

REPORT ON 2007 WDR YOUTH CONSULTATION
WORLD BANK COUNTRY OFFICE, ABUJA, NIGERIA.
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FACILITATOR: EMMANUEL O. ANOLIEFO.

The Consultation on the *World Development Report (WDR) 2007 : Development and the Next Generation* with Nigerian youth was held at the Country Office of the World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m . Thirty two (32) youths from Secondary schools, Universities, National Youth Service Corps, Civil Societies and Non-Governmental Organizations attended the Consultations facilitated by Emmanuel O Anoliefo of Change Africa Network (an NGO), Obadiah Tohomdet, Communications Officer and Charles Onyekatu, Public Information Assistant of the World Bank, Nigeria Country Office.

The Youth were formally welcome to the Country Office by the Country Director of the World Bank in Nigeria Hafez. He briefed them on the activities of the Bank in Nigeria and assured that the world Bank was interested in working with youth on development issues. He said youth were important in development that is why the WDR of 2007 would be focusing on them. The Country Director urged the participants to contribute their quota towards the success of the 2007 World Development Report. The Country Director was represented by the Communications Officer, Obadiah Tohomdet.

At the general session , presentations were made on *Harnessing the Power of Youth and Development and the Next Generation* by Emmanuel Onoliefo and Obadiah Tohomdet after which participants were briefed on the themes of WDR 2007. There was also a question and answer session in which most of questions were centered on the policies and activities of the World Bank in Nigerian and the developing countries. There were also passionate appeals to empower the youth and to factor them into all World Bank projects – from design to implementation and evaluation.

Due to time constraints only four of the themes were selected for group discussions by the youth.

In each of the groups, there was a chairperson and repertoire selected by the group.

After discussions, each theme group came up with resolutions which were presented to the general house.

To say that the consultation was educative may not fully capture the excitement of the youth for being afforded the opportunity to contribute their peculiar experience in the making of the World Development Report, 2007.

The consultation afforded the youth not only the opportunity to raise questions and get first hand explanation about the full range of the World Bank activities in Nigeria and the considerations that informed them. More importantly, it afforded the youth the opportunity to appreciate the real value of the Bank's activities in Nigerian economy, against the backdrop of the myriad of misinformation being peddled about the Bank's activities and their effect on the economy.

Because of the constraint of time the consultation chose to settle for four of the sub-themes namely, Going To School; Staying Healthy; Finding A Job and Being A Citizen.

After the group work, the general house made a few observations on some important questions on other sub-themes--Leaving Home, Starting A Family and Youth In A Globalize World.

The consultation began with a general discussion on the theme of the consultation- Development and the Next Generation. This general discussion was aimed at setting a proper context for the group discussion. After the general discussion the consultation went into the group stage.

The participating youths were then split into 4 groups of 7 persons each. And each of the groups took up each of the four sub-themes listed above.

Group A discussed Going To School;

Group B discussed Finding A Job

Group C discussed Staying Healthy

Group D discussed Being A Citizen

Below are the presentations of the groups.

Report on Group Discussion

GROUP A: GOING TO SCHOOL

The discussants reached consensus on the following:

1. Why are so many people not in school? Is it because there aren't enough, or big enough, school, or enough teachers?

The answer is yes to all.

There are not enough number of schools neither are the school big enough to take the number of undergraduates, most schools are over-crowded, which is not suitable and conducive for learning. According to JAMB Fact File 2003, the average number of students that write the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Examinations (the general entrance examination for admission into Nigerian universities) annually is 1.1 million students. But the universities only admit a maximum of 100,000 students annually, leaving approximately 1million out of school. Lack of teachers is also a major factor.

Do you know people who can't afford to go to school? Yes, they are everywhere! A lot of them lives below \$1 USD per day and so can't afford to send their children to school

Are there other reasons you can think of that people can't go or just don't go to school? Yes, of course

- poor and ugly perception of the education of the girl child in the northern part of the country
- ethnic and cultural perception of the education of the male folks in the south eastern part of the country where they are encouraged to go into business ventures

Does any of it have to do with who they are - where they come from, how they were born or what people think they are capable of?

To a large extent, yes. It has a lot to do with who they are especially the disabled and physically challenged and mentally retarded, which also form part of how they were born and what people think they are capable of. This is made worst by the lack of special education for the disabled and mentally retarded. Even in situation where such is provided, there is no facility. Where the facility is, it is not functional. e.g Bola Ige Information Technology Centre at the women development centre has computer systems for the blind but since it was launched by the Federal Capital Territory Minister, it has never been operational or in use.

