

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE 2013 ACTIVITIES

IN JANUARY 2013

EWEI KICKS OFF 2013 ACTIVITIES WITH ESP EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2013 AT EWEI HQ, KADUNA NIGERIA

EWEI organized an Empowerment Seminar for her ESP Beneficiaries on 19 January, 2013. The programme started at 10:30am with the opening prayer led by Bilkisu Gwabin, introductions was made while the welcome note and review of ESP was taken by EWEI's Programme Officer Administration and Logistics, Mavis Orjime.

EWEI Mentor, Christiana Arams facilitated the Life skills session with the topic "Goal Setting." The girls were taught how they can achieve their long term goal or short term goals. The girls then took part in group work on the importance of goal setting and obstacles to goal setting.

The girls were given assignments to take home and submit by the next ESP Empowerment Seminar in May 2013. The skills acquisition session on petroleum jelly and hair cream was conducted by Joy Anthony, Programme Officer Media and Publicity EWEI. The closing remarks were taken by Mavis Orjime, she thanked the girls for coming and encouraged them to continue to work hard in school particularly with the S.S.C.E examinations coming up. 5 ESP Beneficiaries, 3 Staff and 1 Resource person was present at the ESP Empowerment Seminar.

EWEI CONTINUES SUPPORT TO ESP EMPOWERMENT BENEFICIARIES IN JANUARY 2013.

EWEI ESP beneficiaries received continued support in the form of subsidies for school fees and other expenses for 5 beneficiaries with the start of a new school term in January 2013. EWEI's Educational Subsidy Programme is designed to promote girl child education, improve the retention and completion rates of girls in secondary school and provide support through subsidies for educational costs like school fees, books and uniforms.

IN FEBRUARY 2013

EWEI MARKS WORLD CANCER DAY(WCD) ON 4 FEBRUARY 2013

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative (EWEI) marked the World Cancer Day 2013 on 4th February, 2013 at Bethel International Schools, Television, Kaduna, Nigeria.

With a focus on Target 5 of the World Cancer Declaration: Dispel damaging myths and misconceptions about cancer, EWEI marked the 2013 World Cancer Day under the tagline "Cancer- Did You Know?" with 15 young students of Bethel Comprehensive Schools, Television in a one day seminar to create awareness on cancer, its causes, prevention and control measures. The program started at 2pm with opening prayers and an opening remark by EWEI Program Officer, Media and Publicity, Joy Anthony. EWEI Program Officer, Administration: Mavis Orjime then introduced the organization, Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative, Mission and Vision to all participants. The Participants were given a pre test questionnaire to assess their knowledge on the cancer disease. After the pre test, the Resource person Pharmacist and CEO MultiCare Pharmacy Mrs Oluwakemi Otokpa made a presentation titled "Cancer, Did You Know?" In her presentation she taught the participants what cancer is all about, how to detect it early and dispel damaging myths and misconceptions about cancer. The session was participatory as practical and theoretical ways of detecting cancer were shown and demonstrated by

the resource person. Participants asked a lot of questions and made contributions on some myths they had about cancer prior to the program.

After the presentation by Mrs Otokpa, a post test was administered to the participants. Refreshments were then served to all with wrap up by Mavis and a vote of thanks by the Vice principal of Bethel Schools, Mrs Amarachi Agbawo on behalf of the school management.

From the pre and post evaluation done, the girls knowledge on causes of cancer, symptoms of cancer, treatment and beliefs about cancer increased significantly by 30%, 55%, 50% and 60% respectively. Their knowledge about the prevention of cancer also increased by 75%. They also left the seminar equipped with skills on good ways to respond when engaging with cancer patients and the general tips on proactive ways for cancer prevention.

A total number of 21 people participated in the program including one resource person, 2 EWEI staff, 3 staff of Bethel Schools and 15 girls aged 15-22 years from SS1- SS3.

EWEI AT A MEETING OF GWG WITH SAVI HELD AT SAVI OFFICE ON THE 14TH FEBRUARY 2013

EWEI attended a meeting of GWG with SAVI at SAVI office on the 14th February 2013. The meeting was to evaluate the GWG coalition and its collaboration with SAVI and also see how GWG can move ahead in the following months. Challenges, setbacks and the way forward were discussed. SAVI State Programme Officer Mrs. Rebecca- Sako John said a capacity assessment workshop will be organized to improve the knowledge of the GWG coalition with SAVI for members who recently joined the group. Workshop was scheduled for 19th February 2013.

