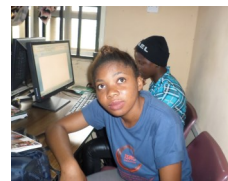
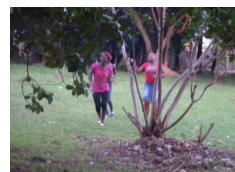
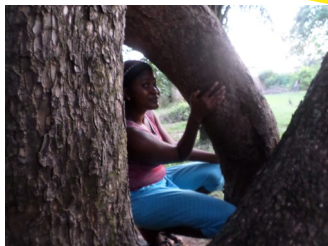
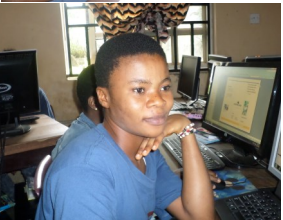
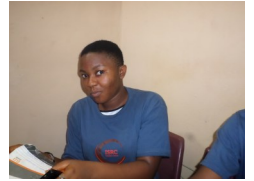
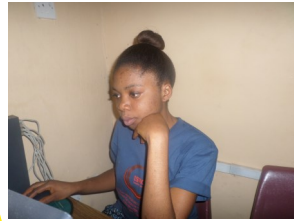
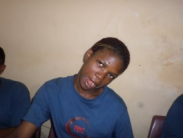
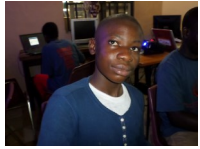
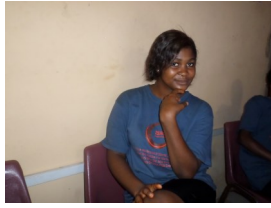
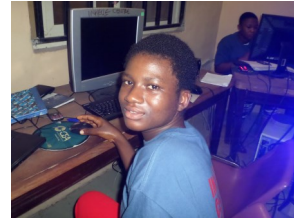
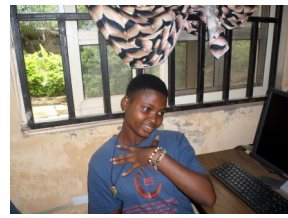
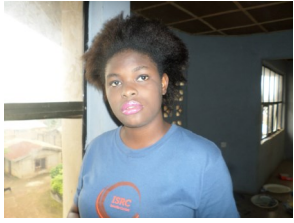
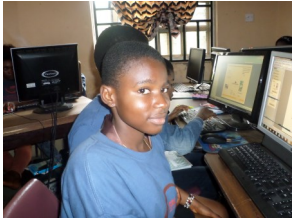


Boot Camp 2015



2015 BOOT CAMP ACTIVITIES



10th Year Anniversary Event and Symposium at Enugu

Event and Symposium Programme

Event Seminar and Workshop Topics: The last Step in Producing Our Tool Kit Booklet to be Presented at the next CSW
 We will provide light lunch everyday for the intensive days.
 We will have Girls sit in each boot at the Science fair recording visitors' questions and responses.

Themes and Topics:

Conversations At Townhall

Theme: Positioning Communities to Pause, Ponder, Reflect and Act

Topics: Expanding Knowledge Base: Understanding Ourselves and Our culture
 Institutionalized Gender inequities and STEM
 Adolescent Girls and Self Defense Strategies

Symposium Theme: STEM AND Cultural Relevance

Sub-Themes:

Making STEM Culturally Relevant

Pulling Apart Stereotypes

Seeking Parallels in Traditional STEM practices and Modern Science and Tech

WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS

Theme: Expanding Knowledge, Changing Expectations, and Assessing Assumptions

Seminar for Teachers:

Theme: Impediments to STEM and Keys to Change-- Broadening Knowledge, Acquiring skill sets, and changing attitude

Seminar Topics:

STEM and Attitude Forming

The dangers of Thinking and Not Thinking

Helping teachers to answer social/teaching injustice question of Why

You can't Teach what you don't know ; You can't be effective if you don't know who you are teaching

Seminar For Youths

Theme: Developing Agency to Challenge Cultural Status Quo

Seminar Topics

Young People as Agents of STEM Advocacy

Giving Young people the tools to control their career interest

Creating a career space driven by Girls

Social Justice Question of Why

Developing Young Girls to explore what it means to be a girl in the Science and technology field

SEMINAR FOR YOUTHS

Theme: Developing Agency to Challenge Cultural Status Quo

SEMINAR TOPIC GUIDE

Young People as Agents of STEM Advocacy

Giving Young people the tools to control their career interest

Creating a career space driven by Girls

Social Justice Question of Why





10th Anniversary Symposium at Enugu



Ninth Annual Symposium

Theme:

STEM AND Cultural Relevance

Sub-Themes:

- ◆ Making STEM Culturally Relevant
- ◆ Pulling Apart Stereotypes
- ◆ Seeking Parallels in Traditional STEM practices and Modern science and Technology

Presenters:

- ◆ Mr. Jude Emeka Mbonu has undertaken post-Masters course on Sustainable Development with University of London (2008). MBA, Lagos University, (1998), B.A. (Communication Arts), University of Calabar.
- ◆ Philippa Mmadubuko, B.Sc. Bio-Chemistry: Programme Director Inwelle Centre. Effective STEM Education Strategies for all"
- ◆ Ifedinma Anazodo, B.Sc. Bio-Chemistry: Mathematics and Chemistry Teacher at Inwelle Centre. STEM: The Real Pillars of Life".
- ◆ PROF. IKECHUKWU N. E ONWURAH, Ph.D. President, SETAC-Africa The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
- ◆ NICHOLAS ANI (MNCS, MCPN) Developing young girls to explore what it means to be a girl in the science and technology field
- ◆ Chineme Ezekwenna Girls Soaring in STEM: A Comparative Analysis of Girls in the U.S. and Girls in Nigeria

Inwelle Centre Annual Fundraising Diner Dance Over The Years



Eugene and Ann Jeffers were there. May Tgheir souls rest in peace.



Late Prof. Emmanuel Obiechina at our 2007 Fundraising Dinner at the Convention Centre University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA. May His Soul Rest in Peace.



