Youth in Ghana: Encouraging Youth Participation in Global Issues

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Introduction

- We live in a world where the youth form a majority. This is moreso in Africa and Ghana specifically.
- It is therefore incumbent on all actors to ensure that the youth is not left out on the key issues which directly affect their daily lives.
- Global issues are local issues (GLOCAL).

Scope

The key issues to be considered are:

- **Socio-Political:** Education, Governance, and Politics
- **Economic**: Employment and labour issues
- **Environmental**: Food Securiity

The Ghanaian (African) situation

Traditional African societies will go with the axiom

„a child is seen and not heard“

Akan adage says:

„when a child knows how to wash his hands well, he dines with adults“.

The Ghanaian (African) situation

- When one finishes school, he/she searches for a job. The government has been the highest employer. With a freeze in employment by government, many remain jobless.

- Agriculture is for the poor, aged and uneducated folks. It's crude and like punishment for those who 'have not made it' in life.

Encouraging youth participation in global issues will therefore require the following:

- Holisitic education and training that prepares the head, heart and hand to be able to engage in meaningful public discourse;

- Promoting and deepening the culture of dialogue among young people;

- Encouraging positive involvement in local and national politics and leadership;

- Citizenship Education taught in our basic schools should be made more practical through community projects;
- Expanding curriculum to have gobal dimensions;
- Promoting global schools partnerships and exchange programmes through personal contacts and via social media;

- Creating enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship among young people rather than relying on government for jobs;

- Provision of incentives for young people who enter agriculture. In so doing, we do not only enegage them in activities that directly affect their very existence but more so, to live productive lives instead of engaging in social vices.

ABOUT…
YOUNG PEOPLE WE CARE

Informing, Educating and Empowering Youth to Change the World

Introduction

YPWC is a registered youth led and youth focused organization that is headquartered in Ghana. The organization is operated by a combination of young people (aged 10 to 35) and adult allies working on youth and development related issues worldwide. YPWC was founded in December 2005.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

YPWC operational areas include

- Global Citizenship and Development Education

- Youth Employment and Employability

- Youth and Migration

- Youth and Governance

- Research and Capacity Building

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

- YPWC has been involved in several campaigns such as STAND UP, SPEAK OUT, KICKOUT POVERTY, VOICES OF YOUTH

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

- In Collaboration with Youth Service America, YPWC has implemented Global Youth Service Day in 2011 – 2014 each year to **promote volunteerism among young people.**

- In 2011, YPWC, in collaboration with Peace Child International, hosted the West African Youth for Sustainable Development Regional prepcom to build capacity of youth and seek youth perspectives in the lead up to Rio +20.

- Again with PCI, YPWC implemented the "Be the Change! Academy" Programme: Youth Enterprise project (August, 2012 to March 2013)
- Youth of the World! Project aimed to mainstream Global Education in youth work: http://youthoftheworld.org/).

- Together with IT FOR CHILDREN, we are collecting, refurbishing and donating computers to school children to enhance their IT skills.

  http://www.itforchildren.org/

HOW WE HAVE CARRIED OUT THESE PROJECTS

YPWC has adopted a number of strategies to make out efforts impactful. These include

- The Development Education Clubs
- Community Interface
- Radio Discussion
- Street Campaigns
- Public Hearing
- Outdoor games – e.g. Football competition

Partners Welcome!

Medaase!
Thank you!