless services. The students themselves were also on hand to show gratitude through various renditions, recitations and applauds.

CYDPAN team has drawn up plans to, within the next couple of weeks, reach out to no less than four schools in each Senatorial Districts in Akwa Ibom State, in continuation of the outreach, sensitisation and empowerment of boys and girls undergoing various stages of puberty. On Thursday 3rd December 2020, the CYDPAN team will be embarking on another trip to Community Secondary School, Ikot Inyang Ikot Ekpene, for a similar outreach.

The trip to Ikot Ekpene hopes to accomplish more in drawing enough help and assistance for the

vulnerable sects within the Akwa Ibom population of teenagers, who are in continued dire need of love and care through an exciting puberty-phase of their lives, which can however be extremely confusing, awkward, scary, and at times fatal, if not properly managed.

Indeed, CYDPAN believes it can effect the necessary and desired impact, by ensuring that young teenage girls are spared the hazards of suffering from poor menstrual hygiene. This, CYDPAN believes, is the foundation through which various infectious diseases are honed, leaving them prone to innumerable health hazards and complications, which invariably affect their academic programs, and in turn, encumber their bright future.



CYDPAN TAKES SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME TO CSCS, IKOT INYANG, IKOT EKPENE, AKS.



...Educate young female students on menstrual hygiene & power of determination

As part of its sexual awareness programme for young people, the Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation, CYDPAN on 3rd November, 2020 took its sensitization programme to Community Secondary Commercial School, Ikot Inyang, Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area.

The programme targeted for young female students in select secondary schools across the state was kicked off by CYDPAN, a Non-governmental organization in Uyo to help equip girls with the right information about health and sexual education. The Programme Progenitor, Mr Robert Boniface while speaking on the power of determination and positive thoughts, shared thought-provoking stories and lessons on personal positivity and the need to remain focus.

Mr Boniface emphasized that the starting point for greatness begins with a 'make up mind'. A daring and resilient spirit that is ready to take responsibility and conquer all obstacles, this he said is a key ingredient of great men. The CYDPAN Boss charged the students not to allow their immediate environment to determine how far they go in life, rather they should make good use of their youthful season by taking their



studies serious as there lies unlimited path of greatness out there for them if they remain focused. Again, he reiterated that CYDPAN as part of its mission will continue to address the many problems of youth development, poverty alleviation through mentorship and mental re-engineering. Earlier, the resource person, Mrs Enobong David Etim who spoke emphatically to the SS3 students of CSCS, Ikot Inyang, on menstruation, personal hygiene and the different changes young girls experience during the period of puberty highlighted the changes to include, breast development, growing of hair around the pubic areas, curvy body, oiler skin, wider hips and feeling of attraction towards the opposite sex.

Mrs Etim, a nurse advised the students not to express panic as those signs and changes are



part of the maturity growth, which means they are moving from childhood to adolescents.

Mrs Etim reeled out some of the challenges young girls face while undergoing puberty to include, attention from boys, unwanted pregnancy, sexual feelings towards boys among others. The professional nurse advised the students to take precautions especially when they begin to experience these changes by being cautious of their actions, responsible and staying chaste to avoid actions culpable of truncating their future.

On menstrual hygiene, Mrs Etim advised the students to always have regular bath, use of pad, take fruits, eat balance diet and cultivate an active lifestyle by having regular exercise as this will help them solve some of the many problems associated with menstrual cramps. Also, the professional nurse explained in details the three cycles of menstruation and how to manage menstrual cramps. She listed; normal

cycle which spans between the period of 28 days, the short cycle span between 16-18 days while the long cycle spans between 30-31 days respectively. Expressing a heart of gratitude, the Vice Principal of CSCS, Mr Effiong Akpan appreciated the team for the knowledge impacted on the students, stating that the knowledge shared with the students will take them to a height of high learning, as they would now become conscious and take responsibility in their growth process. Mr Akpan emphasized that the drive by CYDPAN was laudable in that, it addresses the pressing challenge of poverty alleviation and mental development of young people. He expressed hope that in CYDPAN and solicited that more programmes should be created to accommodate the boys as they too, form a part of the main problem highlighted by the group in its lecture. The event was laced with questions raised by the eager students and distribution of health study pamphlets to the students.

