

**Report on Public Speaking Educational
Improvement Project
("Public Speaking; Raising Future Leaders")**

Dated: March, 2019

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
PROGRAMME LAUNCH	4
PUBLIC SPEAKING DEBATE COMPETITION IN FOCUS:	5
Stages of the Competition	5
First Leg of the First Stage.....	5
Second Leg of the First Stage	6
Third Leg of the First Stage	6
Fourth Leg of the First Stage	6
Next Steps	6
PICTURE COMMENTARY	7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public speaking is commonly said to be one of the most pervasive fears in Ghana, Africa and the world at large. The medical term commonly used to describe the fear of public speaking is known as “Glossophobia”. While public speaking can be a nerve-wracking experience, it can be extremely beneficial for many careers. People who learn to effectively speak in public are not afraid of taking leadership roles, and are often perceived as being better leaders than those who do not give speeches or presentations publicly.

According to Faravelli et al. (2000), 89.4% patients with social anxiety disorder had fear of public speaking.

Though public speaking is recognized as an important skill to have, many people especially pupils/ students do not like or want to give speeches due to speech anxiety or fear. The anxiety that usually comes with a speaking performance is said to be both personal and situational.

Researchers have over the years sought to understand how the combined effects of personal traits of an individual and situational conditions such as the nature of the speaking environment, the size of the audience and negative perception over the outcome of a speech, affects a person’s ability to effectively communicate.

The need to take collective effort geared towards addressing speech related anxieties among students in building self-confidence for improved academic work is now more imperative.

It is against this background that Community Focus Foundation Ghana (CFF-GH), and its partners including the Young Visionary Leaders, Scaleup Future, Community Connect Network, Kamal Educational Foundation, Ako Foundation, and Ga West Municipal Education Directorate are implementing the public speaking educational improvement project titled **“RAISING LEADERS THROUGH PUBLIC SPEAKING”** to maximize the educational gains in the municipality in support of achieving the target six (6) of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4); *“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for All”*.

The project objective is to coach and mentor pupils/students to develop strong communication skills to become dynamic, incisive and assertive leaders in society. The project is also aimed at producing students with leadership skills in public speaking annually.

Through the collaboration efforts of the project implementing partners, a total number of 24 schools in the Ga West and North Municipal Areas have been selected to participate in the public speaking debate contest on the topic ***“Sex Education is causing more harm than good to Ghanaian students.”***

The competition is in three stages namely First Stage (Inter-Circuit stage) Second Stage (Semi-Final) and the Final Stage. Each school is expected to adequately prepare four (4) contestants of which 2 of them will stand for the motion and two against based on the ballot results. So far, the project has directly and indirectly benefited 491 pupils/students and 50 teachers who attended and participated in the public speaking debate competition.

PROGRAMME LAUNCH

Community Focus Foundation Ghana and its partners including Young Visionary Leaders, Scaleup Future, Community Connect Network, Kamal Educational Foundation and Ako Foundation launched the public speaking educational improvement project on Monday, 4th March, 2019 titled **“Public Speaking; Raising Future Leaders”** at the Assembly Hall of the Ga West Municipal Assembly. The project objective is to coach and mentor pupils/students to develop strong communication skills to become dynamic, incisive, and assertive leaders in support of target six of the SDG4; *“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”*. Four (4) schools namely St. Joseph R/C Basic, Fowmag Islamic Basic, Amasaman M/A Basic, and Sacred Heart Anglican Schools were billed to participate in the public speaking debate competition on the topic “Sex education is causing more harm than good among Ghanaian students” but unfortunately, Fowmag Islamic Basic School did not show up for the contest leaving only three schools including St. Joseph R/C Basic, Amasaman M/A Basic, and Sacred Heart Anglican Schools battling it out with each other with St. Joseph R/C Basic winning and Amasaman M/A Basic placing second which qualifies them to the next stage (semi-finals) of the competition. The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of Ga West, Hon. Clement Wilkinson Lamptey graced the occasion as a sign of his support towards the project in the Municipality.



Public Speaking Educational Improvement Project Launched at Ga West Municipal Area with participants in a group picture

PUBLIC SPEAKING DEBATE COMPETITION IN FOCUS:

Stages of the Competition

There are 3 main stages of the debate competition including first (preliminary), second (semi-final) and third (grand finale) stages with 24 selected schools expected to participate. So far, 14 schools have participated in the preliminary level of the competition in the Ga West Municipal Area.

First Leg of the First Stage

On Monday, 4th March, 2019 three (3) schools including Amasaman M/A 2 Junior High School, St. Joseph R/C Basic School and Sacred Heart Anglican Basic School with students numbering about 122 and 12 teachers gathered at the Assembly Hall of the Ga West Municipal Assembly for the public speaking contest.

Despite the fierce challenge put up by other contesting schools, St. Joseph R/C Basic School was declared winners with Amasaman M/A 2 Junior High School placing second, which qualified the to the semi-final of the contest. Sacred Heart Anglican Basic School placed 3rd in the competition.



Hon. Clement W. Lamptey motivates a contestant



A contestant on the floor debating the topic

Second Leg of the First Stage

The second leg of the first stage of the public speaking debate competition took place on 12th March, 2019 with four (4) schools including Medie M/A Basic School, Sarpeiman M/A Basic School, Kutunse M/A Basic School, Medie Presbyterian M/A Basic School with pupils numbering about 209 and 14 teachers gathered at the Medie Presbyterian Church for the contest.

At the end of the contest, Medie Presbyterian M/A Basic School was declared winners by the panel of judges to proceed to the next level of the competition.

Third Leg of the First Stage

The third leg of the first stage of the public speaking debate competition took place on 14th March, 2019 with three (3) schools including Nsakina M/A Basic School, Manhean M/A Basic School, Akotoshie M/A Basic School., Dobro Gono Methodist Basic School with pupils numbering about 87 and 9 teachers. The venue for the competition was Manhean Methodist Church.

After the competition, Nsakina M/A Basic School placed first followed by Dobro Gono Methodist Basic School and Manhean, the host school placed third (3rd) in a very competitive public speaking debate.

Fourth Leg of the First Stage

The fourth leg of the first stage of the public speaking debate competition took place on 21st of March, 2019 at Ayikai Doblo Pentecost Church with four (4) schools including St. Cyprian's Anglican Basic School, Odumase Amanfrom M/A Basic School, Ayikai Doblo M/A Basic School, and St. Paul's Anglican Basic School. Pupils numbering about 73 and 15 teachers attended and participated in the contest.

At the end of the contest St. Paul's Anglican Basic School placed first, followed by St. Cyprian's Anglican Basic School, Odumase Amanfrom M/A Basic School and Ayikai Doblo M/A Basic School representing second, third and fourth positions respectively.

Next Steps

1. The project is ongoing and is expected to be systematically scale up to cover to other selected schools in the districts.
2. Qualified schools are expected to be taken through special mentoring and training sessions by their mentors (teachers) before appearing for the semi-finals scheduled for May, 2019.
3. Grand finale of the public speaking contest is expected to be held in June, 2019 with the participation of qualified students from the semi-finals with special prizes awarded to participants and the overall winner.

PICTURE COMMENTARY



Group photograph of organizers, contestants, teachers, and pupils @ Medie Presby School



Supporting students from participating schools looking on keenly as the debate reaches a crescendo



Anxious contestants from St. Cyprian's Anglican Basic School waiting to mount the hot platform and debate.





Public Speaking at a glance in Ayikai Dobro in the Ga West Municipal Area

