



**HIGH LEVEL
CONFERENCE ON
VOCATIONAL AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION
FOR FEMALE STUDENTS
AND TEACHERS OF
GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL
AND VOCATIONAL
SCHOOLS
IN KADUNA STATE,
NIGERIA.**

BAFRA HOTEL, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA
15TH OCTOBER, 2020

ONE DAY CONFERENCE ON

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of the conference was to enlighten graduating female students on the importance of vocational and technical education, as well as build the capacities of school principals, teachers, educators, guidance and Counseling Officers from Government Technical Colleges in Kaduna State to design and implement career programs in their career path, build self esteem and learn life skills that will positively impact on their development outcome.

This activity was co-created by the Development Research and Projects Center (dRPC) in collaboration with the Kaduna State Government, Global Initiative For Women and Children (GIWAC), African Centre for Education Development (CLEDA Africa)



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Date: 15th October, 2020

Attendance : 48

Venue: Bafra Hotel, Kaduna, Nigeria

Categories of Participants:

- Government
- School
- Authorities/Principals
- Students
- Media
- CSOs



BACKGROUND:

Kaduna state is located in North-Western Nigeria, and has a population of 6.1million as of the 2006 Nigerian census. This number is believed to have grown significantly to date and placing the state as the third most populous State in Nigeria after Lagos and Kano. The State is one of the education centres in Nigeria, with many colleges and the most recognized university in Nigeria. The State has a combine public Junior and Secondary Schools of 767. The State has only 8 Science and Technical Secondary Schools with a total of junior Secondary School enrolment of 5,243; out of which 1,697 were girls which constitute 32% of the total enrolment. Additionally, the total of public Science and Technical Senior Secondary School enrolments was 4,908; out of which 1,127 were girls which constitute 23% of the total enrolment (Kaduna State ASC Report; 2018/2019).

The Science and Vocational Secondary Schools in Kaduna is staffed by 303 teachers, out of which 220 are male, while 83 are female. This lolw representation of female teachers in the Science and Vocational Secondary Schools in Kaduna is a clarion call for more investment and support of female students to pursue careers in science, vocational, technical education.



Mrs Zainab Is'haq Musa



Hajiya Aishatu Mohammed-Deputy Director,
Female Education-Kaduna State Ministry of Education



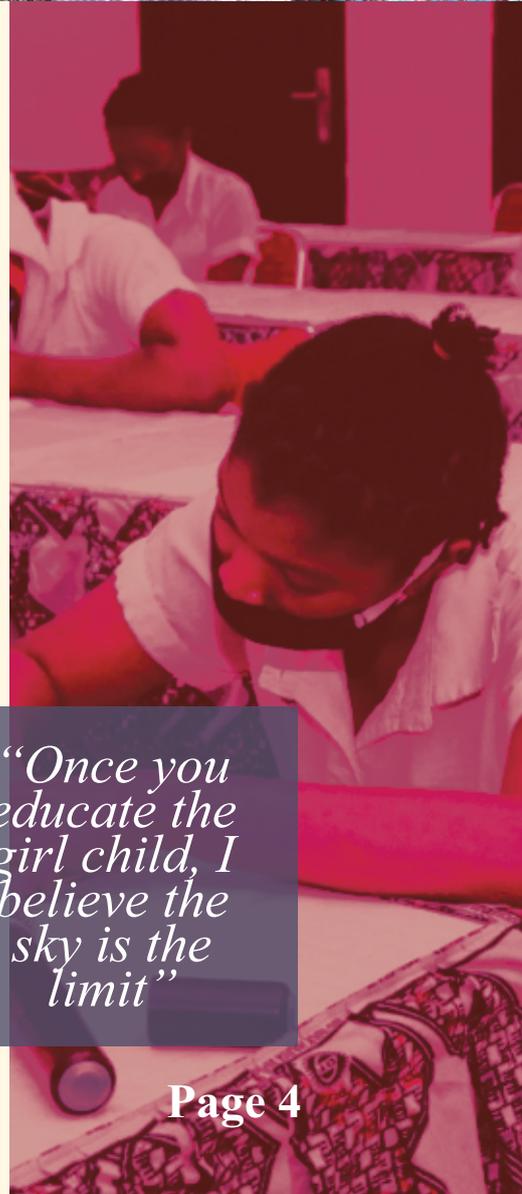
OPENING:

From left to right: Mr Hosea Bako, Hon. Hafsat Muhammed Baba (Hon. Commissioner, Kaduna State Ministry of Human Services and Social Development), Hon. Shehu Makarfi (Hon. Commissioner, Kaduna State Ministry of Education); Aminu Babangida, Grace Ameh.