CYDPAN EQUIPS STUDENTS OF MARY HANNEY SECONDARY SCHOOL ORON WITH LEADERSHIP SKILLS



The lives of young female students of Mary Hanney Secondary School, Oron were steered positively when the Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation Initiative (CYDPAN), equipped them with leadership skills on May 21, 2021. The programme tagged, 'SHE CAN DO IT' - a leadership programme targeted at empowering and preparing young girls in secondary schools as future leaders.

Addressing the students, CYDPAN's Director, Mr Robert Boniface intimated that the outreach was carefully planned to prepare the students not just for academic exercises but to equip them with the necessary leadership skills that will aid in the realization of their lives' goals. The Director hinted that CYDPAN is keenly interested in youth development and empowerment through creation of educational programmes for young people at secondary levels, hence the reason for the outreach.

Delivering a talk on 'SHE CAN DO IT', the facilitator, Ms Uduak-abasi Okon in her exposé shared real life stories of exceptional women like Ibikun Awosika, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and how they strived excellently to become enviable leaders in their professions. Breaking the lesson into a simple form, Ms Okon explained that for girls to become celebrated leaders in the future, they must have a dream; a personal mental picture of what they want their tomorrow to look like.

The facilitator noted that as potential leaders, the knowledge of their personal dreams will help inspire and guide them to do the right thing and at the right time. She emphasized that they can also become celebrated leaders in the future, but these attainments depend on their daily activities, she maintained that girls can equally become professionals in every field if they work hard and believe in themselves.

Highlighting some valid points that make a girl child a good leader, the facilitator stated that every girl child must learn to love herself, have a personal self-belief, lead herself, take corrections, ability to make right choices, have self control and discipline.

On the habit every girl child must possess to become a star, Mrs Okon stressed that they must cultivate the habit of reading, listening, thinking, stewardship, as these habits will help place them with the right information and skills needed to become successful women leaders in the

future.

On the attributes of a good leader, she pointed out that a leader is someone who is teachable, acknowledges the contribution of others, appreciates others, and has standard and boundaries in life.

Also, while encouraging the students to discover and develop their talents, she explained that talents are seeds of greatness deposited into every girl by God and must be maximized for full actualization. On the 'don't' of a leader, the facilitator explained that a leader must not keep grudges, rebel against constituted authority, must not cover up or instigate evil and cheat.

Shortly after the session, two copies of All Inclusive Calculations in Physics for Senior Secondary Schools by Solomon Dauda Yakwo was donated by CYDPAN to the School Library.

Receiving the books on behalf of the Principal, Mrs Hannah Okokon Ante thanked CYDPAN for the mind-blowing session and for choosing to equip the girls with leadership knowledge and skills. Mrs Ante while commending the effort, said the lesson was impactful and will serve as a character moulder and boost to the girls as they continue to pursue their dreams. She expressed joy at the gesture and prayed more blessings on CYDPAN.





CYDPAN JOINS THE WORLD TO MARK CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

In the euphoria of the 2021 Children's Day Celebration, the Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation Initiative CYDPAN, joined the world over to mark the day.

Marking the day, CYDPAN took to strategic locations in Akwa Ibom State to celebrate with kids and students within and outside the school walls.

At Ibom Hall ground where the children's day celebration took place, CYDPAN led by its Executive Director, Mr Robert Boniface, wife, Mrs Gladys Robert and other team members spoke with students from different schools.

The Executive Director of CYDPAN Mr Boniface while educating the students on the importance of the day, told them that they were special breeds created in the awesomeness of God; a perfect replica and torchbearer of our society, therefore they need to live optimally to fulfil that purpose.

