

## Youngster Solidarity Forum Nigeria

The report I gathered so far, is based on talks I hold with some of the leaders and representatives of various civil organizations we have in Nigeria. Mainly those in my state and those I carried out personally. This summary focuses on WPAY.

### EDUCATION

Education as one of the ten WPAY priority area, since 1995. Nigerian government can private and social bodies have contributed a lot to realizing the World Programme of Action for Youth in education perceptively.

My organization will not say that illiteracy have been eradicated completely, since WPAY inception but greater impact have been made. Schools physical structures have been reconstructed both in urban and rural areas but teaching tools and library equipment are still at large.

Military factors against WPAY get goals in Nigeria is tribalism and embezzlement of funds set aside for the course.

The chart below shows illiteracy since 1995.

1995                                      1999                                      2003

### EMPLOYMENT

Majority of Nigeria Youths have gained skills through the Skill Acquisition Programme organized by the Federal, State government and some civil bodies.

Yes, we have acquire the knowledge yet no fund for employability to thrive. Nigerian government fail to put into consideration that, those youths that graduate from different Skill Acquisition Centres needs money to exhibit the knowledge gained. Because of, the stigma youth unemployment is escalating in every microsecond.

### HUNGER AND POVERTY

The research are carried out on hunger and youths, shows that 4 out of 5 youths in Nigeria have no breakfast, 2 out of 4 get to bed with empty stomach. Finally, 1 out of 5 have 3 square meal because they are born in to well-to-do homes.

The contributing factors to hunger and poverty among Nigerian youths are:

- i. They shy away from anything concerning farming
- ii. Lack of funds to self-employment
- iii. Restiveness.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

The youth participation in environmental activities is not the only thing WPAY can encourage. Have WPAY promoters fail to ask whether their environment is serene and conducive for youth activities.

Yes, we participate in Community Development which we call CD. Let's use Aba a city in Abia State and Onitsha in Anambra State. These two cities are densely populated and their crime rate is optimal. Youth activities in these cities will be disturbed.

Abia state government started palm tree planting programme in 2002 where all the youths in Abia State were enjoined to participate in youth organization on their own initiated ornamental planting in all the major streets.

## DRUG ABUSE

Some medical students of the various Federal Universities in Nigeria conducted a 2-day workshop on DRUG ABUSE. They agreed to rehabilitate drug users; fliers and banners were printed with different drug danger inscriptions and its awareness.

My organization interviewed some youths who participated 2 months later. We found out that 40 percent have given up drug but 55 percent are still using. We hope that, the next workshop will go a long way to create more awareness.

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Government and NGO's have tried immensely to trace the cause of Juvenile Delinquency and its prevention. UNDP in 2002 held a 4-day workshop tagged "Youths Against Violence", in collaboration with ANUSA. Resolutions were made among the various youth leaders and their representatives on how to tackle youth violence. The workshop was a success.

## LEISURE - TIME ACTIVITIES

My findings show that 75 percent spend their spare hours in browsing internet websites, 35 out of 75 subscribe to pornographic sites. I also found out that 15 percent are in fitness centers busy gymming while other 10 percent are making use of the library.

Government and NGO's need to put more effort to addressing and organizing relevant places for youth to spend their little time out.

GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Nigeria has a gender balance, no discrimination between sex their education system encourage co-education and there is equal opportunities.

AREA 10 OF WPAY: Participation

Youth in Nigeria are willing to come out but politics are the barrier. If government and NGO's will support and finance youth initiatives, by so doing Nigeria youths will be informed soundly.

NB: My organization did not prepare summary on the five additional areas of WPAY due to time factor and logistics, but we promise to give the summary when we receive other world youth report in future.

We received this report 3 weeks ago.

Best regards.

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