



Spotlight
Initiative



13th August, 2021

D
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E
CONFERENCE

**Expanding
Margins**

#DARE2021

DARE CONFERENCE 2021

/// Expanding Margins



NYSC Band Opens DARE Stage

The most exciting thing about our national anthem is how energizing and talented the band can be, the NYSC band did justice to every stanza for an opening.

The fact that young people are getting the much-desired recognition as tools for nation building is exciting. We are so pumped knowing we are elements of change.

Tea Conversation with Ms Ulla E. Mueller on Young People



Yay! It's tea conversation time! Guess who opened our first tea conversation. Yes, you got it right! The delectable Ms. Ulla Elisabeth Mueller, the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative and Hajiya Hadiza Dorayi, - UNFPA Spotlight official moderated by the Executive Director of YouthHubAfrica- Rotimi Olawale. Couldn't be more exciting!

Speaking on issues of child marriage and female genital mutilation and how best to curb the menace Ms. Ulla said there are a handful success stories but the major challenges governing

child marriage are negative cultural norms! Stating that we need to have conversations with traditional and religious leaders, and parents and most importantly not forget to communicate the economic impact of such acts and how society is losing huge potential when girls are married out early. "We also need to understand that young girls who are forced into marriages are exposed to complications such as fistula. It is also a gross violation of their human rights" she added.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence is one of the most heart wrenching form of violence against the female gender! It was indeed an insightful tea conversation.

In summary, the esteemed guests on our first tea conversation highlighted the importance of Education and how this makes a tremendous difference in the future of young women and Girls in Africa and Globally.



Ensuring Inclusiveness in Education

Education is a right and not a privilege not a right that one deserves and the other doesn't, it is one pivotal sector that shapes, mould and helps humans seek perfection. As a matter of honesty a nation with poor education is a breeding ground for mediocrity, under harnessed potentials and almost zero longevity! Be that as it may, i need not tell you that the DARE conference wouldn't be as credible as we intend for it to be if we don't shine light on education especially since education

"Lack of creativity on the part of our policy makers is a big problem, we will not stop building bigger prisons until we begin to prioritize education in Nigeria

What you prioritize is what gains value hence I will look forward to a country where policy makers are mandated to enroll their children in Nigerian schools because Nigeria's fortune will never advance as long as we keep running a certificate economy, where people who have certificates are seen to be superior over others because teaching in Nigeria has been left as a contingency plan for those who cannot get jobs in other fields. We have a system that teaches people to memorise and not to perform also, Mathematics must become a subject that we prioritize in Nigeria because it is foundation for quantitative reasoning and the best way to groom problem solving techniques

85 % of jobs will be taken over by automation in the coming years, the question is where will Nigerian children stand in this? What are our gains and losses?"

If we don't empower teachers and vocational education in Nigeria, we are not ready for change

Our parents need to wake up and understand that whether they like it or not, this generation will be the one that will transform Nigeria-Toyosi Akerele- Ogunsiji

"Do we have localized policies and are those policies implemented?

Access to schooling is one thing, access to education is another thing entirely

If we are talking about the 10 million children out of school, we should also be worried about those who are in school but not getting quality education

It is not just about building exotic facilities but it should be about the quality of education the children are getting in those facilities

If you take the responsibility to serve, you need to serve or else you have betrayed the nation"

-Bolaji Abdullahi

"It is the responsibility of the government to provide access to quality education because it is the right of every child.

We need to think about budget and budgeting. We need to track our spending to make sure allocated funds are well utilized projects shouldn't just be awarded and implemented on paper, they should be traceable and accounted for. We need to enter into more intelligent discourse on education"- Modupe Afolabi-Olatunji

"If we are going to solve the problem in our educational system, We need to change our approach on how we educate



From Makoko Community to DARE Stage

Remember the young Rboy, Ferdinand Maumo, who went viral on Twitter a few months ago for winning a chess grand slam in the Makoko community – the largest floating slum in the world? Guess what? He graced the DARE stage and we couldn't be happier to have a superstar and champion in our midst. Tunde Onakoya, the founder of Chess in Slums Africa, gave an inspirational talk discussing his journey

so far through chess education; the same journey that led him to discover Ferdinand.