From Behind: Simon Jatau; Elizabeth Joe; Moh,d S. Ladan; Aisha Mohammed

The event begun with an opening remark by the Honorable Commissioner, Kaduna State Human Services and Social Development, Hajiya Hafsat Muhammed Baba. In her remark, the Honourable Commissioner thanked the organizers of the event and welcomed all participants from various locations within Kaduna State. She stated that her reason for attending the event is to support the Students as well as support the program, especially that it is related to career guidance and counseling. Hajiya Hafsta Baba said as a parent, she appreciates 'if children are allowed to choose their own

career, because they will do better' as this also allows the students to devote their time and accept the responsibility of their career drive. **She believes this program will enlighten the students, build their capacity and provide them with information to make informed decisions about their career path.** Additionally, the Commissioner said that before now, 'there were careers/professions which were predominantly male dominated. But today, girls are breaking the ceiling'. The Honourable said, she stands to be an example for the girl child, and that the girls can look up to her as a role model and become better than she is.



Group picture of participants

“Once you educate the girl child, I believe the sky is the limit”

According to her, therefore, her presence is to encourage the students and also appreciate dRPC for giving the students the required support they diverse. She further thanked the teachers for their efforts in preparing the student for the future. She reiterated her professional achievements as a function of her education.

To conclude her remark, she highlighted Kaduna State's commitment to education and ensuring that every girl in the State has access to quality education.

Also addressing the audience, the Honorable Commissioner, Kaduna State Ministry of Education, Hon. Shehu Makarfi thanked dRPC for organizing such a program especially on career guidance and counseling. While observing all protocols, the Honorable remarked that the One-day Mini Conference on Career Guidance and counseling is a welcome development to the ministry and state as this will go a long way in helping students prepare for their future. According to the Commissioner, The

Ministry is determined to enable every girl child in the State access education. The Honorable reported that previously, the Government declared free education for female students in Kaduna State. Just this year(2020), this gesture has been extended to include the male students. Additionally, 80 new schools are currently being built within the state, in close proximity to primary schools to facilitate smooth transition of female students from primary six to JSS1; as this has been identified as the major issue affecting and hindering complete enrollment and transition of female students from primary to secondary school. He clearly stated that the free education is for all students in the State from primary schools to secondary schools as no one is intended to be left behind.

Moreover, based on the annual school census report released in 2019, The Commissioner reported that the girl child in Kaduna state is closing the gap to that of the male child. This means that the participation of female to male in the state is 48.5% to 51.5% respectively. According the Honorable,



Hon. Shehu Makarfi, Commissioner of Education during and interview



Arrival of participants

by the completion of the new schools being built, the Commissioner is optimistic that the enrollment of female students will surpass that of the male and "I will jump for joy on that day".

Hon Shehu believes that educating the girl child does not only end with the girl, it extends to her family and community as well, 'this is why we will continue to do everything humanly possible to support our girls'. Furthermore, the Honourable Commissioner stated that he had earlier presented a memo to the Human Capital Development Council of the State on how to improve the technical schools and vocational Centres in the State; and had also made the prayers for the establishment of additional technical college for female only in Kaduna State.

The Commissioner added that the Government of Kaduna State is currently carrying out a skill gap analysis, to determine the skills that have gaps in the State and what could be done to fill those gaps. Hon Makarfi agrees that there are skills that are exceptionally done by girls and the government will ensure that girls maintain the lead on those skills.

Concluding his speech, He stated that His Excellency the Governor of Kaduna State has approved the establishment of a school for the gifted and the talented in Kaduna State. The new school which has been approved by the

Governor is currently being constructed in Dambushiya, located in Chukun Local Government area of Kaduna State. The most gifted and talented students will be selected to be trained from across various colleges and schools in various parts of Kaduna State including the villages so as to enable them compete with others around the world effectively. When completed, the school will be the first of its kind in the state and it is expected to kick off next year (2021) with about 300 students.

According to him, The school which will allow exceptionally gifted and talented boys and girls move at their own pace - to enable them move faster based on the endowments that God has given them, and compete with their peer globally.

Finally, He once again appreciated dRPC for hosting a wonderful and timely program on career guidance and counseling and expressed his total support to their course, while reiterating how he has personally been a beneficiary of dRPC interventions.