2. What of curricula, your classes? Do you feel you learn 'the right stuff'?

- Curricula need to be reviewed/reformed on the basis of skill acquisition
- Curricula to be developed with Nigerian context and perception
- More classroom to be provided
- Textbooks should be simplified and not over ambiguous

- We learn the right stuff but only on theoretical basis – it should be contextualized and applicable, it should also reflect realities and not illusions

3. Why do people drop out of school?

- Due to lack of funds as they prefer to do business and support their families as a result of the economic hardship
- The disabled drop out as the materials needed are not available
- Government paying less attention to the education of the disabled and physically challenged
- Disparities in school system in Nigeria
- Schooling not being made to be interesting
- UBE – not free in Abuja and many states.
- No visible benefits of going to school OR lack of emphasis on the benefits of going to school
- Peer pressure and influence
- Risky behaviors e.g. teenage pregnancy, cultism, exam malpractice etc

What should be done about it - both to bring drop outs back into school or be given another way to catch up, and to avoid having or choosing to drop out?

- Awareness programme on why we should go to school by emphasizing on the benefits
- By promulgating a law that the criteria for public office must not be school certificate but a minimum of first degree e.g. Presidency, Governorship, Chairman etc
- Let free education be free indeed and making it compulsory
- Poverty reduction and economic empowerment
- Provision of adult education, evening classes especially special education for the disabled, physically challenged and mentally retarded

4. What motivates you and what do you like best at school?

- Learning something new
- The thought of greatness and becoming great someday
- Availability of ICT facilities in school
- Interaction between people of diverse socio-cultural, religious and parental background
- Sports, recreational activities and a conducive learning environment in school
- Boarding – give the opportunity of being responsible as actions and decisions are taken by students
- Domesticating and liberating system of education instead of the banking method that is widely used.

5. What kind of actions do you think would give you and other young people especially very poor young people, more better choices or ways to get your education?

- Scholarships and more competitions
- Establishment of more schools
- Training workshops and continuous capacity building for teachers
- Free and compulsory education
- Institutionalizing an educational system that is free of prejudice, bias and sentiments
- Formal and informal education to be encouraged especially special education for the disabled

What are some of the things that influence your choice and expectation for your education?

- Job opportunities and prospects for a particular course of study e.g. medicine, law etc
- Parental influence
- Peer influence
- Personal gifts and talents

That influence how much you enjoy school and help you do well?

- Conducive learning environment
- Sound and friendly teacher – pupil relationship
- Parental guidance in take home assignment etc
- Elimination of strike actions
- Provision of sport and recreational facilities
- Availability of ICT facilities
- The thought of knowing that the curricula and what you're learning will be useful to you in the future

6. Where else do you learn, beside school itself?

- Home
- Interaction with people
- Media
- Church
- Mosque
- Books
- Internet
- Peers
- Family
- Observations
- Experiment
- Movies
- Music etc

Important things we learn and experience there!

- People's ideologies and behaviours
- People's experience and mistakes
- The gift of life and to appreciate it
- Insight
- Beauty in diversity

GROUP B: FINDING A JOB

REPORT OF THE DECISION REACHED BY THE GROUP 'FINDING A JOB' IN THE WDR – CONSULTATION PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY OFFICE NIGERIA ON DECEMBER 12, 2005

After series of deliberation on the subject matter, the group came up with the following resolutions which was adopted and presented to the general house.

The Resolutions are as Follows:

(1) One of the key factors of finding a job in Nigeria is for every applicant to meet at a level playing ground. The government and institutions must free themselves from all forms of bias such as Tribalism, Corruption, Gender Inequality, and Religious Bigotry.

(2) In view of the Economic doldrums which has precipitated serious impoverishment of the Nigerian populace, thereby leading to state of insecurity. The group is advising that youth must be involved in productive initiatives and self reliance in areas such as Agriculture, Small and Medium Scale enterprises.

(3) Government should encourage youths that wants to go into small business ventures and skill acquisition with soft loans to kick start such projects. In Nigerian the tie and dye (adire) industry should be encouraged and other local technology.

(4) The ICT industry is the fastest growing industry in Nigeria currently. There are different ways whereby the youths can be engaged in the sector. This sector has created many job opportunities for the teeming Nigerian youths. The Regulatory body NCC must work in collaboration with the youths and Private Technology Organization (PTO) to cushion the unemployment problem in Nigeria. The buoyancy of the sector will improve the economy.

(5) Government should revive industries that are moribund already. The only way such industries can come back to life is through the privatization policy of the government. The government through a regulatory body must make sure that these companies now in private hands will give 80% employment to Nigerians.

(6) The federal government must encourage other productive sectors of the nation's economy, especially in the informal sector. The mono oil economy of the country is not leading us anywhere, employment wise. Money should be pump into the solid mineral industry, which will not only reduce unemployment but also bring more money into the Federal Reserve.

