****

***WE FUND EDUCATION***

AN EDUCATIONAL ALLEVIATION INITIATIVE

***POWERED BY:***

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**SCIENCE AMBASSADORS FOUNDATION (SAF)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**We Fund Education**

Wefund Education is an initiative of our foundation, Science Ambassadors Foundation (SAF), created to address the challenges we discovered while undergoing projects of training both students and teachers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M). What we realized was that not every student or teacher has access to up-to-date standards of learning and this can create future problems for imparting knowledge to the children. In some of the schools we visited, basic amenities such as chairs, learning materials and educational infrastructure was lacking in more ways than one. We decided we were going to do something about it and that is how this initiative was born.

We believe that every child has something to offer and as such we want to nurture the child to be of good affluence and influence to the society. Our Society today needs a better educational system and we cannot let the strength of our young ones be thrown into negativity. Together we can build a better society.

**MISSION**

Our mission is to empower disadvantaged children through quality education to become innovators. We empower low-income schools and their parents across communities in Africa to provide tuition-free quality 21st-century education to disadvantaged children equipping them to make informed innovative career choices

**VISION**

To provide quality innovative education and transform disadvantaged children to world-class innovators

**Core values**

C- Community

E- Empathy

M - Mutual Respect

A - Always learning

R - Revolutionary

**About SAF**

Science Ambassadors Foundation is a community and an incorporated Not- For -Profit organization. We exist to make significant contribution to national development by raising a generation of Inventors, Innovators, Problem solvers and Nation builders. This we would achieve by promoting engagement of youths in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and by providing a fun atmosphere for the learning of STEM which would make young people see the daily application of STEM to solve problems in critical areas of life such as health, education, governance, agriculture, security e.t.c

At the core of all our operations is a desire to increase the engagement of young people in STEM related fields. We believe that this will increase the country’s innovative and creative capacity and stimulate economic growth. We want to inspire and motivate students, bringing them to a point where they no longer see STEM courses as boring, abstract or difficult. We aim to create avenues where the practicality of STEM is taught with hands-on learning experience and excitement. Our learning models are such that would make STEM engaging, exciting and enriching.

**Projects Summary**

Science Ambassadors and our partners have recently trained over 300 Science teachers in Lagos State on improvised practical usage of scientific methodologies with more projects on the way.

Our goals with the leadership of our Country Director, Mrs Peace Nnabugwu, is to ensure that the training would empower the teachers on how to teach students in simple scientific terms to make science more interesting. These trainings captured science teachers in basic science, basic technology, chemistry, physics, computer science, biology and mathematics.

***Quotes from the******C.D***

*“We are contributing our quota in the education sector to ensure that our science teachers are abreast of modern scientific teaching techniques.”*

*” Science is not abstract or history, so its teaching process has to be fun and interesting for absorption by the learners, who are the students in our case.*

*“An enthusiast teacher will influence a happy learning environment and with such trainings, the number of students excelling in science will increase.”*

*“We cannot wait for the government to do everything, neither can we fold our hands and allow things to get worse for science that is why we decided to organize such trainings, to at least, help salvage the situation.”*

The selected teachers were taught on how to use household items and materials such as paper, syringe, cups of water, straws, among others, to improvise on practical science.

These trainings were conceived as a result of the lack of apparatus and science equipment in many schools, which was affecting the process of teaching and learning of science.

Many of the selected teachers were drawn from Lagos State government schools while training was proudly supported by the Faculty of Science, University of Lagos and some resource materials were obtained from previous support from the Institute of Physics, United Kingdom.

Teachers are issued certificates and materials to aid their teaching beyond the training sessions.

**BULLET POINTS**

* **Teacher Training**
* **Science Student Trainings**
* **Science Award**
* **Radio Program on Student Radio (Unilag FM 103.1)**

**PRESS**

Science Ambassadors Foundation (SAF) has concluded arrangements with Federal Science Equipment Centre (FSEC), Ijanikin, Lagos, to train science teachers in the state.  
   
The two-day training scheduled for July 13th and 14th, 2014 is aimed at promoting science education in the country; stimulating enthusiasm among science teachers and encouraging students to choose career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Participants are drawn from schools under the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), Lagos state chapter.

Speaking with newsmen at the University of Lagos, Chairperson of the foundation, Mrs. Chinyere Nnabugwu, said the overall aim of the exercise was to demystify science education, which most students dread.

 She said, “If truly Nigeria wants to become an industrialized nation come 2020, there is need for massive investment in STEM. There is nothing you want to talk about in life that science is not involved. That is why we want to train teachers and show them that they do not have to wait for a fully equipped laboratory to teach science in an interesting manner.

“For instance, the pregnancy test kit was put together using the principle of chromatography and you can do this using tissue paper and ink or marker. Here in Nigeria, organizations make good returns out of it, whereas it is something we can do on our own or even teach our people how to make it. This is the type of training that would be offered to the teachers who will transfer the knowledge to the Nigerian child. The time is long overdue, but if we start right, we will get it right.”

Patron of the Foundation, Prof Oluwole Familoni, said the training was the beginning of something good for private schools and the country, just as he warned that the exercise of “alternative to practical” should be discarded, as there is no alternative to practical.

He said the Foundation encourages communication and collaboration among STEM professionals so as to foster awareness on the contributions of STEM in every nation.

Assistant Director of Education, FSEC, Mrs. Esther Mordi, lamented that students were not doing well in the sciences because they are not practically inclined. “We have told teachers to stop teaching theory all the time. There are local materials around them, which can be fabricated and improvised and the scientific outcome will be the same.”

Web link: https://guardian.ng/features/saf-partners-fsec-napps-to-train-science-teachers/