Hajiya Hafsat Baba, Honourable Commissioner, Kaduna State
Ministry of Human Services and Social Development

GOODWILL MESSAGE:



The Vice Principal of Government Technical College, Soba, Mr. Ismaila Adulsalam, in his goodwill message thanked dRPC for implementing this one-day career guidance and counseling mini-conference, stating how dRPC's support is making students in their school more career oriented and skilled. He recalled previous support of dRPC to include the financial support to enable students in their school register for the National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB) examination just being concluded. He admonished students to maximize the opportunities availed them by dRPC to excel in their chosen career path. In his conclusion, he reiterated how the current Head of Carpentry Unit in their school had risen along her professional cadre even as a woman. 'If she can do it, you can do better'. He debunked the misconception that women cannot excel in certain career path. Also delivering a goodwill message, Rev. Bitrus Dangiwa, who represented Interfaith Mediation Centre, Kaduna, while thanking the organizers of the event, recounted his challenge choosing a career. According to the Reverend, his school had a guidance and counseling master who was able to help guide him to making a career choice. He stated that career guidance and counseling is very important in helping students make the right career choices. He further called on teachers to help their students do the right thing. To conclude his message, the Reverend highlighted the place of a peaceful community is career development. According to him, 'there will be no progress without peace. Therefore, as Christians and Muslims, there is need for all to learn to live at peace with one another'. He believes that there is hope whenever Christian and Muslims gather together for a common purpose. He called on teachers and educators to serve as ambassadors of peace and preach peace and tolerance in their schools.



Hon. Shehu Makarfi, Speaking at the event

PRESENTATIONS:

Speaking on the opportunities for existing students from vocational and technical schools in Nigeria, Ms. Zainab Is'haq Musa who represented Dr. Abdulrauf Aliyu noted that thousands of years ago, 'we started as an Agrarian society where Agriculture was the sole provider for the economy. We then transitioned into the Industrial Age, using machines for mass production. We have now entered the Information Age - a knowledge based economy that whether we like it or not, we need to look at creativity not reliability'.

According to her, 'Many people today do not realize that vocational and technical skills are a global currency and are tools that can empower our youth to create sustainable and inclusive economies'. To drive her point home, Ms. Zainab shared her personal experience how through her late Dad - an advocate for vocational and technical education - she got firsthand experience of the available opportunities that existed and still exists in this field. She reiterated how she used the skills she learnt to generate funds for herself, even while in school as a student. She urged the students to take what has been discussed to heart, and that with commitment and devotion, they will blaze new trails and leave in the sands of time imperishable legacies. 'Each of you should drive a cause that would challenge the status quo until you attain the highest possibilities of noble intentions.'

Also speaking about opportunities for students from Vocational and Technical Schools, the Principal of Queen Amina College, Mrs. Larai Siman, stated that girls are now competing with boys in previously male dominated trades. Recounting some opportunities, the Principal shared examples of girls making a living from carpentry, ICT, building amongst others. She stated that once a student becomes exceptional in a vocational and technical skill, they will have a lot to be able to their personal, community and even National development, as they will also become job creators and not just job seekers. Mrs. Larai also warned that the failure to develop the skills of young people can lead to skill drainage, mass exodus to foreign countries, unemployment, amongst others.

The Principal of Government Girls Secondary School Kawo, Hajiya Rakiya Ismaila Ahmad, who also spoke on some of the opportunities available for female students from vocational and technical schools said, that soft loans and grants are available from the State Government as well as other organizations including NGOs for female students/graduates to establish small businesses. She also stated that the Kaduna State Ministry of Education gives priority to female graduate' entrepreneurs in the tailoring and fashion track when contracting the production of school uniforms, face masks and other school wears. Additionally, she listed available scholarships that students/graduates can access for further career/professional development. According to the Principal, girls have a great opportunity to thrive and become their best.



Hajiya Hafsat Baba speaking at the event



Mr. Francis Maji, Principal,
Government Technical College, Kajuru



Ismaila Abdulsalam, Vice Principal, Government Technical College, Soba



GENERAL SESSION:

Another teacher who responded to the day's activities said that this program has inspired the teachers and educators to provide more guidance and counseling services to their students. She stated that the enrolment rate for girls into the vocational and technical schools are very low compared to the boys. Giving an example, she said that her school has 10 sections of

which only 5 of the sections have female in them. The other 5 are predominantly male. Traditionally, the teacher said that girls are found more in Building, Carpentry, Electronics, Electrical Installation, and Instrumentation Mechanic Works Departments.



