



ACHIEVERS GHANA

PROFILE

2016



INTRODUCTION:

The Achievers Ghana is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonreligious organisation with a simple mission: Education for all girls in slums in Ghana, which was incorporated under the Companies Code, 1963 (ACT 179) on the 22nd of November, 2011 with a registration number G-38,950.

In a slum, where most people live below the poverty line, girls and women education takes the back seat. Poverty, underdevelopment, mass illiteracy, ignorance, urban backwardness and conservatism cause a majority of girls in slums to be deprived of their basic right to education. Various other social problems such as child marriage, trafficking and discrimination leads toward the undermining of girl's right to Education. In this scenario, Achievers Ghana has been trying to ensure these vulnerable girls in slums have been provided with education support.

Achievers Ghana is presently at the community level with over 350 girls in the program. Building the capacity of a girl child in a slum community will add up to a human capital and hence the development of our mother Ghana. Achievers Ghana's main objectives are to inspire, educate, and equip girls in slum communities with the necessary skills to pursue every opportunity that is available to them in order to be responsible and useful citizens.

Achievers Ghana Education intend to achieve its mission and vision through:

1. **Technology:** Using technology to advocate, connect, and increase awareness of key issues affecting girls and to support girls in slum communities that are constantly learning, mobilizing and evolving. Critical



issues include security, advocacy, and mapping. And also to inspire, educate and equip a girl child in a slum community with the computing skills. Achievers Tech Girls program believes to close the gender gap in technology in the country. We have to inspire girls to pursue computer science by exposing them to real life role models. We engage engineers, developers, executives, and entrepreneurs to teach and motivate the next generation. Our guest speakers, mentors, and

instructors are leaders in their fields, working in positions our girls aspire to attain. Achievers Coding Girls programs are providing unparalleled computer science education to girls at the community level — giving them the hard and soft skills needed to become the technologists of tomorrow. We don't just offer exposure to technology, we train tomorrow's engineers.

Achievers Tech Girl's vision is to reach gender parity in computing fields. We believe this is paramount to ensure the economic prosperity of women, families, and communities across the



slums communities in the country, and to equip citizens with the 21st century tools for innovation and social change. We believe that more girls exposed to computer science at a young age will lead to more women working in the technology and engineering fields.

Education/Scholarships: Using a variety of educational approaches to build knowledge, skills, and self-confidence. This includes advocating for change through increasing public awareness and influencing attitudes in support of women's and girls' human rights.



The top priority of Achievers Ghana is providing funds for school fees, books and uniforms. The level of funding support is decided after certain selection criteria are met for each girl. Girls of primary school age are favoured to maximise long-term impact. The progress of each girl, including grades and attendance are regularly evaluated.

Leadership and Mentorship: To change attitudes and systems, women and girls must be leaders – in protest, advocacy, representation and mobilization. This includes providing young women with important leadership and mentoring opportunities.



Meeting and hearing from role models that girls can relate to is invaluable in sparking their interest in various careers. We invite female who are professionals to share information about their career paths, professional and personal life, and why they think their careers are interesting. This discussion is done in small groups, inspirational talks or round table discussions. We try to avoid lecturing and let girls ask questions freely.

Career Skills Development: Girls are stalled between school and productive work: more than a third—34%—of young women in developing countries are jobless—out of the labor force and not in school (World Bank, 2014). Although the gender gap in school enrollment has been closing, the gender gap in labor force participation is on the rise.



Reaching girls during adolescence is critical—decisions made and behaviors established during this period affect their horizons later in life. During this formative period in their lives it is important to provide adolescent girls with the tools they need to become economically empowered young women. Achievers Ghana teaches deprive girls in batik, tie & dye, liquid soup making, bead making, painting etc. in order to be empowered economically.

Community Advocacy: Achievers Ghana across the communities have long been advocating for more protections to prevent adolescent girls from being forced to get married before they are

ready. Fundamentally, child marriage is a violation of human rights. It's also a harmful practice that drags down communities and economies. When girls are safe, healthy, educated, and empowered, research has shown that they help have healthier children, earn more income, and help grow economies – making them powerful agents of positive change.

Story of Achievers Ghana

The story of Achievers starts with a girl called Amina. She lives in the Accra (Ghana) slum of Nima. Despite limited access to education, Amina Ismael excels at school. However, all her hard work looks in vain when, at the tender age of 12, her uncle want to force her into early marriage. They betroth her to a man who will take responsibility for her after the marriage. Amina is still in primary school. She is passionate about continuing her education. Amina's situation raises a lot of issues with some of her teachers. Those teachers gather and report the issue to the authorities. They intervene and rescue her. Courageously Amina manages to avoid marriage and she is able to continue her education.

What she experienced has happened and continues to happen to a lot of innocent girls in her community. Everybody thought nothing could be done about it, because of cultural and religious acceptance. So Amina, as young as she is, inspires and motivates many.

Grateful for the intervention of the teachers and the authorities, Amina, at age 13 and still a student herself, becomes an advocate for girl child education. She believes that for the world to be at peace, women need to be educated to a higher level.

Women have been denied the privilege of education and it is high time to advance female education. Though the government of Ghana has introduced free universal education, in our part of the world, females are still marginalized and are still struggling to have a position in the human race.

In May 2011, Amina helped co-found the Achievers (initially 'Achievers Book Club'), with some of her friends and one of the teachers who passionately shared her plight.

The aim is to prevent similar situations to be suffered by other young girls in the community. The Achievers, originally set up as reading club to help mobilize young girls and to educate them on their rights, now has activities that go well beyond just reading.

