

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR ICT-BASED SMALL SCALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP



CITAD

Centre for Information
Technology and
Development

INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION

WeTech™

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SMALL SCALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Lessons from CITAD Experience

INTRODUCTION

In April 2014, the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) won a competitive Seed Grant from the International Institution of Education (IIE) to train girls and women on ICT and entrepreneurship skills under the WeTech initiative. WeTech is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, supported by Google among others.

The specific objectives of the project by CITAD were:

- a. Provide the women and girls with computer skills.
- b. Provide women and girls with entrepreneurship training focused on the ICT sector
- c. Develop the entrepreneurship ability of the women and girls
- d. Support them to set up small scale enterprises in the ICT sector

The project was initially planned to be implemented in Kano State to reach out 200 women as part of the overall goal of contributing to the bridging of the gender related dimensions of the digital divide, which is very obvious in Nigeria, especially in the north part of the country, where females have less access to ICTs and their use than their male counterparts. But In the course of the implementation, the project was extended to cover also Jigawa and Bauchi States. The project commenced in May, 2014 with advocacy activities to sensitize relevant stakeholders on the importance of the project and seek their cooperation for a successful implementation. The project was completed in March 2015 and this document provide lessons learnt from the project with the hope of getting others to either replicate it elsewhere or work to upscale in areas that CITAD had implemented it to further reach more women.

WHAT WAS DONE

Meetings with Stakeholders

In order to have a smooth implementation and successful outcomes, CITAD engaged several stakeholders and held meetings with them focusing on briefing them on the project, soliciting their collaboration and nomination of prospective beneficiaries as appropriate. The stakeholders involved included:

The Kano State Senior Secondary Schools Management Board (KSSSSMB), for nominating female teachers of secondary schools in the State and their collaboration in getting the teachers released and facilitating their movements

- a. The Ministry of Women Affairs, Kano State to nominate and facilitate the participation of women to benefit from the programme
- b. Federation of Muslim Women Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Kano State Branch, for the nomination of women in rural communities to benefit from the programme
- c. Jigawa State Ministry of Women Affairs nominated and facilitated the participation of women to benefit from the programme
- d. Jigawa State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, for nominating female teachers of secondary schools in the State and their collaboration in getting the teachers released and facilitating their movements
- E. Bauchi State Ministry of Education for the nomination of female teachers of secondary schools in the State and their collaboration



CITAD officials during a visit to the Kano state Commissioner for Women Affairs Dr. Binta Jibrin to facilitate the participation of women to benefit from WeTech programmes in Kano state

- in getting the teachers released and facilitating their movements
- f. Bauchi State Ministry of Education for the nomination of female teachers of secondary schools in the State and their collaboration in getting the teachers released and facilitating their movements
- g. Various community leaders in Kano State, for their cooperation during the implementation of the project

Training for Female Teachers of Secondary Schools

One of the strategies we adopted was to train female teachers who would then train their students. This way, we would help schools to have the capacity for sustainable teaching of computer skills in the schools as

well as provide role models for the students. We approached the ministries of education in Bauchi, Jigawa to select 20 teachers each to be trained under the scheme. The training took place as follows:

- **Kano State:** The training commenced on 17th July, 20014 at the Computer Laboratory of Rumfa College, Kano. Participants were trained on the use of ICTs and a training of trainers of ICTs (TOT-ICT) to enable the participants to be served as ICT teachers in their schools. The programme which lasted for a period of 5 days was benefitted by twenty female teachers.
- **Jigawa State:** from Jigawa State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 20 female teachers of girls secondary schools were nominated to benefit from the programme. The ministry also allowed for the use of the computer laboratory of one of the schools, Dutse Model Secondary School, so that CITAD did not have to bring its training computers to the venue. In addition, the Ministry also provided transport allowance for the female teachers as they were nominated from various parts of the state. The training held from 19th to 23rd August and closed with a ceremony on that day.
- **Bauchi State:** Just as in Kano and Jigawa States, in Bauchi State we also approached the ministry of Education to partner with us in enhancing the capacity of female teachers of secondary schools so that they would help to train their students on ICTs. After a meeting with the State Commissioner of Education, the Ministry nominated 28 teachers to benefit from the programme. The training held

at the Government Girls College, Bauchi from 15th to 20th September 2014.