He stressed that as an NGO, CYDPAN will continue to spotlight issues that hinder children from achieving their dream while providing and advocating for a better society for them to thrive.

In her charge, Mrs Gladys Boniface explained to the students that, as valuable assets of the society, they should remain resolute and dedicated even as they pursue their academic dreams.

She noted that the happiness and hope children bring to the world was unimaginable, adding that they should never forget they are loved and appreciated by the world.

Shortly after the charge were handed down by the CYDPAN Director, the students from the different schools took snapshots with heart warming and expressive warming placards.

The team also made a stop over at Ibom Recreational Centre popularly known as Ibom Plaza to mark the day with street kids.

At Ibom plaza, the team was greeted with excitement from some of the street kids who posed for a snapshot with the team.

The team took time to cheer the children by encouraging them not to be limited by their present environment, reaffirming that they can be more in the society if they push hard.

Schools visited were; Scripture Union Secondary School, RayField Secondary School and Pinnacle Nursery/Primary School, Uyo.

Speaking to the students separately, CYDPAN Director explained thoroughly the uniqueness of the day and why the world set aside the day to celebrate children all over the world.



While basking in the euphoria of the day, the team ran into a young girl named Esther, a fufu hawker who upon interaction expressly told the team that she can't pose for a snapshot because she's not 'beautiful'.

With a sober expression on her face, Esther turned the team down still insisting she wasn't fit to be captured in the photo session or to celebrate the day.

The decision which aroused the interest of the team, had the CYDPAN directors swooping in to disabuse her mind.

The CYDPAN directors with words laced with hope and prayer shared touching stories of people who came from humble beginning like her and how they overcame the hurdle to be celebrated today.

After a thought and mind provoking session, Esther obliged and took snapshot with the team to mark the day.

Meanwhile, the day's celebration was rounded off with cash gifts to some of the street kids.





CYDPAN EDUCATES STUDENTS OF METHODIST SENIOR SCIENCE COLLEGE ORON ON VALUE & VALUE CLARIFICATION

In a bid to raise young people who are purpose-driven, the Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation Initiative (CYDPAN), on Thursday, May 20., 2021 organized an educative programme for students of Methodist Senior Science College (MSSC), Oron on Value and Value Clarification.

The programme, 'value and value clarification' is part of CYDPAN's vision of raising young people and helping them on the path of clarity as they navigate through life.

Setting the tone for the day, the Director of CYDPAN, Mr Robert Boniface explained that the outreach was impactfully created to help the students discover their purpose for creation and how they can live within that tenets to achieve their dreams.

Mr Boniface explained that as young people, it was imperative for them to have clarity on their lives' path, what they stand for as a person and why they should hold on to morally acceptable values.

To motivate the students, Mr Boniface who is an old boy of the institution shared a glowing story of Mr Smith, a US business giant who rose against all odds from a low background to own an Empire in the US.



In his charge, Mr Boniface encouraged the students not to allow their backgrounds or family status define how far they go in life, stressing that every effort they put in today will either build or mar five generations after them.

Speaking to the students on Value and Value Clarification, the guest speaker, Mr Enebong Ephraim with simple illustrations, defined what the term values means.

Mr Ephraim defined values to be "basic and fundamental beliefs that guide and motivate attitudes and actions". He explained that as students their sources of information were based on a tripod - the parents, teachers and



pastors who are saddled with the responsibility of inculcating the right characters and values into them.

He said, "Character is the bedrock for your values. So you're supposed to learn basic characters from your parents, teachers, pastors, mentors and people above you because those things form the values and character you take in, in your daily activities."

Mr Ephraim explained further that 'values are the outward activities of the inward working of your belief per time', and as students they're expected to grow both in character and in learning.

Also, Mr Ephraim disclosed that if they intend to reach the pinnacle of their dreams, then they must have a functional mind, heart and show empathy towards others while living within the ambit of all socially and culturally acceptable values.



