



Spotlight
Initiative



14th August, 2021



DARE CONFERENCE 2021

/// Expanding Margins



Yes! sure the participants never expected the value packed sessions they had yesterday, not to worry anyways that is the excitement the DARE conference always brings. With over 500 young people physically present and over 100 young people engaging online, a conducive environment, the atmosphere was set for an educative and fun-filled experience. From learning about inclusiveness in the educational sector, securing safe spaces for women and girls on the social media, a value stacked session on democracy and governance to witnessing electric stage performances that kept everybody glued to their seats.

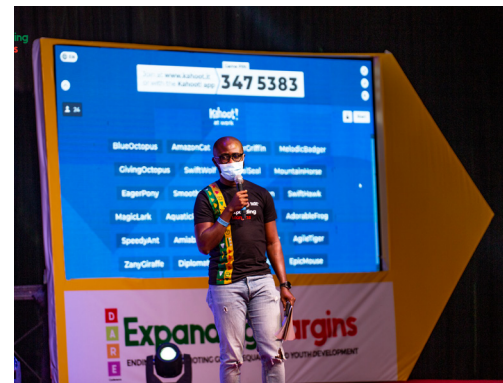
It is the DARE conference feeling and we are all here for it!

ANTICIPATE THE GRAND FINALE!

Today the buzz continues! Banking on the success of the opening day which has launched the conference on a high pedestal, the grand finale is here and the atmosphere is fired up for a once in a lifetime experience that the DARE conference brings.

We expect educational and interactive panel discussions on real life topics like; employment and entrepreneurship, surviving GBV in Nigeria and others, quality contents from pop up sessions, electric performances ranging from musical performances as Joeboy will be headlining the concert. The stage is set, we are ready, and the DARE conference is about to exceed expectations once again.

GAME TIME, PEOPLE!



The grand finale of DARE Conference 2021 kicked off with a game - a quiz on current affairs, played by the participants on an app called Kahoot!. The atmosphere was heated with competitiveness, as everyone dug into their knowledge of history, hoping they got the answers right. (Quick question: How much of African history do you know? Look into the mirror, are you proud of it?)

Out of the three winning participants - EpicMouse, RedSwan, and DiplomatStork - the winner was RedSwan, a young smart woman.

IN-CASE YOU MISSED OUT

From pertinent issues being discussed in the different sessions to being mesmerised by the performance of various forms of art, the first day of the DARE Conference 2021 was everything we expected it to be,

and more. We bet day 2 will be even more eventful as it will be exciting beyond words. For starters, Joeboy will be gracing our stage. Whoop whoop!! Perhaps for some reason you were unable to attend yesterday's sessions, have no worries, we will bring you up to speed.



Excerpts from Day 1 & 2



KNOWING WHEN TO DRAW THE LINE

Amina Yahya, a development practitioner held a pop up session where she talked about knowing where to draw the line, you will agree with me that it was one session that was not only youth friendly but was insightful. The highlight of the session was the walk down memory lane where she told us about how she used to spend her mother's change on petty stuff and got punished for it until she realized that it was wrong to spend what is not yours. Making a comparison with this story she said;

"I wonder if our leader who psiphon our monies didn't have an elder in their homes or in their community who reprimanded them when they started exhibiting thief-like behavior".

The insightful speaker, talked about how easy it is for nigerians to be ruled, how much nigerians are down to earth and only demand the most basic things from their leaders, hence she called on the said leaders to give this bare minimum while admonishing the masses to "draw the line" and not celebrate the crumbs thrown at them by this leaders in exchange for their blind loyalty and silence

"Nigerians are easy to lead, what we want are the basic things and the Young people calling for change in Nigeria have become keyboard warriors, why? They've settled for irrelevant political posts like ; Special Assistant on media".-



SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EDUCATION

Defying all odds and rising above the limitations placed on her by her immediate environment, Amina Yusuf is a young girl who broke boundaries and expanded margins. In her session, she shared the stories of two girls; Khadija and herself. Both girls were supported through safe spaces by the Centre for Girls Education when they were 8 and 11 years old respectively. Though Khadija had earlier dropped out of school, she continued her education and has now purchased land and runs a successful poultry farm in Northern Nigeria. Amina herself who had dropped out after primary school as she was the first of eight children forged ahead and completed her education. Now she is a graduate, intern, and cascading mentor at Centre for Girls Education. She is also widely travelled, sharing world stages with prominent changemakers. If Amina's story teaches us anything, it is that girls can dare and safe spaces are crucial for women and girls in education. Dreams are also valid and can be pursued. We are therefore challenged by Amina to expand margins and break out of limitations.

