



## **Report on The Annual Sensitization Workshop for Students in Senior Secondary Schools Held at Conference Hall, National Mosque, Abuja.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Education, Social and Health Mission (MESH) organized an Annual Sensitization Workshop for Students in Senior Secondary Schools in Abuja. The program was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October at Abuja National Mosque. It was aimed at raising awareness about mental health and substance abuse among teenagers in Nigeria. The program brought together representatives from various schools, organizations, and government agencies, as well as experts in mental health and drug abuse.

This is the second of its kind. This year, MESH focused on three aspects: Adolescents mental health, Drug Abuse and Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV).

The program began with registration, followed by an opening prayer and recitation of the Holy Quran by the Imam of National Mosque Ahmed Onilewura. The introduction of schools and guests was done by school representatives, after which the NSCIA Representative Abubakar Akande gave welcome remarks. Representatives of various organizations, including PLAN, NDLEA, ICESCO, SUBEB, AMIS, CODE, National Mosque Rep, and S.A Youth, gave good will messages

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To address the issues around Adolescent Mental Health
- To broaden the Adolescent knowledge on contemporary challenges and how to tackle them
- To equip Young Adolescent on preventive measures on Drugs Abuse, SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Adolescent) and Mental Health

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **i. IDENTIFY PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL IN FCT.**

20 public senior secondary schools were identified to attend the sensitization, however due to the cost of transport and logistics it was reduced to 10, out of which only 9 of the public senior secondary school attended. The school that attended are as follows:

- Government Day Secondary School Wuse 2

- Government Secondary School Apo
- Government Secondary School Garki
- Government Secondary School Gwarinpa
- Government Secondary School Jabi
- Government Secondary School Lugbe
- Government Secondary School Mabuchi
- Government Secondary School Nyanya
- Government Day Secondary School Dutsen Alhaji

## ii. WROTE LETTER OF PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION TO ORGANISATIONS

Letters were written to seek for partnership and collaborations to SUBEB, UBEC, NDLEA, CSO, PLAN and SEB

## iii. IDENTIFY RESOURCE PERSONS

Resource Persons were identified by MESH to give lectures during the workshop, the following are list of resource persons identified;

- Khadijah Oladipupo, Head Program Officer at Education, Social and Health Mission (MESH) to give the objectives of MESH at the event.
- Dr. Sa'adatu of Secure Future International Initiative to give a presentation on Teens Mental Health and Awareness.
- Mr. Kenneth Aneto of A New Thing International Foundation to give a presentation on Drug Education for Youth Adolescents.
- Chinelo Amaechina of PLAN Nigeria to give a final presentation on Preventing Gender-Based Violence among Adolescents: Bridging the Knowledge Gap.

Find below pictures:



*Kenneth Anetor discussing the effect of drug abuse*



*Dr. Sa'adatu giving a presentation on Teens Mental Health and Awareness*



*The objective of MESH by Khadijah Oladipupo*



*Chinelo Amaechina on Preventing Gender-Based Violence among Adolescents*

#### **iv. MESH WROTE LETTER OF INVITATION TO SCHOOLS**

After identifying the list of schools that were interested on the youth sensitization program, an invitation letter was sent to them either their email or physically.

#### **v. SCHOOLS WERE CALLED TO REMIND THEM FOR THE SENSITIZATION**

The schools that showed interest and received letters of invitation were continuously reminded on the date of the event and also to seek if there are any complains that they may arise to be addressed such as issues of transport, food, and venue etc.

#### **vi. PLAN REFRESHMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS**

It is expected that 200 participants would attend the sensitization, therefore meals and refreshment were provided.

#### **vii. SEND OUT INFORMATION ON DEBATE TOPICS TO SELECTED SCHOOLS.**

Information regarding their topics to debate was accepted by 3 schools which were Eeqraa International Model School, Government Secondary School Lugbe and ICICE Al-noor academy. The topic for debate was “The impact of Social Vices on Teenagers on Career Choices and Development.” Gift were given to the students of the debate. Find Below pictures:



*ICICE students making their presentation*



*Eqraa presenting on The impact of Social Vices*



*GSS Lugbe presenting on The impact of Social Vices*

#### **viii. GIVE CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING TO PARTICIPANTS**

The students that participated on the sensitization program were given a certificate to commemorate the occasion. Find below pictures:



*Adolescent participants were presented with their certificates*

## **ix. HALL DECORATIONS, MC AND MEDIA INVITES**

Hall used was at Abuja National Mosque. No budget was expedited for the procurement of the venue. The media team requested by MESH was I-Media and NTA. MC's were Khadijah Oladipupo and Firdausa Amasa

## **TOPIC**

### **Mental Health**

1. Adolescents Mental Health and Awareness: Promotion and Prevention
2. Contemporary Perspectives in Adolescent Mental Health

### **Drug Abuse**

1. Tackling the effects of drug abuse in secondary school
2. Sensitization of adolescents on the evils of drug abuse

### **Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Adolescent**

1. Importance on the issue of consent
2. Effect of the improper assigned gender roles in household duties
3. Encouraging flexibility in assigned gender roles
4. Discouraging all forms of violence as means of subjugations/submission

## **CONCLUSION**

The Teens Mental Health and Awareness Program was a successful event that brought together experts, organizations, government agencies, and school representatives to raise awareness about mental health and substance abuse among teenagers in Nigeria. The program provided an opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration, and highlighted the importance of promoting mental health and substance abuse awareness among teenagers in Nigeria.