He listed some of the values they must tenaciously live by to include empathy, respect, love, loyalty, justice, honesty and helping others.

To sum up the session, the Deputy Director of CYDPAN, Mrs Gladys Robert charged the students never to forget the importance of value as the values they're building will serve as the guiding light to their future attainment.

Mrs Robert encouraged the students not to be perturbed by the happenings and hardships in the world, rather focus on building solid values and pursuing their dreams as there are no limiting factors to who and what they can become tomorrow.

She appealed that while chasing their dreams, they should show respect to their parents, guidance and those who provide for them, as these persons make selfless sacrifices for them.

Appreciating CYDPAN, a teacher who represented the Principal, Mrs Iquo Edentekhe thanked the team for choosing to speak to the students of the school and for addressing the importance of values in a simple and understandable way to the students.

The school's representative hinted that the school management was filled with gratitude particularly to CYDPAN director who passed through the walls of the school and for seeing the need to come back and impact in the lives of students in his alma mater.

He praised the laudable works of CYDPAN and prayed blessings on the team.

To encourage and boost the reading culture of the students, two relevant Physics textbooks - All Inclusive Calculations in Physics for Senior Secondary Schools by Solomon Dauda Yakwo were donated to the school library.





CYDPAN BREACHING THE GAP OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH INDOLENCE THROUGH SKILLS ACQUISITION



A recent publication by nairametrics.com reveals that the population of unemployed youths in Nigeria are more than the total population of Rwanda and other African countries. The publication revealed that young Nigerians between the ages of 15- 24years especially girls struggled to get employment or are unemployed.

Also, a labour force report released by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), revealed that "in 2021, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is estimated to reach 32.5 percent. This figure is projected to increase further in 2022."

The report suggested that the high youth unemployment rate is a contributing factor to the increasing cause of crime, poverty and insecurity in the country and if nothing is done about, then the country is sitting on a ticking time bomb.

Building on the above highlighted problem in the country, the Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation, CYDPAN, in partnership with Favanth Collection, Angel's Mind Fashion School; Michelle Cakes and Snacks and Sunshine Makeup Artistry sealed a harmonious collaboration to train and equip young women in Akwa Ibom State with



up-to-date skills.

The training initiated by CYDPAN, a Non-governmental organization with keen interest in creating opportunity for the development of young people through education, health and skill acquisition kicked off three months ago, precisely February, 2021, to train interested young women in the state with skills that will not only put food on their tables, but will help turn them into employers of labour. The training which

School. The first set of the trainees (5 ladies), who were registered for catering and event management have graduated and are already practicing independently with laudable testimonies from clients. While the new four in-take in the same category started the training on Friday, 23rd April.

In the cosmetology category, three young women who were registered for the training graduated while the remaining trainees



was categorised into; Fashion Designing, Catering and Event Management, Cosmetology has had the first set of trainees fully trained with hands-on-skills.

In the fashion designing category, eight young women were registered for the training free, with the training fee paid by CYDPAN. Currently, five other young women are still undergoing training by Favanth collection while three others are receiving training from Angel's Mind Fashion

were at the rounding off stage of the training. It is believed that the training by CYDPAN and all the partners will go a long way to breach the unemployment gap in the country and state, and help raise independent women who can fend for themselves and raise other people. This, the Executive Director of CYDPAN, Mr Robert Boniface made known. Giving a brief synopsis of why CYDPAN embarked on the movement of gainfully impacting hands-on skills to young people in the state, Mr



Boniface noted that the organization was passionately compelled by the widening gap of social vices among young people particularly women who were falling prey to immaterial wants, to provide these young women the choice of financial and mental freedom. CYDPAN boss noted that the goal of the organization spans from mental orientation, mental development to helping young people discover and harness their capacity so that the tide of youthful indolence, restiveness and social vices can be curbed while raising a confident and resilient Nigerian youth.