Inwelle Centre Executive Director Presenting on He For She Panel at the 59th United Nations Commission the Status of Women 2015



INWELLE CENTRE WAS AT THE 2014 65TH UN DPI/NGO ANNUAL CONFERENCE , NEW YORK, USA IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER 2014



INWELLE CENTRE DIRECTOR,
PROFESSOR CHRISTIANA
OKECHUKWU, PH.D.



FRIENDS FROM UNWOMEN



The Best of 2012

Prof Dr. Okechukwu took me to Inwelle Centre. It was my first time of see such a place. I was really impressed. After touring the place and talking to the Boot Camp youths living in the Centre I realized that Prof Christiana Okechukwu is an innovative person whom God is using to reorient youths in our area. She gave me a job immediately and the opportunity to aspire to great heights. I realized that she empowers youths, especially young girls in distress through educational and social channels. She is a born problem solver, who thinks of others first before thinking about herself. She is energetic and resourceful. Prof Dr. Christiana Okechukwu is a rare gem, wonderful philanthropist, and an inspiration. After touring the Centre, I marveled at the thinking and the amount of resource that have been poured into this channel of youth empowerment. The herculean task of contributing towards the growth of our youths is amazing and breath-taking. This is not an easy set-up. May God continue to keep and strengthen Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu and all the work of Inwelle Centre which she has used to touch the life of our youths. She has used her wealth of experience, kindness, and goodwill to enhance the lives of many youths, women and encourages them to take charge of their lives. It is because of her that I now believe in myself again. God bless Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu tremendously for her good work and kindness to humanity

From
Your self-designated Protégé
(If you will take me to be one
now that you have saved my life)
Mrs. Chinyelu Ozugha and her son, now your grandson.
Enugu, Nigeria



**CHINYELU HAS BEEN
EMPOWERED TO DE-
VELOP A SKILL AND
DEVELOP A VOICE**



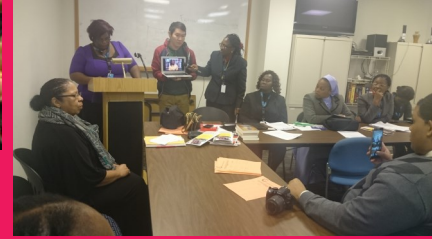
In August, Inwelle Centre added a new member to its family.

Here is Chinyelu's Story:

My story of how I met Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu can truly be called Divine intervention. I must introduce myself. I am Mrs. Chinyelu Ozugha. I hail from Azu Ogbunike in Anambra Local Government Area of Anambra State. I am a single parent. I am always energetic and driven to success in life, no matter the hurdles or road blocks in my way. In and out I had been going from pillar to post on various job interviews, but all proved abortive. Being a single parent, I had started giving up hope in life. I was frustrated, depressed, helpless, and sad every time because of the psychological trauma and post-traumatic stress I was going through. I had planned on ending it all drastically. It never occurred to me that God would be sending me help. Fortunately, as God in his infinite mercy would have it, I ran into Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu who immediately decided to be my mom.

In that hot afternoon, I had boarded a bus to the 200 junction at Ogui Road, Enugu, where I went to meet a woman I had met for a job. On getting there, all proved abortive. I had started walking back home to end it all, when a woman saw me walking with a child in my arm under the hot sun. Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu offered me a helping hand to get into her car so that she would give me a ride to the junction, from where I could board a bus to wherever I was going. It was that moment that I opened up to her, not knowing whom she was. I let her know my predicament. To my amazement, When she realized that I was at the end of my tethers and was actually going home to harm myself, she had this sudden rush of love to help me out of my distress. I felt like she was like a breath of fresh air, a vessel God is using to help me out of my distressful situation.





Left to Right
 Mrs. Chizoba Chinweze
 Dr. Uduak Okon
 Rev Jonathan Emenike
 Dr. Elizabeth Odoh
 Mrs. Maritha Ebiziem
 Rev. Uche Mkparu
 Philipa Madubuko
 Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu



Making Careers in Science and Technology (STEM) Educational career Path Culturally Relevant to Indigent Girls in Remote Villages in Nigeria” Church Center, United Nations (CCUN) Drew Room

Inwelle Centre

at the
 59th United Nations
 Commission on the Status of
 Women and UN DPI/NGO
 conference
 March 2015



Philipa Mmadubuko



Share your news.

Inwelle Centre Alumnus

Send in Your Stories! Send us an email at info@inwellecentre.org or connect with us on www.facebook.com/inwelle.centre

Philipa Madubuko

One of Inwelle Centre's success stories
See Philipa's journey from Inwelle Centre to the United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women
Conference in New York in this Annual
Report

You too can help other girls take advantage of Inwelle Centre strategy for leveraging girls to develop heightened aspiration and achieve great success academically and in skills acquisition.

You can also start a campaign for leveraging your fellow girls too in your villages, schools, at the markets, anywhere you find girls not realizing their potentials or wasting their potentials.

You can

- ◆ Create Girls helping Girls opportunities
- ◆ Become a mentor for younger girls
- ◆ Tutor girls in school subjects
- ◆ Connect and create awareness of ways to leverage poor girls to succeed in their education.

Call us +234-803-751-9965 for more ideas of how to help fellow girls succeed and have fun while helping others.

PHILIPA MMMADUBUKO: INWELLE CENTRE STAR

I came to Inwelle Study and Resource Centre (Inwelle Centre), Enugu Nigeria as a jambite (that is someone taking Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Examination for people entering into higher institutions), in 2010. After my one month stay at Inwelle Centre, my mindset about certain things obviously changed. I became courageous and very aware of myself. I used to be the "mummy talk for me type" but that one month programme did a lot for me for I started speaking for myself. I learnt to socialize with people, sharing views and ideas, made reading a hobby because I was practically thrown into a huge collection of books. Inwelle Centre library was so rich that many of us were ecstatic to see so any books. I started attending seminars and youth empowerment programmes. Behold! I got admitted into a university to major in my course of choice the next year (2011) after the boot camp. I cannot forget to share that it was this very solid foundation laid by Inwelle Centre that gave me the bold steps into Nigerian breweries and also seven up bottling company, Enugu plant for my industrial work experience. To crown it all, Philipa (that is me) who was the then Jambite, is today a final year student studying Bio-Chemistry, all thanks to God and Inwelle Centre Enugu, Nigeria.