"Character is not complete until it is consistent" - Dr.

Oby Ezekwesili



EMPATHY IN TODAY'S WORLD

Buchi Onyegbule, the co-host for DARE 2019, expanded his margins and returned as a speaker for DARE 2021. This time, he told the Narrative 4 story, a testament of empathy in today's world. Inspired by the story of Bassam Aramin: a former Palestinian combatant who chose empathy, non-violence and dialogue instead of hatred and vengeance towards his oppressors, Narrative 4 teaches people the concept of empathy through storytelling. Therefore, it provides aid, but with dignity. This is done in three ways; school or community hub operations (story exchange sessions to teach empathy), artist network (writers, musicians, thought leaders, etc) and civic engagement programs (trash to treasure program in Africa). Ultimately empathy is a bridge and it expands viewpoints. As such, we all must strive to inculcate this valuable trait.

MENTORING SESSION with Dr. Oby Ezekwesili



Highlights

POP - UP AND PANEL SESSIONS



FROM SCRAP TO VALUE

-INTISARR BASHIR-KURFI

In a bid to make earth conducive for its inhabitants, it is essential to factor sustainability into design and creation of products and solutions to pressing issues people encounter in their daily lives.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015; 17 in all, these goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

To protect the planet and safeguard the health of people as they interact with their environment, Intisarr embarked on a quest in 2019 to convert sachets of “pure water nylon” into long-lasting building materials through her company, Sustainovation Solutions located in Abuja, Nigeria.

An architect, entrepreneur and SDGs champion, Intisarr graced DARE Conference stage today to speak about the innovative way she is creating sustainable solutions to the problem of open defecation and lack of clean drinking water in underserved communities in Nigeria by building eco-friendly toilets. Intisarr also seized the moment to urge everyone to always remember that humans are custodians of earth and change begins with each person, therefore we must all safeguard the planet for the future generation.

“We must take care of the planet, so that the future generation will be proud to know we lived before them.”



EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Carving a niche in your industry

It was a very insightful conversation with Odunayo Eweniyi, the CO-founder and COO of Piggvest, and Abubakar Abdullahi. Odun shared with us that the problems women face were both endemic and systemic. She said for young women trying to launch their careers in the tech industry, it was important to identify a couple of people they wanted to model their careers after, search their individual goals, and be self-aware and focused while pursuing their goals. She further stated that funding women was a purely economic - and not charity - endeavour, and like every economic venture, it yielded returns. Here are a few thoughts from Odunayo Eweniyi:

“As a woman, especially a woman in tech or the creative industry, understand that the life you are living is solely your decision. Sexism won't go away. You just have to make your way through it.”

In this era of remote work, Abubakar Abdullahi's session was extremely important as he navigated the new world of work. According to him, skills like graphics design, social media marketing, programming languages, were very useful in this age.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL



Being a media volunteer for DARE Conference 2019 was such a blissful experience. That informed my decision to volunteer in this year's edition, this time as a content editor. For me, the best part of volunteering for DARE 2021 is that because I am hands on, I am taking in all the important discussions, lessons and questions while having fun, building my network and working with super amazing people.

Vivian Chidera Ejike

DARE Conference 2019/2021 volunteer



Volunteering at the DARE Conference as a protocol officer was fun and a learning experience, I made new friends and networked with young minds.

Emmanuel

DARE Conference 2021 volunteer

THE RIPPLE PROJECT LAUNCH

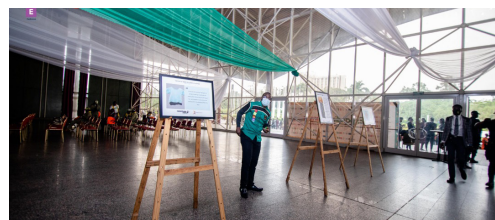


The spotlight initiative and UNFPA sponsored project which seeks to engage young people within 18-35 age range on sexual and gender based violence, violence against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health rights and harmful practices. Where young people

were trained as peer educators to engage in peer to peer interactive sessions and also hold group sessions amongst peers in their communities. The project geared towards ending Sexual and Gender based violence was launched by the coordinator EU-UN spotlight initiative Nigeria-

Hadiza Aminu Dorayi, UNFPA country representative- Ms Elisabeth Mueller, Executive Director YouthHubAfrica- Rotimi Olawale.

Photo Dump



Join the Gist
Online
#DARE2021
#ExpandingMargins

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DARE Conference 2021

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