EWEI AT A ONE DAY EDUCATION SUMMIT WITH THE THEME "EDUCATION FOR ALL IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL" ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT GENERAL HASSAN USMAN KATSINA HOUSE KADUNA.

EWEI participated in a one day education summit organized by the Honorable Commissioner of Education Kaduna State with the Theme " Education for all is the responsibility of all" on 14th February 2013 at General Hassan Usman Katsina House. The summit had in attendance the Governor of Kaduna State and newly elected Chairmen of Kaduna State's 23 local government areas to discuss and create reforms in the education sector in Kaduna State.

IN MARCH 2013

EWEI MARKS 2013 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON 8 MARCH 2013

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women.

Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day. Many groups around the world choose different themes each year relevant to global and local gender issues.



The 2013 IWD theme was "The Gender Agenda Gaining Momentum: A Promise is a Promise- Time for action to end Violence against Women and Girls."

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) marked the day by engaging students in expressing their views on how violence against girls and women can be stopped. Students from four GGSS Independence Way Senior, GGSS Independence Way Junior, GGSS Doka Kaduna and Prince School Narayi Kaduna took part in these activities. As part of activities, students received a fact sheet, to help them reflect and develop their ideas.

EWEI Programme Officer Media and Publicity Ms Joy Anthony and her assistant Mr. Samson Ohis visited the above named schools on 5 - 6 March 2013 to carry out the proposed activities and then promoted the activities on 8 March through our social media channels and wiki. Girls, boys and a teacher appended the end violence against women posters and sent their messages across on speech bubbles which we featured on our wiki and social media. There was also brief interview where we captured quotes and messages. EWEI also featured the activities on the IWD website.

These were some of their thoughts:

- ✚ “Your wife is not a punching bag”. **Mrs. Elizabeth Audi , GGSS Independence Way Senior Kaduna**
- ✚ “Violence makes a girl child inferior”. **Salamatu Sai’du, 16 years, GGSS Independence Way Senior Kaduna**
- ✚ “Violence is a barbaric act”. **Glory Okoli, 13 years, GGSS Independence Way Junior Kaduna**
- ✚ “Violence is harmful to the girl child and will destroy her future”. **Nanchin A Peter, 14 years, GGSS Independence Way Junior Kaduna**
- ✚ “Are you a father who takes advantage of his daughter?”. **Abisola Babalola, 18 years, GGSS Doka Kaduna**
- ✚ “We girls are not for trafficking, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude”. **Priscilla Theophilus, 17 years, GGSS Doka Kaduna**
- ✚ “Are you a victim of violence? Those killed by violence would have been the saviour of the world”. **Erezina Whiskey, 11 years, Prince Schools Narayi Kaduna**

Participating were: GGSS Independence Way (Senior)-10 students, GGSS Independence Way (Junior)-12 Students, GGSS Doka Kaduna-9 Students and Prince School Narayi Kaduna- 14 Students

A total of 45 Students, 2 EWEI Staff and 1 Teacher Participated in the IWD event.

EWEI IN STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS ON 14, 21 AND 22 MARCH 2013 AT BAFRA HOTELS KADUNA AND SAVI OFFICES KADUNA, NIGERIA.

EWEI participated in several strategic planning meetings as part of the Gender Working Group with the aim of producing a good road map for the coalition in terms of advocating for gender friendly state policies and programmes. EWEI was represented at the meetings by Joy Anthony, Programme Officer Media and Publicity.

IN APRIL 2013

EWEI AT GENDER WORKING GROUP STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP ON 2 APRIL 2013

EWEI participated in a strategic Planning Workshop with other members of the Gender Working Group. The workshop helped members identify who they were, where they were and what they think of GWG as a platform. The workshop involved a lot of exercises and group work on gender roles, gender knowledge and analysis and on the mission, vision and values of GWG.

The group agreed that the main focus area for work in GWG will be Education but can still work in other identified areas and sectors.

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE (EWEI) MARKS 2013 WORLD HEALTH DAY ON THE 7TH APRIL, 2013.

Each year around the world, World Health Day is celebrated on April 7, thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout April to mark the day. Organisations, governments, charities, education institutions, women groups, corporations and media celebrate the day. Many groups around the world choose different themes each year relevant and related to the main theme provided by the World Health Organisation. The 2013 WHD theme was Hypertension. Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative (EWEI) marked the day by engaging the Kaduna Prison Women's Association in a seminar on managing the health of women in a conducive environment.