He had taught more than 200 children how to play chess but had never seen anyone learn at the same pace as Ferdinand did. Now, children who do not have access to education would not be able to live up to their potentials. For the children in Makoko

community, their greatest aspiration was learning how to fish or make boats. For Tunde, he did not want to tell the story of poverty. He wanted to share a new story – a new perspective - exposing the talents that resided in that community.

Despite Ferdinand's cerebral palsy condition and being jeered at by his peers prior the championship, he has proven that it is possible to do great things from a small place. Now,

Ferdinand has played chess with leaders and experts, and has consistently displayed his outstanding abilities.

On every stage that involved chess, it did not matter what his name was. All that mattered was the game: The equalizer, Chess!

The only future worth dreaming of is that which includes everyone, including children who live in slums and have no ideas of the vast opportunities that exist in the world. Never let their backgrounds inhibit their potential

Highlights

POP - UP SESSION



Dr. Edward Addai



Sodfa Daaji

RETHINKING EDUCATION IN AFRICA

In this brief but eye-opening session by Dr. Edward Addai, he highlighted the sad reality faced by the education sector in Africa which was made more glaring with the coronavirus pandemic; that schools were the first to close and the last to open. Because of this, the education system was failing a lot of children. However, with Africa being the giant of Africa, it is crucial to translate the demographic burden of the continent into a demographic dividend. According to Dr. Addai, there is no way we will achieve an Africa fit for the future without fixing our education system.

Therefore, in rethinking education in Africa, he proposed some solutions. Some of them include; Utilising digital methods and electrical connectivity, online learning to enhance classroom teaching, recruiting teachers as facilitators and motivators of learning, safety to learn in school and communities, safe spaces to learn 21st century problem-solving, job-specific skills, and shifting from solving problems to dissolving problems.

Without much argument, we definitely agree that the above solutions Dr. Addai proposed are sure to improve the education sector in Africa and ultimately expand margins for the children and youth of the continent.

While social media provides countless opportunities to young people, It has also been used as a tool to perpetrate social injustice, women and Girls have continually been at the receiving end. Sodfa Daaji in her pop-up session threw more light on this.

“There is always an attempt to silence young women and girls in these media spaces. The discrimination and stigmatization have also been transferred to social media. People infringe on the sexual and reproductive rights of young women and girls; their fashion choices, instruct them on the right way to behave in an abusive manner. Things that boys do for fun, the girl child will be insulted for the same reasons “- Sodfa Daaji



Oiza and Meyi's Pop up Performance

Cont. Ensuring Inclusiveness in Education

people in Nigeria. We need to be creative in our approach so we can keep children in schools and also provide quality education. We need people who are willing to drive the needed change in our educational system to invest in it because Investing in primary education is a must in Nigeria.

We have lost so much time and we need to catch up with what is going on globally as regards education” - Kiki James

VOLUTEER TESTIMONIAL



I had an awesome experience at dare 2019, it opened up the opportunity to able to meet and collaborate with other creatives on various activities. My highlight of the event was at the very moment Ike the magician performed the trick of tearing and coupling back a newspaper.

Otega Henry Kabu

DARE Conference 2019/2021 volunteer



The reason I registered to volunteer at DARE 2021 is I was looking for an opportunity to develop new skills and build on existing experience and knowledge. And I wanted to be a part of something impactful for a change. When I received the mail, I was really excited. I immediately called my friend who had told me about the opportunity to share the good news. I was chosen to be a part of something great. I felt involved.

Omang Lydia

DARE Conference 2021 volunteer

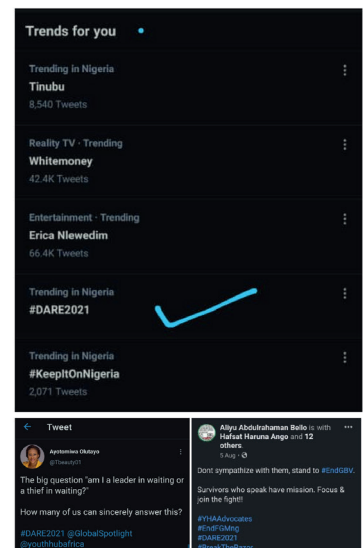
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**JOEBOY PERFORMS LIVE
TOMORROW**



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