It is my plan that after B.Sc, I will enroll into an my M.Sc programme and possibly, simultaneously run a second degree programme in Master Business Administration to get an MBA certificate. After these programmes, I hope to join the industrial sector, either the breweries or bottling company while still planning to get a Ph.D.



Prof. Okechukwu handing certificates to participants at Inwelle centre Annual Symposium, 2010



Inwelle Centre is a greater tool for the campaign against gender marginalization, using girls (mostly indigent girls) as a case study. I am a true testimony of what Inwelle Centre is capable of doing. Through the efforts of this great community, I have been able



to really see a bit of the green light of life. I have become technologically wise. Before Inwelle Centre took me up, I had no idea of what computer is all about. I could hardly handle/control many of the applications in my phone. Going out to associate and share views with my peers was never in my schedule. I had serious case of low self-

esteem. But after my stay at Inwelle Centre, I saw a breakthrough.

Today, I can smartly control my pc, take care of my school work using the computer, send mails; in fact, I cannot forget to tell you that the first e-mail I had was opened at inwelle Study and Resource Centre, Enugu State, Nigeria. That I study biochemistry today was from the teachings and changed mind set obtained from Inwelle Study and Resource Centre.



The first time I saw my boot camp photo on Global Fund for Women IGNITE website, I thought that I had just reached a great height. However, that sky was just the beginning. My greatest exposure was the opportunity Inwelle Centre gave me to come to the 59th UN CSW conference and present at a panel on Making Careers in Science and Technology (STEM) Educational career Path Culturally Relevant to Indigent Girls in Remote Villages in Nigeria". I never knew that going to Inwelle Centre boot camp could lead to my going to the U.S. and stepping into the United Nations. Now, I am back at my school taking exams. I am the envy of my peers and a role model for some other girls.

I plan to touch the lives of other girls. I will start by helping to disseminate information about the good work of Inwelle Centre to areas where the good news has not reached, organize programmes to enlighten young girls about the basic facts about life that would help them make good and positive choice and decisions subsequently.

Yours sincerely

Mmadubuko Philipa





RELEVANCE: **STEM** Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

STEM: THE REAL PILLARS OF LIFE

Ifedimma Anazodo

STEM is an acronym which represents the academic discipline that focuses on training individuals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, intertwined and taught as a single entity, instead of teaching them as individual units. The acronym arose in common use shortly after an interagency meeting on science education held at the US National Science Foundation (NSF) chaired by the then NSF director Rita Colwell. A director from the Office of Science division of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists suggested the change from the older acronym SMET to STEM. Dr. Colwell, expressing some dislike for the older acronym, responded positively, by suggesting to NSF to institute the change. What majorly distinguishes STEM education from the regular science, engineering or mathematics education is that STEM links our daily activities, using practical measures to the theoretical knowledge acquired in school.

REAL LIFE STEM APPLICATIONS

STEM can be seen in all aspects of life, ranging from advanced manufacturing, Automotive, construction, financial services, geospatial technology, homeland security, information technology, Transportation, Aerospace, Biotechnology, energy, healthcare, hospitality, and retail. Right now in the U.S., brain and some heart surgeries can be conducted through a small hole bored in the leg. Business are done better using STEM applications to do online shopping, online marketing, social media marketing, etc.

STEM has been useful in the educational sector; now we have better access to the internet to gain broader knowledge of a subject or topic. This way, students are exposed to not just the “local” knowledge of topics, but also they are exposed to the “international” perspective of the same. The use of interactive boards, as an innovative mode of teaching has enhanced learning. Thanks to STEM, we now have various sources of electricity such as solar energy, hydro energy, bio-fuels, etc. New and improved research methods are carried

out more often due to better equipment produced by those in the STEM field. As a matter of fact, regardless of the medium, the core of STEM education is about practical application, and real-world problem solving.

IMPORTANCE OF STEM

STEM education increases the intelligence quotient of individuals by linking regular theoretical knowledge learnt in the classroom to real life experiences, thereby leading to critical thinking, research, problem solving, creativity and collaboration. A Research by Georgetown University in 2007 showed that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

careers are important to our continued economic growth and competitiveness because of their direct links to innovation and economic productivity.



Those in the STEM field have a greater job security. STEMconnector.org reported that by 2018, an estimate 8.65 million workers in STEM-related jobs in other to meet up with the STEM demands, but as at now, there are just about a million workers in this field. Though the United States has historically been a leader in these fields, fewer students have been focusing on these topics recently. According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 16 percent of high school students are interested in a STEM career and have proven a proficiency in mathematics.

Currently, nearly 28 percent of high school freshmen declare an interest in a STEM-related field, a department website says, but 57 percent of these students will lose interest by the time they graduate from high school. STEM jobs do not all require higher education or even a college degree. This shows that it is easier to get jobs when in the STEM sector than in Non-Stem sectors.

The average advertised starting salary for entry-level STEM jobs with a bachelor's requirement was 26 percent higher than jobs in the non-STEM fields, according to the STEMconnect report. For every job posting for a bachelor's degree recipient in a non-STEM field, there were 2.5 entry-level job postings for a bachelor's degree recipient in a STEM field.

GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN THE STEM FIELD

Even though the importance of STEM education is so immerse that it cannot be over emphasized, lots of research have shown that we have lower rates or percentages of women in STEM fields. After a research conducted by STEMconnect, a report showing that generally, male students are three times more likely to be interested in pursuing a STEM career than their female counterparts who tend to choose science courses, like biology, chemistry, and marine biology, etc. over technology and engineering courses was published. In the U.S., though women nearly comprise half of the workforce, as at 2014 they have been reported to have held less than 25% of STEM jobs consistently over the last decade and less than 13% in the UK. Women and other minorities account for 75% of college students but earn only 45% of STEM degrees each year. While 12% of women in bachelor programs will get a degree in STEM each year, only 3% go on to work within the STEM field. This problem is not just in the U.S., but a global challenge. According to the National Science Foundation, only 5% of Asian women, 5% of African American women and 2% of Hispanic women constitute scientist and engineering labor force in the U.S. While nearly 60% of bachelor's degrees are awarded to graduating women each year, less than 20% are in computer science.