He disclosed that CYDPAN takes pride in providing adequate information, resources to trainees under them in a strategic way that leaves trainees fully empowered and alleviated during and after the training. Meanwhile, apart from the skill acquisition programme, CYDPAN has other lined up thought-out programmes which are intended to target rural people and students at the secondary school level. The drive by CYDPAN is strategically and deliberately planned and is coming at a time the world is grappling to settle in from the hit of COVID-19 and other economic drawbacks faced in the country. With the core vision of CYDPAN in place, skill acquisition programme is expected to translate to the breaching and closure of more than 1000 unemployed gaps in the state and raise of more agile and independent young entrepreneurs with functional businesses in the state.



CYDPAN AT 2021 ANNUAL NURSING STUDENTS' WEEK AND LAUNCHING OF EDUCATIONAL FUND SCHEME HELD AT CENTRAL SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, IKOT EKPENE, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

The Director, Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation – CYDPAN, Mr. Robert Boniface, has admonished persons in the nursing profession to view the vocation as a call from God to serve humanity and reduce human suffering, just as he reiterated CYDPAN's love and commitment to young people development in all fields of endeavours including the nursing profession.

Mr Boniface disclosed this during his speech as chairman at the 2021 Annual Nursing Students' Week and Launching of Educational Fund Scheme held at Central School of Nursing and Midwifery, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. While underscoring the aptness of the theme of the annual event: “Promoting Quality and Holistic Care in Nursing Profession Beyond the Bedside”, the CYDPAN boss noted that the roles of nurses are multifaceted, as they are responsible and

accountable for facilitating safe and therapeutic environment for patients, delivering holistic and personalized care, maintaining accurate and up-to-date records and report, protecting patients' legal rights and privacy, maintaining collaborative relationship with other health workers, working within ethical and legal boundaries, delegating responsibilities appropriately, providing health education, focusing on evidence-based practice and contributing to overall professional development.

According to the Director of CYDPAN, bedside nursing is only one aspect of the nursing profession, as a growing number of nursing professionals are pursuing roles beyond the bedside. He listed these roles to include schools, as in school nurse; rehabilitation clinics, as in case management nurse; medical disaster team, as in flight nurse; pharmaceutical and research activities, as in

informatics nurse; military bases, as in military nurse; health insurance companies, as in telephone triage nurse; legal firms, as in legal nurse consultant; campsites, as in camp nurse; correctional facilities, as in correctional facility nurse; churches, as in parish nurse; court of law, as in forensic nurse; managed care organisations, as in life care planner nurse, among others.



Mr Boniface noted that the aforementioned roles are nonclinical and do not involve direct contact with actual bed patients, and thus comes with its unique challenges.

Boniface thus emphasized that the nursing officers are expected to promote quality and holistic care whether within the bedside or beyond by striving to become good ambassadors of the nursing profession. He charged nurses to uphold the standard of the profession within the bedside and beyond irrespective of challenges faced. The CYDPAN Director also encouraged the nurses to follow the ethics and standards of the profession as this is the surest way to their crowns as

excellent tools in the preservation and well-being of humanity.

Speaking further, the CYDPAN Director appreciated the organizers of the event for the timely nature of the occasion, considering the current medical emergency the world over, evident in the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, thus acknowledging that the improvement of the healthcare system at this time cannot be overemphasized.

He thus advocated that the launching of the educational fund scheme will encourage students to embark on researches that will help in proffering solutions to some of the health problems within the nursing profession, which he said will not only be beneficial to the profession and researchers, but equally to Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria as a whole.

Later in his remarks, the Director of nursing Services, Ministry of Health Uyo, Mrs Nyeneime Efiakedoho, noted that in order to promote quality and holistic care in nursing



profession, the nursing officers must utilize effectively the five elements of holistic nursing practice which she said includes knowledge,

theories, expertise, intuition and creativity. She again appreciated the timeliness of the students' week, and urged the students to make the most use of the opportunity as students, so as to come out as competent health practitioners who will contribute their quota in promoting quality and holistic healthcare both independently, and in collaboration with other members of the healthcare team.