(7) There should be a database showing the numbers of employed and unemployed youths in the country. The ministry of Labour and Productivity should be the master point for the collection of such data.

These are the recommendation reached at the WDR Consultation Programme by the group FINDING A JOB.

Group Leader : Tijani Kalbiru
Rapporteur : Payne Ceilvile N.

Members: Gregg Luma, Ngozi Nwoko, Onyechi Clara Obianuju, Sule Nauretu, Ugoji Ijeoma, Ikechukwu Onyeka

GROUP C: STAYING HEALTHY

PARTICIPANTS-

GROUP LEADER (1) AKINWALE JOHNSON OGUNDIPE
GROUP REPERTOIRE (2) TUNWASE BOLATITO. F. A.

MEMBER (3) ORAZU KAMSO
MEMBER (4) OKIBEDI IK
MEMBER (5) NWANERI VAL
MEMBER (6) CHIMDI OKOLO
MEMBER (7) ISAAC .K. JOHN

HIGHLIGHT

- Health Definition
- Importance of staying Healthy
- Knowing all on Health
- Easy way not on knowing all
- Things needed to stay healthy
- Accessibility to resources on staying healthy
- Biggest Risk to youth's Health
- Conclusion.

Health Definition

The team came up with a joint definition of Health as a state and condition of mind, which encompasses physical and mental stability. This obviously was arrived at after several views on what "Health" means and stand for. We believe that, if the mind is stable and in order, it definitely reflects on the physical features of man's structure, at least to a considerable percentage of 75-%. This we all perceived to be incomplete because of some social factors that could be detrimental to a whole stability.

Taking a look at what is most important about being Healthy, it is proper to say one is taking the risk of being a dead person if one's health is not properly place at heart. Health is important for the sake of life, because no life without Health. The inability to enjoy all that life has to offer either acquired or required. The issue of incapacitation came up from a member, which she mention as the worst evil that could befall man; responding, reacting, moving and interacting etc, are the structures upon which man leans to be independent and makes him higher than any other creature of which ill health could shatter if not taken care of. All these boil down to taking life, and staying health as most important than every other things. This obviously could be achieved by what "goes in, surrounds and comes out of man's spirit, soul and body.

Feeling Healthy.

The Issue of feeling healthy at any point in time or whenever depends on individuals. Various individuals have different levels of control on their emotions, with some reacting appropriately and others not to different challenges. Whether it is atmospheric/ Environment, psychological and or Economic challenges. How the individual manages the different challenges would determine how healthy he or she feels at any Observation

There was so much enthusiasm by all the participants. Participants were very passionate about issues concerning youths generally. They were of the opinion that youth should be given a space to contribute their knowledge in world affairs and development. They recognized that though the youth need to prove themselves as capable or serious about handling issues, there was need for elders to have confidence in their capabilities and give them a chance. The young girls from the secondary schools eloquently participated in the discussions both at the general session and also at the group levels without any inhibitions.

Participants were happy that they were given the opportunity to participate in the WDR discussions. They expressed the wish that the World Bank would consider youth issues like employment in its programs.

point in time..

All we know is to learn to have good control over our emotions; to try and change hat we can and live with what we cannot change. Our peculiar environment does not provide space for those outside the government to contribute in changing what we can change.

(B) Knowing All.

The question of knowing all we want to know about keeping ourselves healthy is apparently a vast issue. This is because members' status varies in terms of (1) educational background, biological level and access to information. It is pertinent to note that one's educational strength matters in the issue of knowing all that's needed to be known about one's health state. The level a high school girl can reach or have access to information on health knowledge definitely differ from that which a university graduate.

To make the content and context of public education more friendly to health matters is a good way to make all to know a lot more about health. Access to Internet to public schools, especially the secondary schools would greatly improve the general knowledge of health in the nation.

Naturally, we learn from our parents, friends and the medical professionals But the same could not be available to the poor who are in the majority and who generally belong to the community of illiterates, and have little access to medical professionals for economic reasons.

2. The issue of age difference has been a barrier to getting well informed on health issue also. Biological cum geographical changes are all entrenched in this barrier such that the phase of hormonal changes in every human-- male, female-- differ and therefore can not be known at an exact point in time. Information about a particular health status may be lacking if there aren't enabling environment, because of our level of economic development

Easy way out.

It would be easy to know more by

- 1) Opening our mind and determination to know more i.e. It takes the heart or mind of a person that is determined to acquire knowledge to find a channel, seek for information, accept such information and make good use of it.
- 2) Attending seminars and meetings on health issues.

(C) Things we need to stay Health.