Part of this disconnect can be attributed to biases of those who do the hiring for positions in STEM.

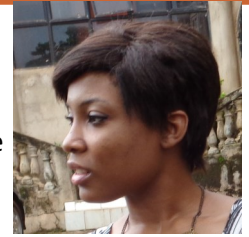
A 2012 study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States showed that an implicit bias exists against hiring women for even entry-level STEM positions. This study had faculty members in university biology, chemistry, and physics departments judge applications for a laboratory manager position. These applications only differed in name (male vs. female). Faculty members of both sex viewed men as more competent and thus more hireable, and also offered male applicants higher starting salaries and more career mentoring. Even though faculty participants reported that they thought female applicants were more likable, they still reported them as being less competent than their male counterparts, trending towards hiring the male applicant. These trends were present in both male and female faculty members, showing that the implicit bias is present in both males and females.

STEM CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

Background and cultural beliefs: Most people have the belief that STEM education and projects is for whites and if at all Nigerians would do it, it will be a “guys” thing. Most ladies are as a matter of fact, discouraged from going into STEM. They get discouragement from school mates, family members and even from some schools. Most ladies are brainwashed with the fallacy that they can never be as good as their male peers. Even while training their children, most parents and teachers encourage their daughters to focus on house chores, because they would end up as house-wives or probably teachers, nurses and other courses they deem fit for ladies. I’m not saying that teaching is a bad profession or that being a nurse is bad, but I’m of the opinion that everyone should be encouraged to go into STEM because the world is becoming technologically inclined. Employers of labour also have their fair share in this menace, as most employers tend to employ males in the STEM fields faster than their female counterparts. This is probably due to the conservative thoughts of these employers that the males in this field are stronger, better and even more intelligent than their female counterparts. In other to reduce or even stop this, I suggest that agencies be set up, to ensure an equal opportunity basis of employment and organizations who fault in this should be severely sanctioned. Also, parents, teachers and all those involved directly or indirectly in the formal education of girls need to set encourage them to go into STEM fields, and also, lead them to role models in the field. I also suggest that stem education should be introduced and encouraged in schools at all levels starting from nursery / kindergarten levels.

Another challenge facing the growth of STEM education in Nigeria and the world at large is the fact that most **governments focus on other sectors of the economy than the educational sector**. They tend to focus more on sectors that tend to produce money for the nation, for instance crude oil in Nigeria, rather than investing in the younger generation. They tend to forget that the greatest investment anyone can ever make is investing in people because the returns or proceeds from such investments would definitely be endless

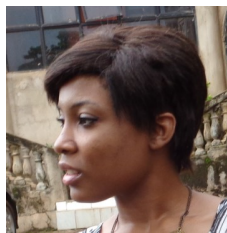
. I propose that if the government pays more attention to supporting STEM by giving more towards the project and research there would be a tremendous increase in STEM awareness and interest. Also, the government, public and private parastatals could set up more competitions in the STEM fields with really attractive prizes more frequently. In the year 2012, one of my lecturers was recognized by Nigerian University Commission (NUC) to have had the best Ph.D. thesis in that year and was given just two hundred and fifty thousand Naira as reward meanwhile, winners of beauty pageants and other social competitions are rewarded with millions of naira, along with other incentives. I learnt a few years back that a Nigerian designed a machine for pounding yam, took the proposal to the Nigerian government to help further his researcher and also to produce the machine in large quantities that could be exported and also sold locally, but his request wasn’t granted. Now, this same Nigerian took this proposal to the government of one of the developed countries, who in turn bought his idea, supported him; and now, many Nigerians are importing the yam-pounding machine at very high rates.



Public and private organizations, especially, those that in one way or the other are directly involved with STEM such as mobile network providers, etc. are not left out of this. Most times they source out for their brand ambassadors, whom the shower with lots of money and gifts, from the entertainment industry. This automatically stirs the interest of the younger generation to the entertainment industry, instead of the STEM field. I suggest that brand ambassadors of these organizations be sourced from winners of strong STEM competitions organized by them. That way, the younger generation is encouraged to get involved in STEM. That way, they are also giving back to the society, not just painting schools, supplying free books, etc. A popular mobile network provider recently gifted their long term brand ambassadors from with a 2015 model range rover and 2015 model G-wagon each upon their return from a tour in the US. Now, I’m not criticizing them for doing that, but I am looking at how much this would encourage STEM development in the country as compared to if this money was used to support high flying students or individuals with scholarship opportunities to further their education or if it was used to donate STEM equipments in schools, institutions or centres that teach or carry out Stem projects.

“Misplaced publicity”: The media, has also been found guilty of not promoting STEM awareness and education as they would most likely promote the entertainment industry more than they would promote STEM or

even the education industry in general and that is why an average teenager or youth knows almost all the songs/ dance steps available but may not even recite properly the multiplication table. Due to the “fame” and “riches” attracted to the entertainment industry, many people who can’t afford a proper formal education run quickly to the entertainment industry and after a hit or two, they become famous and forget about their “once upon a time” dream of being engineers, scientist, inventors, etc. I mean, it is common knowledge that one of the most popular entertainers in Nigeria was a student of physics engineering and all that, had to drop out of school because his parents couldn’t afford to meet up his school fees so, he decided to join the entertainment industry. Now, at this junction, my proposed solution would come as a question. I would like to ask us as individuals and as a group to think of what will happen, if we experience a paradigm shift in our scale of preference, if we made STEM education our opportunity cost and entertainment a for-gone alternative, how much transformation will we get in the economy and value-system of our nation. The general belief or do I say, the **tendency to look down on locally produced/ manufactured items**. By locally, I refer to items that are manufactured within Nigeria as a nation, and not just goods produced in the rural parts of the country. The average Nigeria feels more confident wearing a Dolce& Gabana, atmosphere, channel, and other products designed in other countries than when he or she puts on apparel or uses a device that was designed by his or her Nigerian brothers or sisters.