EWEI Programme Officer Media and Publicity Ms. Joy Anthony and her assistant Mr. Ohis Amu along with Mr. Haruna Dankiwo a health worker visited the above mentioned association on 7 April 2013 to conduct blood pressure checks on the women as well provide them with health advice on how to prevent high blood pressure and maintain a healthy level. The high level of stress women in (and connected to) that profession was a major reason they were targeted as beneficiaries of the activity. Their jobs include taking care of inmates and maintaining law and order in the prison. A lot of these women therefore neglect practicing preventive health measures.

This prompted EWEI to organize this programme in order to create awareness and provide an opportunity for the women to check their blood pressure to mark the World Health Day. The average blood pressure of the beneficiaries was 120/70 which is normal blood pressure for very woman while the highest was 150/100. This is not normal blood pressure a woman or anybody should have. The following can make your blood pressure high: too much salt intake, alcohol, tobacco, heavy body weight, not eating a balanced diet and sometimes blood pressure rises during pregnancy; that is, some women have high blood pressure during their pregnancy period.

The ideal blood pressure should 120/70 and should be maintained by reducing salt intake, avoiding harmful use of alcohol, eating a balanced diet, maintaining a healthy body weight, taking regular physical activity/exercise and avoiding tobacco use. Normal blood pressure can also be maintained by having enough rest after a hard day's work. It is also vitally important to check your blood pressure regularly- if possible monthly.

A total of 19 women, 2 EWEI staff and 1 resource person participated in the WHD event.

"Today we the women of prison staff association now know that too much salt can increase our blood pressure and we thank Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative for making us to be aware of it" **Mrs. Sarah Solomon**

"It is a good initiative and I am happy to be a part of what Empowering Women for Excellence

Initiative is doing creating awareness and helping this women to know their blood pressure because health is wealth”**Mr. Haruna Dankiwo**

IN MAY 2013

EWEI ESP EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR HELD ON 18 MAY 2013

EWEI organized an Empowerment Seminar for her ESP Beneficiaries on 18 May, 2013 at the organization’s office 23A Dan Buran Road off Yahaya Road Ungwar Rimi G.R.A Kaduna. The programme started at 10:00am with the opening prayer led by Bilkisu Gwabin, introductions was made while the welcome note was done by EWEI's Assistant Programme Officer Media and Publicity Ohis S. Amu, he thank everyone for coming and assured everyone present that the seminar will be an interesting one . ESP benefits and impacts was facilitated by Joy Anthony EWEI’s Programme Officer Media and Publicity, she gave details of the seminar from 2012 till date and the benefits of the girls participating in the ESP include ability to make decisions to ensure their voice are heard. One of the impact is to make gradates who are skill oriented and better in the society.

Ms. Christiana Arams the Mentor of the girls then facilitated a presentation on Sexual Transmitted Infection. Definitions, types, Symptoms, Consequences and prevention of STI was taught extensively, she emphasis that abstinence is the best way of preventing STI and advised the girls to report any signs in their body or abnormal discharge to the doctor.

Joy Anthony demonstrated to the girls how to make Liquid soap using Antisol, Soda Ash, and Caustic Soda. She advised the girls to use this as a means of generating funds for themselves and boost their economic empowerment. Joy also gave the vote of thanks. A total number of 9 participants including 2 EWEI staff, 5 ESP beneficiaries, 1 ESP mentor and, a teaching staff from Federal Government College were in attendance. It is noteworthy that by May 2013, some graduating ESP beneficiaries were in the process of being engaged as volunteers with EWEI.

EWEI MARKS WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY ON 27 MAY 2013

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) marked the World Children's Day on 27 May 2013 through its social media engagement on its face book handle and twitter raising awareness on child trafficking and abuse.

IN JUNE 2013

EWEI MARKS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) ON 5 JUNE 2013

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) marked the World Environment Day on the 5th June, 2013 through its social media engagement on its facebook handle and twitter.

The day is celebrated each year on June 5 to spread global awareness among on the environment. Each year this day is celebrated with a theme and this year the theme is THINK.EAT.SAVE

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily due to hunger.

This year's theme encourages reduction of food wastage, which in turn will help save money and minimize the environmental impact of food production. It encourages people to be more aware of the environmental impact of their food choices. EWEI Assistant Programme Officer Media/Publicity Ohis Amu and EWEI’s Intern Jemelat Abdukareem led the social media engagement to mark the day.