- For developing country and environment like ours, youths need a clean environment to stay healthy, to prevent other ailment/ diseases such as malaria, cholera and others.
- Good Long-Term health policy on the side of government is very essential too. Training of Health specialist/ consultants.
- Access to information; Health Educational centre, conference schools enlightenment programs,
- Good/healthy foods
- Affordable medications, Health Institutions and centers

C a Accessibility to health amenities

- The issue of getting a particular medication for the youths at the lower cadre--3-15 for instance, could be denied by socio-cultural factors. But could and often easy for upper cadre of youths of 16 years and above, especially those in urban areas where there are clinics, drugs stores and enlighten people around.

Biggest Risk to youths Health.

There are various views on the list of biggest risk to the health of the youth. Top of the list however are:

- Lack of information, which is caused by social, physical, cultural and religious inhibitions. All of these, if not well managed, leads to moral decadence, immorality, gangsterism, prostitution etc.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Concerned about Government provisions of social amenities such as Roads, functional Health care centers, campaign (continuous).

In conclusion, speaking out or voicing out on the part of youths who the most important stakeholders on health issues, and proffering advice on decision to relevant institutions and government bodies so as to allow smooth reception and dissemination of information and arriving at definite solution to specific health matters.

GROUP D: BEING A CITIZEN

NAMES OF GROUP MEMBERS:

- 1) Kenneth Okoro -Leader
- 2) Ulari Maduekwe -Rapporteur
- 3) Daniel Jerry
- 4) Elizabeth Nwachukwu
- 5) Jide Alabi
- 6) Aisha Ahmed
- 7) Hajiya Umar Fatima

A. The political situation in Nigeria is dirty from all ramifications. Sentiment or emotions should not be a yardstick. Most of us do not want to play politics, but we hope to preach a change of the political behavior in Nigeria by talking to the youth about politics. Godfatherism, which is on the extreme in Nigeria, was also noted as a reason for the lack of political interest among youths. Lack of funds was said to slow down the social life of youths. Free and fair elections should be conducted with a database of eligible voters in the country.

B. The level of participation of the individual citizens in Nigeria is not healthy. Yes, our voice could make the difference, but it does not matter to those in authority in the present political situation in the country. We really want to speak out and make a difference but cannot do so because the leaders do not feel our voices should be heard, or are important.

C. Yes, it matters because its difficult for the local people to feel the full impact of governance or feel a full stake in or care about local/ national governance.

D. Most of us believed that military service is a bad experience, but National Youth Service scheme for graduate youth (NYSC) for us is a fairly good experience. But should be improved upon e.g. housing, payment and job recruitment of corpers after service. Also for the military there should be better care for the retired.

E. Yes. Yes. None because all are as fulfilling, and it feels good to help others.

F. No, dialogue remains the best.

G. Yes. We discuss the economy, particularly the terrible unemployment situation, and the police violation of the rights of the poor community, extra-judicial killing of the poor youth that has assumed a culture in the police department.

After the group discussion, the general house had just enough time for brief discussion on the remaining two sub-themes--Leaving Home, Starting A Family and Youth IN A Globalized World.

On Leaving Home, Starting A Family, the house made three observations

- (1) There is no cultural benchmark defining the relation between leaving your parent's home, setting up your own household and marrying. A variety of social variables decided their relation.
- (2) Whether and when a man marries is largely depended not just on livelihood prospects, but whether or when the actual prospect is realized.

- (3) Generally, parents don't decide when their children should marry. But they take interest and try to influence their choice when their children come of age and are financially able to manage a family.

On Youth In A Globalized World, the general house reach a consensus on 4 questions:

- (1) We are happy about the availability of more options. But most are very expensive considering the condition of the domestic economy.
- (2) Consensus is that we would like to travel to the US and Europe. The status of stay would depend on the development at home.
- (3) The youth believed they have adequate information about events abroad, and they get their information from a multiplicity of sources.
- (4) Access to Internet is still the game of the elite. The poor that are in the majority have little or no access internet.

On the whole, the youth found the experience of participating in the consultation educative and exciting, and wished to be part of future consultations.

Observation.

There was so much enthusiasm by all the participants. Participants were very passionate about issues concerning youths generally. They were of the opinion that youth should be given a space to contribute their knowledge in world affairs and development. They recognized the fact that though the youth need to prove themselves as capable or serious about handling issues, there was need for elders to have confidence in their capabilities and give them a chance. The young girls from the secondary schools eloquently participated in the discussions both at the general session and also at the group levels without any inhibitions.

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QUOTES:

“My greatest concern and fear in life is completing my school. Those of us who are disabled are usually the last to be considered for education by parents and relations in times of scarce resources. I have one of my best friends who has dropped out of school because of lack of financial support by his uncles. They said they prefer to educate their own children who are not handicapped”, lamented David Dambo, a disabled Secondary school student.