Sincerely, I don’t totally blame us for this, because we are all aware of the inferiority of some of the goods produce here in Nigeria. Now, even as little as we think milk is, we go to the market to buy peak milk and we hear of the normal condensed peak milk and the condensed peak milk from Holland, which is obviously more expensive. My sincere apologies to the indigenes of this region please, no offence intended, but we all know the popular tag “Aba made”. I want to believe that this phrase did not come up because all fake products or products of inferior quality are produced in Aba alone, but probably because the Igbos, who are well known for their industrious attitudes, have a couple of people, who are deficient in integrity, who want to cut corners, who want to spend less than is meet and still sell at the normal price or even at a higher price flood the market and give us this bad name. This issue of integrity amongst Nigerians is not a local problem, but an international challenge. I learnt recently of a Nigerian who imports certain appliances and on one occasion, a part of the appliance was faulty. He wrote severally to the company and even called them severally. After several months of laying complaints, he decided to travel to meet the company representatives directly. On his arrival, he related his ordeal to the company and the representative retorted that they always reply their mails and letters. When this Nigerian insisted that he did not get a

reply, he was asked by a representative of company asked him what country the letters came from, he said Nigeria and the representative retorted “as a company policy, we don’t open letters from Nigeria”. I would have suggested that more agencies should be built to check short cuts and corruption but because some of the officials in these anti-corruption agencies are themselves corrupt, I suggest that integrity should be taught in families, schools, religious gatherings, etc., to instill it into individuals. The danger of thinking and not thinking. As humans, we have the tendency to think, look out for and hastily complain about things not done properly by individuals, industries and most especially the government. I personally, don’t have an issue with making a comprehensive list of our lacks, the inefficiencies of others or how much better life would have been if this was in place or if that wasn’t in place, but where I have a big problem is when we celebrate these challenges, instead of seeing them as opportunities to create solutions that would improve the standard of living for others and invariably, ourselves too. May I say at this juncture, that the only thing that is impossible to do, is that which you actually say is impossible to be done. The greatest fear of man should not be death, rather, not thinking; because anyone who stops thinking is simple a living corpse.

Insufficient teachers in the STEM sector and insufficient Stem equipment for teaching in schools: Only a few people are trained in STEM, hence, we have very few people that can teach the next generation. Out of the people who are meant to teach this discipline, a percentage of them don’t have a good knowledge of the subject matter. Another percentage is just teaching because that is what they have seen to do. Some don’t even care about the welfare of the students they are teaching and so, the students are just in class, waiting for that particular period to be over. This can be fixed this by training teachers in the sciences, introduction and sustenance of vocational training, guidance and counseling and by lowering entry requirements for science courses, organizing conferences for students and most importantly teachers in the STEM field. STEM equipment should be supplied in schools where they are ben thought to enhance practical learning. Most STEM projects are born out of curiosity, hence I believe that if all teachers work with the mindset of “how can I bring about a medium that arouses curiosity” instead of the mindset of “how can I deliver this information”, more Stem projects would be thought of and carried out.

Finally, one of the major setbacks to STEM research is **gender discrimination**. In her September 2014 address at the 3rd Annual African First Ladies Discussion on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, stated categorically that African development will not happen at the pace and depth it needs to without the empowerment of girls, youth and women, especially in the STEM areas. Thanks to organizations like Inwelle Centre that focus on educating and empowering ladies, especially in the STEM field, development would come to Africa and the world at a greater rate.

Before I leave the stage, I encourage us all to join hands together in our individual capacities, to make the world a better place for us and our children. **Ifedimma Anazodo, 2015 Boot Camp, Mathematics and Chemistry Teacher**

Kosy Nwajuaku

When Kosy came to us, she was already engaged to be married. The director talked to her about Inwelle Centre boot camp and how it would be a good way to engage her time while she was waiting for her traditional marriage ceremony. After a lengthy persuasion, Kosy agreed reluctantly to give the boot camp a try. Today, she is a graduate of Social Work. After her boot camp experience and the subsequent symposium, she saw the need to get a degree before becoming married. She wedded in December, 2013, immediately after her graduation. She is constantly facilitating first day boot camp activities for Inwelle Centre, and she never missed our symposium. Inwelle Centre mission to leverage young girls to achieve was fulfilled in her. She now has the financial muscle to pilot her affair. Kosy is a typical whatever it takes attitude of Inwelle Centre staff. Our director did whatever it took to create awareness in Kosy and expand her horizon beyond just settling into marriage, without exploring other options opened to her. Uniquely, Inwelle Centre "Project Success Boot Camp" programme is built to develop leaders, especially those who will use the educational channel to leverage girls. Kosy is it. Even though she still got married, she went into that marriage from a position of strength and as an educated consumer of social commodity. By the time she obtained her degree in social work in 2013, her aspiration had heightened. She is now thinking of going for her Master's degree. She wants to be a social entrepreneur. Her area of focus is adolescent girls. It is obvious that she has developed the requisite mettle to get into that field. We cannot wait to see her trailblazing the field with innovative programmes. Here is Kosy's journey and her testimony.