Mr Ehud Reuben, Vice Principal, Government Technical College, Malali



Female Students taking note at the event

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Mr. Eric Zubairu, the Head of Section of Physics Technology at Government Technical College Malali referencing the importance of the career guidance and counseling recommended that the State Ministry of Education should source and recruit more guidance and counseling officers who will guide students to plan their career paths.
- Ismaila Abdulsalam, who is the Vice Principal of Government Technical College Soba, recommended that male students should also be invited to participate in events like this, as that will help to provide context and balance in perspectives.
- Another delegate recommended that project/work exhibitions should form part of the agenda of subsequent events of this nature, as it will provide opportunities for the students to showcase their trade/skills/work. This will also inspire other young people to seek a career in vocational and technical education.
- Mrs Larai Siman recommended that students on return to their schools, should encourage their friends to visit their Guidance and Counseling Unit in their schools.



Cross section of participants at the event



Group Photograph of participants both female students, teachers and stakeholders after the event



CLOSING REMARKS:

Delivering a closing remark on behalf of students from Government Technical College Malali, Liberty Peace, the Deputy Head Girl of Government Technical College Malali, thanked the organizers of the program for finding them and their school worthy to benefit from this program. She promised that she and her colleagues will make good use of the advices, knowledge, and skills that they have gotten today. The Deputy Head Girl made a commitment to return to her school and community to encourage other girls in her network to learn vocational or technical skills that can help them become self reliant, rather than just stay at home. Liberty Peace is a Senior Secondary (S.S.3) student and specializing in Building Engineering. She plans to pursue further knowledge and skills about Building to enable her become an expert in the field.

On the same note, Phoebe Haruna also in her closing remark on behalf of students Government Technical College, Kajuru, responded to the advices and presentations from the speakers. Phoebe who is the Head Girl of Government Technical College, Kajuru and specializing in Computer, expressed her gratitude for being a part of the session and thanked the organizers for putting up such a wonderful program that has given her the opportunity to learn a lot. She also said that many students do not know what skill to pursue. She believes that many students ventures into certain career because their friends are doing same and not necessary because they have the skill set and passion. She commits to step down some of the information and experience gained to her peers and encourage them to get a skill that will help them to thrive, be self reliant and productive. According to the Head Girl, girls with vocational and technical skills will not have to be idle after their secondary school. They already have something they can do to generate resources from. This will also reduce their dependence of their parents for everything. Phoebe said that computer skills has become very necessary in today's world and as a specialist, she can use her labour trade test result to begin to work in café, computer centers etc to earn money, while waiting for admission to Higher Institution for further studies.

Remarking on behalf of Kaduna State Ministry of Education, Hajiya Aishatu Mohammed – Deputy Director, Female Education- who represented the Director of Schools remarked that educating the girl child has been reported to be a great investment in National Development. Also, she emphasized that an educated girl is more likely to send her own children to school than an un-educated girl. According to her, this is why the Ministry is supporting effort towards educating the girl child. She hopes that the effort of the Ministry and those of partners will continue to be beneficial to the society and humanity at large.

IMPACT AND EVALUATION

This event engaged with key educators, government officials, teachers, CSOs, Media, and Students.

A total of 48 people attended the event representing the above listed groups.

The program outcome were measured using feedbacks provided by participants and guest.

Against the objectives of the event, the evaluation used a qualitative process. Participants, partners and students were interviewed which laid the bases for this evaluation.

#Commitment:

Students: The Students made commitments to return back their schools and communities to step down the knowledge gained, inspire and encourage their peers to seek career counseling as well as build vocational skills that might enable them become self reliant in the future.

School Principals: Principals and educators Committed to organist more career days in their schools to enable students find their career paths. They also presented themselves as mentors to students seeking mentorship.

Government: In addition to reviving career guidance and counseling in some school, the Representatives of the government, committed to recruit more guidance and counseling teachers into various schools in the State as a means to provide effective and efficient career guidance and counseling sessions for students. The government also committed to building new vocational and technical schools for girls in Kaduna State. The government also committed to building a special school for the most gifted and talented students in Kaduna State to enable them to excel at their own pace and compete globally.

Increase in Awareness: The student reported increase in level of awareness about opportunities available in Vocational and Technical education. This increase in awareness had led to their aspiration and commit in putting their best to their program and also seek further studies their selected fields to enable them become experts in those areas.





Cross section of participants at the event



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