EWEI's 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 2013

EWEI was founded in June 2008 and today we are celebrating our 5 years in operation as an NGO. Our mission is to provide multi-sectoral intervention towards the empowerment of girls and women and also improving their lives through capacity building and advocacy.

In order to celebrate EWEI's 5 years, Assistant Programme Officer Media and Publicity Amu S. Ohis was in charge of creating more awareness of the organization's ongoing programmes and events on our social media and online platforms like Facebook and Twitter. We also toasted to the organisation in the course of work during the day.

EWEI AT WORKSHOP ON CIVIL SOCIETY, MEDIA, GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORKSHOP HELD ON 17TH-21ST JUNE 2013 AT IMMACULATE HOTELS ABUJA ORGANISED BY STATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND VOICE INITIATIVE(SAVI) KADUNA

The workshop started with an opening prayer and self introductions by members from different Advocacy Partnerships such as Know Your Budget, Gender Working Group, Justice and Peace Commission, Maternal and Child Health CS, Journalists for Better Health. Welcome remarks were given by SAVI State Team Leader Mrs. Rebecca John Sako, she appreciated the presence of every AP and equally gave updates on the achievements of SAVI since its operations in Kaduna.

Discussions during the 5 day workshop focused on (but were not limited to) the following topics:

- Governance and Accountability
- Understanding Legislative Procedures and Strategies for CS/Media engagement
- How Media and CSO can Partner in Legislative process of Budgeting
- Learning from our experience from our engagement in governance process of Kaduna state
- Understanding the concept of Gender
- Building Gender awareness and Self awareness
- Approaches to budgets and stages of budget preparation
- Defining your goals
- Methods of Conducting Strength and Gaps Analysis
- Appreciative Inquiry and Force Field Analysis
- Mini Political Intelligence- Analysis of Present Kaduna State
- Our personal Role in bringing about change

EWEI Programme Officer Media and Publicity, Joy Anthony attended the workshop.

IN JULY 2013

EWEI FOLLOW UP ON PARTNERS AND DONORS JULY 2013

EWEI had a follow up exercise on its partners and donors to solicit for funds and donations to carry out its programmes and activities. This was done by the EWEI's Programme Officer Media and Publicity and her Assistant Ohis S. Amu were in charge of the follow up and were assisted by EWEI volunteers.

IN AUGUST 2013

EWEI HELD EDUCATIONAL SUBSIDY PROGRAMME FUNDRAISING PROGRAMME ON 24 AUGUST 2013

EWEI held her first fundraising on the 24th of August 2013 at ABANTU for development, Y.A Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna at 9.00am

The programme started with prayer led by ESP Beneficiary and now Volunteer Intern at EWEI, Jemilat Abdulkareem, opening Address was conducted by Joy Anthony Programme Officer Media and Publicity, She thanked every supporter, staff of EWEI and the ESP Beneficiaries for honoring the invitation to attend the Fundraising.

A brief about EWEI was given by the Technical Adviser Programming, Ms Diana Agabi. Diana said EWEI was established was to provide support to girls and one of the ways this is done is through the ESP, she equally appreciated the presence of everyone present to support the project.

The overview of Educational Subsidy Programme was presented by Joy Anthony in her speech where she gave a detailed run down of beneficiaries involvement with EWEI since the kick off of the programme in March 2010 and the activities EWEI organized for the girls to build their capacity and empower them. Each of the ESP beneficiaries shared their experience and what they have benefitted since they were involved in the programme. The fundraising kicked off with support from our donors.

A total number of 14 participants including 4 ESP beneficiaries, 2 EWEI staff, 2 EWEI Executives, 1 EWEI volunteer and 5 donors attended the event.

IN SEPTEMBER 2013

EWEI EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR HELD ON THE 22 SEPTEMBER 2013

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative organized the quarterly Empowerment Seminar for her Educational subsidy Program beneficiaries on 22nd September, 2013 at EWEI Offices at 11:00am.

The Seminar started with the opening prayer led by ESP Beneficiary and EWEI Volunteer Intern Bilkisu Gwabin, after which introductions were made by all people present. Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative, Volunteer Intern Jemilat Abdulkareem welcomed all participants while fellow Volunteer Intern Bilkisu Ali Gwabin gave an overview of the Educational Subsidy Program.