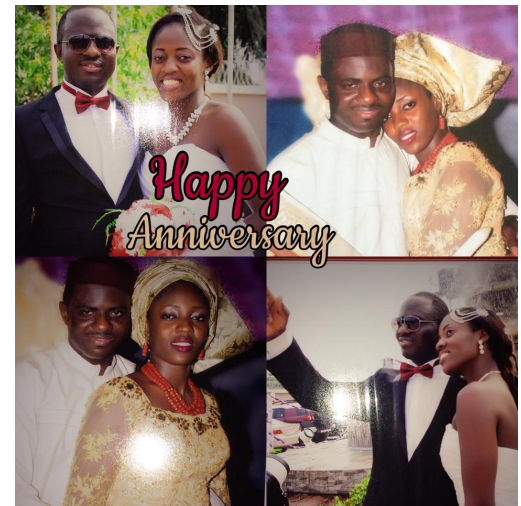


**KOSY, THE SOCIAL WORKER
JUBILATING AFTER HER FI-
NALS AT THE UNIVERSITY**



**KOSY'S
CHILDREN**

While facilitating our 2013 boot camp opening ceremony Kosy said "Inwelle Centre is a place that will tell you that you are somebody. At the boot camp, I learnt the slogan "before you take a step, have a target". Before I came for the Boot Camp, I did not have target or even know what I wanted to be in life; that slogan kept me pondering even after I left the boot camp. Today I can stand and talk to a large crowd without shivering, which I could not do before. After the Boot Camp, I got admission into the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where I studied Social Work and I am also working with Irish University Business School. Inwelle Centre will help you to discover something in you that you do not know is there, just as it helped me. Today I am a social worker with second class honour and a mother as well. 2009 academic boot camp really helped me because the computer I learnt there helped me to do assignments and work while in school. Before I graduated I received an award from my department as the most sociable student and I also held some post like departmental treasurer, assistance secretary, drama coordinator and director of social. Thanks so much for your great gift, Inwelle Centre.



**KOSY'S TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE
AND CHURCH WEDDING**

As a child, I lost my father and was subjected to seeking for help from outside. Due to my mum's effort and hard work, my mum taught me how to be industrious. However, she did not teach me how to be independent. As I grew up, I got an opportunity at Inwelle Centre in order to learn computer. While acquiring computer skills, at Inwelle Centre, I learnt something more important very important; I learnt to be independent.

At the Centre, during our one month academic boot camp, we were taught on how to be independent, how to tackle any situation in life, and how to believe in ourselves, how to dream big and have an expanded vision, which actually helped me to believe that I could be a graduate and also gave me the confidence that I am somebody. At the Centre, we were told to write a report about what we observed and what we learnt every day. At first I called it a waste of time. I never realized that keeping a record of my activities and my learning would help me in life until I entered the university and I found out that in every field work, I was required to submit a report of what I did in the field (in every nonsense there is always a sense).

Meanwhile, it was at Inwelle Centre that I chose the course to study at the university. Due to the education I received from the Centre, I learnt what it means to be independent and remain focused on my goals for life.

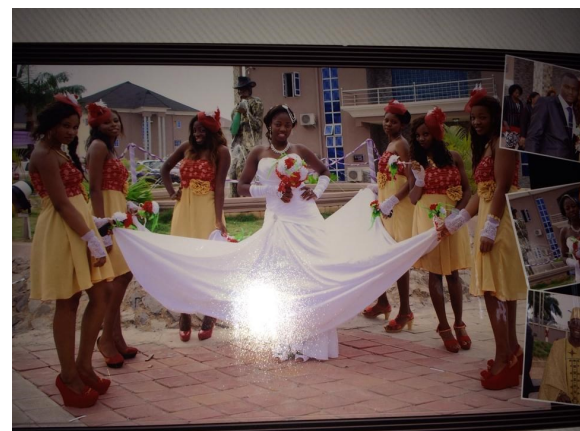
Social work as a course also helped to groom me and change my mind set and the way I think towards certain situations in life. It also helped me never to judge without gaining adequate information about any issue on ground. Now I can stand and relate with everyone including the elites because my profession, not only groomed me, but turned me into a different person.

Years back in my family, I used to be quite withdrawn whenever my cousins were discussing or chatting because I couldn't relate with them or even think the way they did, but now they all call me "problem solver" or "my social worker" and I talk freely with them because we are now at the same level. Being a graduate has made my village people to respect my status. They always want to give me posts, whether I like it or not because I am a graduate. In my husband's family we all interact very well because all of us are educated. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity the Inwelle Centre gave me to achieve this great success.

I came to Inwelle Study and Resource Centre when I was a nobody. I got an opportunity in Inwelle Centre in order to learn about computer, but I learnt something more important than computer. During my stay in the centre I learnt how to write a daily report which really helped me in my field of study. I was taught how to become a successful woman without being prostituted or undermined by men. At the Centre, I realized that a woman can achieve her dream if only she is determined and focused on what she wants. However, I was taught to always believe in myself as everyday, we chanted "Yes I can do it." According to my mum if I failed Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examination two times in her house, that means I was not serious with my education and that is all for me. Therefore, I thought that there was no more school for me again, until I came to Inwelle Centre and realized that I could buy JAMB form for myself by using the computer skills I acquired and getting a job. Furthermore, I got a job at Inwelle Centre and later got another job at IRISH UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL in Lagos as a Secretary, and I made some money and paid for my JAMB. It was at Inwelle Centre that I chose my career to become a Social Worker. Today, I am a graduate, a wife and a mother. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity I got from Inwelle Centre.

As a social worker, with the knowledge I have now, I will work with Inwelle Resources and Study Centre to advocate for the young girls on the issue of early marriage. I want to be able to impact communities on the need to abolish child marriage.

Ilechukwu Kossy Amala (Nee Nwajuaku)



KOSY'S CHURCH WEDDING

CHIZOBA QEENIE OFOEGBU: AN INWELLE CENTRE SUCCESS STORY

In 2007, an adolescent girl walked into Inwelle Centre, looking for a friend who was using Inwelle Centre library. Curious about the activities of our Project Success, Chizoba begged to be allowed to participate. She was idle, unprepared academically, and marginalized. She did not pass her exam to get into a higher institution. After participating, she became so interested in Inwelle Centre activities that she volunteered to work for Inwelle Centre. In 2009 she joined our Academic Boot Camp where she was given computer skills and the academic preparedness she needed to get into a higher institution. That year, she was the best boot camper. After the boot camp, along with 85% other boot camp girls, she passed her exam and succeeded in getting into a higher institution. She used her I.T. skills to work and go to school at the same time while still volunteering at the centre. As a volunteer at Inwelle Centre, Chizoba successfully supervised many youth empowerment projects, assisted in doing other office work, gathered indigent children and youth to teach them how to operate computer and how to perform in other subject such as Mathematics and integrated Science. She received a Higher national Diploma (HND) degree in Chemical Engineering in September 2014 and is highly skilled in I.T., thanks to Inwelle Centre training. She faces a bright future. Chizoba debunked the held attitude that she could not develop the financial muscle required to pay for her education in the science and technology field herself. Her father, who was not on board initially, is now one of our ardent supporters. That is what Inwelle Centre is about--leveraging young girls to reach their potentials and creating awareness in parents that girls deserve the chance to grow into fulfilled adults.