Meanwhile the Akwa Ibom State Students Union Government President, Schools of Nursing, Comrade Maryanne Nkanta, noted that the students' week is annually organized to foster relationships between the students from the different existing Schools of Nursing in Akwa Ibom State. Comrade Nkanta further noted that nursing reaches far beyond the bedside, and expressed preparedness to ensure every participant practices the concept mentally, physically and in the field, just as she went on to offer longevity prayers for the nursing profession.



CYDPAN PROMOTES OVERALL MENSTRUAL HYGIENE FOR GIRLS IN SELECT SECONDARY SCHOOLS

...Captures Etim Ekpo, Ikot Ekpene LGAs in Her Sensitization Programme



The Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation – CYDPAN has continued to record indelible strides in its sworn commitment to supporting and promoting quality of life in its communities, and this it demonstrated this time by directly touching the lives of hundreds of adolescent girls, during its visit to three secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State, where it distributed over five hundred (500) sanitary pads to adolescent girls in the schools.

This, CYDPAN did, with the sole aim of promoting the girls overall menstrual hygiene, thus encouraging menstrual hygiene management through its far reaching sensitization program.

The visitation also heavily featured pep talks on sensitive adolescent conversations about menstrual hygiene, menstrual cramps, symptoms of cramps, girls and puberty, care for the genitals and personal hygiene, including things to do before and after period, among others.

Among the benefitting schools were Iwukem High School, Iwukem, Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, Community Secondary School, Uruk Ata, Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, Gorreti Girls Secondary School, Ikot Ekpene all in Akwa Ibom State.

Speaking at the different schools after which the items were distributed, the CYDPAN Director, Robert Boniface underlined the fundamental role that good Menstrual Hygiene Management – MHM plays in enabling adolescent girls reach their full potential. He noted that due to the multiple challenges that adolescent girls face, it is evident that promoting

MHM is not only a sanitation matter, but also an important step towards safeguarding the dignity, bodily integrity and overall life opportunities of girls. The CYDPAN boss further assured that in line with its overall commitment to promoting gender parity, CYDPAN will continue to be heavily engaged in furthering the MHM agenda.

In her remarks at the donation venue of Community Secondary School, Uruk Ata, Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, the CYDPAN team's medical officer, Patience John enlightened the adolescent girls on various myths and misconceptions surrounding their menstrual circle, just as she assured them that the experiences are absolutely normal, and they have no reason to feel inferior when they experience the recurrent changes in their bodies.

Also speaking at Iwukem High School, Iwukem, Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, CYDPAN's Media Coordinator, Ndifreke Enefiok tasked all girls in the school on personal hygiene, saying it has far reaching effects on their overall performance educationally, socially and otherwise. Meanwhile, at Gorreti Girls Secondary School, Ikot Ekpene, a separate medical officer in the CYDPAN team, Emem Ekong explained the various phases of the menstrual circle, the concept of menstrual cramps as well as its symptoms, and further adumbrated on how to manage menstrual cramps, maintain personal hygiene, including the various physical, biological and emotional changes associated with puberty and the menstrual circle.

The exercise further featured distribution of





hundreds of menstrual hygiene and puberty tracts to all girls in the stated schools, which readily detail every information they would need as they journey through the adventurous circle of their lives as young adolescent girls. The Centre for Young People Development and Poverty Alleviation – CYDPAN, which has as its primary responsibility and aspirations, providing needed succour to suffering strata of the society and encouraging young people's overall growth and sufficiency, invites well-meaning Nigerians, organizations and governments at all levels to key into the course of propagating proper menstrual hygiene management for adolescent girls in the country, for a healthier, sounder and more prosperous community of adolescent Nigerian girls.





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