The Resource Person and ESP Mentor, Christiana Arams then facilitated a presentation on life skills titled "ASSERTIVENESS". She stated that everyone has the right to say what he or she feels even if others are not in agreement with it and has the right to accept or reject others' requests. She added that it is important to stand on our rights in a respectful manner and then gave an assignment to the girls to be submitted in a week.

All the participants moved to Bezaleel Bags, Wears and Fittings for the skills acquisition section of the seminar. All learned bag and purse making facilitated by Mrs Taiwo A. Idowu who showed different kinds of bags like handbags, shopping bags and men's clipper bags etc and ways of making them. Each of the girls was presented with a purse and the men a clipper bag each.

A total number of 9 participants, including 5 beneficiaries, 2 EWEI staff, 1 resource person and 1 volunteer attended the event.

IN OCTOBER 2013

EWEI MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) celebrated the International Day of The Girl Child 2013 on the 11th October 2013 at Government Technical School Malali Kaduna. The theme of this year IDGC is 'Innovating for Girls' Education"

EWEI's Programme Officer Media and Publicity gave the welcome address, in her speech she welcomed everyone to the programme and stated why the day is being celebrated with the girls in the school. She said that technology strengthens the educational sector and is a welcome trend in girl child education.

The vision of EWEI was presented by Ohis Amu Assistant Programme Officer, Media and Publicity who stated that one of the organization's main goals is to work with young girls, empower and enlighten them to be better citizens in the society.

Bilkisu Gwabin, a beneficiary of EWEI's Educational Subsidy Programme and 2013 Volunteer Intern with the organization took the next session where the participants talked about the successes and challenges they have encountered in their studies.

The girls who are mostly hearing impaired were able to state what they have done through interpretation by their teacher. They girls were grouped into building and plumbing in order to help EWEI staff understand better what they do. The girls from building class described their work using new methods in technology but mentioned that the major challenge they faced is competing with the boys in that area. The EWEI team was taken round the school workshop to see some of the projects made by the students including the benches used in the school, soya bean de-hulling machine and the stone-table used in the dinning space for students.

Ohis Amu thanked the teachers and students for their time and for giving the organization the opportunity to celebrate the day with the school.

A total number of 47 participants including 2 EWEI Staff, 2 EWEI volunteer interns, 3 Teaching Staff and 40 Students were present at the event

IN NOVEMBER 2013

EWEI 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM THROUGH EWEI'S KNOW AND SAY NO IN TELEVISION VILLAGE COMMUNITY, KADUNA NIGERIA ON 25 NOVEMBER 2013

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative (EWEI) engaged in the 16 days of Activism towards the Elimination of Violence Against Woman through its programme "Know And Say No" on 25th November, 2013 at Television Village, Kaduna, Nigeria.

With a 2013 focus on 16 Days of Activism towards the Elimination of Violence Against Women Theme: "FROM PEACE IN THE HOME TO PEACE IN THE WORLD". EWEI marked the day with 15 women from Television community who participated actively in the awareness campaign.

The program started at 11pm with Opening prayers by Bilkisu Gwabin. Opening remark by EWEI Program Officer, Media and Publicity, Joy Anthony. EWEI Assistant Program Officer, Media and Publicity, Ohis Amu then introduced EWEI Mission and Vision to all participants. Joy Anthony gave a rundown of the Know And Say No since it started in 2011 where the Social Welfare workers of Kaduna North were trained and in 2012 where the Social Welfare Worker where linked with International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) to assist them handle cases and provide technical support. This involved giving them advice on certain issues that they had encountered in the work place on gender violence and also connect them with FIDA who offer voluntary counseling and legal advice for gender-based violence victims.

The Resource Person Barrister: Mrs. Catherine Ishu explained in detail what violence is and how it relates to women, her presentation included the fact the violence against women is one of the cases the world is trying to tackle that is why the day is celebrated to create awareness on the need for women who are violated to speak up and stand for their rights in the society.

Mrs. Deborah Shamaki the Assistant Head Of Department with the Social Welfare Office in Kaduna North Secretariat shared her experiences about some cases they handled in their office and equally gave some advice to the women how and where they can bring in cases that relate to violence. These experiences are directly linked to the work EWEI has been doing with the Social Welfare Department in Kaduna North Local Government. The presentations were followed by a question and answer session.

The women Leader of Zumunta Mata who was one of the participants at the event thanked EWEI for organizing such a Programme in the community and pray for God's blessings on the organisation.

15 Women, 2 Resource Persons and 4 EWEI Staff were present at the event.