**Volunteer
2008**



**Chizoba Teaching a 2010
Catch-Them-Young Computer
Training Class**



**Chizoba and Fellow Participants at the 2009 Academic
Boot Camp**



**Chizoba and the
Director, Professor
Christiana
Okechukwu —2009**



Featuring Miss Chizoba Ofoegbu: In Her Own Words

My name is Miss Chizoba Ofoegbu from Imo State, Nigeria. I finished secondary school in the year 2005 but because of difficulty of getting a good JAMB result and the lack of finance, I was unable to continue, until I met a saviour (Inwelle Study and Resource Centre) in the year 2007. I was given an intensive academic counseling and they taught me the importance of being educated as a woman. Inwelle Study and Resource Centre gave me a job at the Centre because I emerged as one of the best students in project success 2007. I was coached on the



Chizoba Ofoegbu, Facilitating a Session in our 2014 Academic Boot Camp

subject in which I had some difficulties and at last I got into a university. From that very day I became a volunteer, I helped in all areas the Centre sent me like registering and arranging books on the shelf, preparing the computer room for project etc. After the project I continue my volunteering work until I gained admission in Caritas University but I dropped out because of increment in school fees. When I came back I was employed as the administrative assistant at Inwelle Centre and I was given the opportunity to study and work for them which is unbelievable in Nigeria. Then I gained admission in 2009 at Institute of Management and Technology.

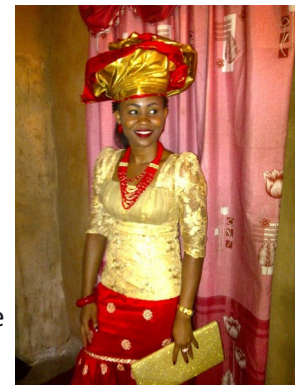
Again, I was given the opportunity to participate in August Academic Boot Camp 2009. I will never forget the academic and moral knowledge I acquired during the 2009 August Academic Boot camp. I learnt new things, I made new friends, and my academic and computer skill improved more after the boot camp. At first I thought that science and technology courses were meant for men to study. And that if I ever wanted to succeed in the science field, I must become a nurse, not an engineer. I thought that science and technology subjects were very difficult and I was not going to survive in such study because it required a lot of money for books and for paying tutors for extra lesson. I was inspired by Inwelle Centre (actually by Professor Christiana Okechukwu) who convinced me that that I could do well in engineering field, if it was what I wanted to study, because I confessed to her that I would have loved to be an engineer but I didn't think I could succeed.



Chizoba, The Chemical Engineer

She also brought a teacher that taught us how to study effectively and succeed it on life.

During my Ordinary National Diploma (OND) programme in school, the computer skill I acquired helped me to source information on the internet whenever a project or an assignment was given to me and most of my class mate paid me to help them with the assignment because they can't operate computer. Also, during my OND a final year student in Enugu State University of Science and Technology named Paschal paid me to type his project for him in his computer. After that I went for my Industrial Training (IT) at Triton paint in Lagos Nigeria where I was singled out as the best student among the IT students in that company just because of the computer skills I gained at Inwelle Study and Resource Centre. Sometimes I helped them in producing label for the various Paint produced using MS-Word application and apart from the transport they usually give to the IT student, I was also given extra money for my services and half bag of rice at the of my stay there. Also the company promised to employ me after my studies. At the end of every semester, I usually go to my God mother business center at Onitsha Anambra state Nigeria, where I assist her in typing and photocopying document for people. And she pays me at the end of every week, from that I save money for the next semester. I strongly believe that the computer knowledge I acquired at Inwelle Centre free of charge will help me to secure a job quickly in Nigeria because most of the establishment in Nigeria requires people that are computer literate and already I have been securing temporal jobs with the skill.



Chizoba at Her Traditional Marriage

That was how I worked and went to school in order to succeed in life. Today, at 26 years old, I am a Chemical Engineer, and I became married in 2014. Inwelle Study and Resource Centre provides the necessary means of combating early marriage in Nigeria. Just as in my own case; I am a living witness today because with my certificate I am not a nuisance to my family, community, state and Nigeria at large. Now I love chemical engineering discipline because 1) it will prepare one on the safest way of producing so many products that is needed in household and everyday activities etc. 2) it also help one to minimize cost in his/her input and ways to maximize profit. 3) it helps one to become a good entrepreneur. 4) it helps one to be safety conscious in everything one handles in life. I am glad that I listened to Professor Okechukwu, that I was given the opportunity to earn money while in school, and that I will be able to help my siblings and other youths in the society to see a career in the science field as a reachable goal. Thank you Inwelle Centre for what you are doing for young girls. Thank you Global Fund for Women for supporting Inwelle Centre to support us.

Youths, Technology, and Peace in Nigeria. Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D. Executive Director, Inwelle Centre Strategies for Leveraging Girls to Seek Careers in Hi-Tech Computer Fields. Barrister Mrs. Chizoba Chine; Director Greenfields LLC.

Not Where You Come From But Where You Are Going.

Chief Nnaemeka Chuka: Chief Executive and Anaesthesiologist, Angelite Family Clinic and Angelite PCH Centre LLC Private Home Care Provider, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Combating Violence Against Women and Fostering Peace Through Information and Communication Technology

Mrs. Patience Umeh: Director of Finance (Volunteer)

Youths Helping Youths For Peace Advancement Through The Social Media.

Ms Comfort Duru: Director of Child Development (Volunteer)

Youths Fostering Community Peace Through Information Technology.

Ms. Blessing Ugwu: Director I.T. Inwelle Centre

Duties and Responsibilities of a Child Under The Child's Right Act.

Barr. Mrs. Magaret Nwagbo: Chairperson, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Anambra State Branch, Awka

The Predicament of Girls who Fail to get education.

Mrs. Ifeoma Gbulie, Ministry of Education, Awka, Anambra State

How Parents in Enugu Can Prevent and Cope With Teenage Pregnancy : **Ms. Chisom Jonathan**

Causes and Effects of Teenage Pregnancy in Nigeria

Comrade Desmond Ekete

Preparing Teens For Adulthood

Mrs. Rose Egbuche

Coping With Teenage Pregnancy in Nigeria

Dr. Kennedy Mbah:

THE YOUTH AND THE YOUTHED: Towards a literate Democratic Nigeria .

Politica Education, Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria: The Role of the Mass Media:

Dr. Chiaka, Anambra State University, Nsugbe

VISION 20:20:20: Gender Equity in Science and Technology For Attaining Economic Growth and Fostering Sustainable Social and Economic Development in Nigeria.

Barr. (Mrs) Chizoba Chine. Executive Director Greenfield The Impediments to Girls Embracing Life in Computer Technology Field.

Chinelo Udeh, Programme Director Inwelle Centre

The Place of Women in ICT in Nigeria

Dr. Eugene Ibe

Women Scientists as Change Agent in Nigerian Development.

Mrs. Joy Onyeso, Managing Director and Principal Consultant JOEM Consult Ltd

Empowering Youths In the 21st Century Nigeria,

Professor Christiana Okechukwu

Nigeria as an adult and the Youth as a child: a tale of two beings". **Mr. Mr. Ifeanyi Onah:** Ministry of Education, Enugu

The Youth and the Nigerian Democratic Process: Grappling with the challenges.

Barr. (Mrs.) Tessy Igweani

Finding a Career Path Amidst Challenges."

Barr. Nkechi Ekkeh: Special Assistant to the Governor on Education:

Management of Poultry and Pets For Self Employment for Youths. Dr. Tom Orjiokwe

Youth Development and Empowerment in Nigeria Dimensions

Barr. Mrs. Uchenna Ekete: Inwelle Centre Secretary

Strategies For Leveraging Girls To Seek Careers in Hi-Tech Computer Fields

Barr. Mrs. Chizoba Chine: Executive Director Greenfield I.T. For Profit,"

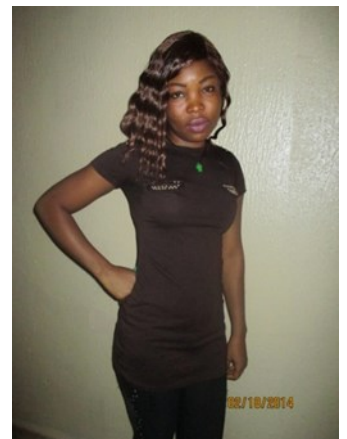
Engineer Patrick Onwe: MD, Micromedia Computer Ltd:

TESTIMONY

Sure girls deserves better in all its ramifications. Most importantly, girls need the love , care and inoculation from parents, siblings, the community. When we look critically on what is happening around us, especially among we girls, for instance, this cankerworm called child trafficking, forced marriage etc., one will observe that these occur mostly to girls with single or no parent.

This is to say that our parents have a vast role to play in our lives. In a nut shell, our worth and what we truly deserve come or should come first from our parents. They have to lay the foundation, pave ways for us, and as we grow, we grow with it. What I am saying in essence is that girls deserve not just better but the best in life and if what we deserve get to us, all these encounter becomes a thing of the past. Thank you Inwelle Centre for caring and fighting for girls' rights

OZIOKO ONYEKACHI STELLA



Building The Next Generation of Nigerian Leaders

What We Do

- ◆ ISRC forges partnerships with remote villages where it establishes satellite centres with 1000 books and two computers. We have so far established four satellite centres.
- ◆ We hold a symposium every year, selecting themes that are aimed at sensitizing the community to the problems faced by at-risk youths, especially indigent girls and young adult women, and seek solution by engaging members of the community in discussion. We have reached 5,675 attendees in our 10 years of existence.
- ◆ Every August, for one month, Inwelle Centre houses and feeds a new group of 20 young girls and 4-5 boys from five states of the southeast geopolitical zone in Nigeria, totaling 182 girls and 36 boys trained by Inwelle Centre at its academic boot camp designed for indigent adolescent girls to enable them pass their exams into higher institutions and have the skills to earn money to pay for their education in higher institutions. Constantly, we register between 85% and 90% success in the girls entering higher institutions of learning.
- ◆ We leverage girls to embrace life in the field of science and technology, especially hi-tech computer technology. Some of our participants have just received their degrees in Chemical Engineering, Social Work, Computer Science, etc.
- ◆ We seek change of attitude of the society towards girls' effort to embrace life in the science and technology field by sensitizing parents and community leaders to support girls who show interest in acquiring skills in the field of hi-tech computer.
- ◆ We help youths, especially adolescent girls, acquire marketable computer skills that will enable them to earn money to pay for their education in the fields of science and technology. Since 2008, we have trained 956 girls and 232 boys in our Mass Computer Literacy campaign.
- ◆ We leverage girls to compete favorably with their rich peers by the time they graduate from a higher institution so that they can find jobs.
- ◆ We have one of the richest libraries in the area.

Where We Operate:

Abia, Abonyi, Anambra,, Enugu, & Imo States: Five States in the Southeast Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

Walk With Us So That We Get Far

Learn more about Inwelle Centre Strategy for Leveraging Girls.

- ◆ Visit us at www.inwellecentre.org, follow us on twitter, love us on facebook, listen to us on YouTube. Contact us at info@inwellecentre.org. Talk to us +234-8037519965; +234-8033209509; +234-8116730856
- ◆ See us at 5 Inwelle Avenue, Pipe Line Estate, Amorji Nike, Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria.