Training for Secondary Schools Girls

Secondary school girls were one block of beneficiaries of the project. Consequently, efforts were made through the ministries and principals of the schools. The training programmes were conducted as follows:

1. **Government Girls Secondary Schools Dakata:** The training was conducted from 15th to 28th August, 2014. Overall, 25 girls undertook the two-week training and were given training on the following modules:

- a. Fundamental of Computer
- b. Windows
- c. MS Word
- d. MS Excel
- e. Power Point
- f. Film and Video Editing
- g. Graphics
- h. Use of Internet
- i. Build your Business (BYB)

2. **GGSS Wailari:** The second training for girls was conducted at Government Girls Secondary School, Wailari of Kumbotso Local Government area of Kano State. Like at Dakata, we were able to get the cooperation and support of the community which provided security for our systems and the schools' management which agreed to allow the use of its classroom for the training. The two week training commenced on 16th August and was rounded up on 30th August.

3. Government Girls Secondary School, Rano, Rano Local Government area of Kano State , 9th September, 2014.

4. **Training for Girls at Gaya:** The partnership for delivering the training in Gaya was with the Gaya Youth Development Association and the Gaya Local Government Authority which provided the venue for the training at Islamic Centre, Gaya. The training commenced on 27th September and was completed on 15th October. Thirty-four (34) girls benefited from the programme.



Opening Ceremony Day: The Director, KSSSSMB Hon. Habibu Hassan El-Yakub inspecting ongoing activities during the first (TOT-ICT) held at Rumfa College computer lab, Kano

5. **Training of Girls in Karaye LGA:** On Wednesday 12/11/2014, the training moved to Karaye in Karaye Local government of Kano State, where with the assistance of the Local Government Authority, we secured the Islamic Centre, Karaye as the venue for the training. the participants, numbering 28 were drawn from the 10 different wards of



WeTech trainees during a session at Govt. Girls College, Dakata, Nassarawa LGA, Kano

6. of the local government They were trained on the modules as other venues, and completed theirs on Saturday, 22nd of November with the Build Your Business Module and the distribution of certificates of attendance.

Training for Women

Women in Ajingi: The training for women in Ajingi, Ajingi local government was arranged in association with FOMWAN. The association not only worked with various community leaders to nominate the beneficiaries but also secured a suitable venue and arranged for security of the equipment that CITAD deployed to the site. Seventy women benefited from the IT training

1. Training for Rural Women at Gobirawa , Fagge LGA, Kano State training commenced on 29th, September at Project Primary School, Gobirawa, Fagge LGA and was completed on

15th, October, 2014 with 20 participants benefitted.

- 2. Training for Women in Jigawa State:** this round of training was conducted in collaboration with the Jigawa State Ministry of Women Affairs. The ministry nominated 20 women to benefit from the programme. It also provided us with the venue and even training computers as well provided token transport allowance for the female participants. The training was conducted at Women Development Centre, Dutse, a facility belonging to the ministry. The training which started on 19th August was closed with a colorful ceremony on 26th August during which officials of the ministry came and presented certificates to the participants. During the closing ceremony at the Women Development Center (ICT Based Entrepreneurship for women and girls) Hajiya Halima Isyaku, Director Women Affairs, thanked CITAD and WeTech for training the women. She assured the readiness of the Ministry to continue with this kind of empowerment collaboration, and pledged to CITAD free access of the centre for any programme of this nature.

Celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week First Business Forum

For the celebration of the annual Global Entrepreneurship Week, CITAD held three joint events to further build the capacity of the women and girls that benefited from the WeTech supported project. These were Business Forum for beneficiaries of the project, an entrepreneurship quiz for students of girls' secondary schools, and unveiling of the e-mentoring platform of the the organizations. The event took place at Conference



WeTech trainees practicing the art of video recording on a busy street of Ajingi, Ajingi LGA of Kano state during a session on Film and Video Editing (FAVE)



Participants (female secondary school teachers) during a session on training of trainers of ICTs (TOT-ICT) held at Government Girls College, Bauchi

hall of Community Reorientation Committee (CRC) Kano. Chaired by Hajiya Sa'a Ibrahim, the Managing Director of Abubakar Rimi Television (ARTV), the event started with the business forum whose aim was to provide information and guidelines to aspiring entrepreneurs on various aspects of setting up and running small scale enterprises. Those who addressed the forum were Zubaida Abdullahi from Cooperate Affairs Commission (CAC), the agency responsible for registering business organizations who made a presentation on the requirements, procedure and processes for registering companies, Hajiya Ummani Sunusi from Bank of Agriculture who discussed the bank support to agricultural entrepreneurs and Alhaji Auwal Zuwo from Ministry of Commerce who talked about the government efforts in supporting youth entrepreneurs as part of its youth empowerment programmes.



WeTech beneficiaries during the celebration of the annual Global Entrepreneurship Week held at Conference Hall of Community Reorientation Committee (CRC) Kano

Entrepreneurship quiz competition

A keen entrepreneurship quiz competition to showcase knowledge of the students on entrepreneurship was conducted on 19th November. Ten female secondary schools participated in the quiz event which tested their knowledge about entrepreneurship and ICT. At the end of the competition, the following schools emerged winners, and carted home various prizes that were given. Government Girls Secondary School Hausawa came first (won laptop computer), GGSS Sabon Gida Jaen came (won Desktop computer) and GGSS Janbulo came third (won 24 inch Colored TV set). As a way of commending CITAD`s efforts, the Managing Director of Abubakar Rimi Television (ARTV) expressed the readiness of her organization to partner and support CITAD in future events of this nature.

Celebration of International Women Day

On 23th March, 2015 CITAD in conjunction with the Google developers Group-Bayero University , Kano celebrated the International Women's Day with an event tagged Empowering Women with Web Technology. The aim of the programme was to motivate the participants to learn and leverage web technologies for their personal development and empowerment. The event started with a brief welcoming note from the GDG BUK Lead, Abdulhakeem Mustapha after which the chapter mentor, Aminu Ibrahim shed more light on the topic, GDG, Women Techmakers and alike. Afterwards, Aminu Ibrahim discussed the topic “Women Who Choose Computer Science. What Really Matters?” which was more of an encouragement to the attendees on making the right career choice in ICT. A representative from CITAD and GDG Kano also gave some inspiring words to the attendees.



Celebration of the International Women's Day with an event tagged 'Empowering Women with Web Technology' held at CITAD training lab

Google Apps for Education were also discussed (which included Google drive, Google maps, Google translate etc.). Discussion on their benefits, how to make use of them as well as practical demonstrations of the apps. The event ended at 1:00 pm, with 41 attendees (38 females and 2 males)

Second Business Forum

The second Business Forum for women was held on 27th January at Dutse , Jigawa State. The Forum was meant for the beneficiaries of the WeTech project to leverage support from the Federal Government Business Support competition called YouWin. The idea is for youth, with innovative business ideas to compete for utilization grant ranging from 1 million to 10 million Naira. During the first year, it was noticed that few people from the north took part in the competition. Overall also very few females participated. In its first two years, more than 70% of the winners were males. In 2012, the government decided to

receive application from only female candidates. In spite of this, women of Jigawa State origin did not benefit. One of the reasons was that the application has to be done online which required a certain level of computer literacy.

SPEV for Girls Schools

Having raised interest on computer studies in schools, we thought to find ways of sustaining the achievements of the project. This followed consultations with stakeholders, including teachers, the education authorities and the students, we decided to work with teachers and students to establish clubs in the schools that would work to maintain the interest in computer studies as well as serve as a continuing platform for advocacy. In designing the framework for the clubs, we brought three key elements namely ICTs, entrepreneurship and peace and so the club is name Students Peace & Empowerment Mentorships Volunteers (SPEV). We worked with the Kano State Senior Secondary Schools Management Board (KSSSMB) to pilot the formation of the clubs in 20 schools. The main activities so far done are career talks and mentorship programme. The career talks have been conducted in 10 girls secondary schools in Kano. The mentorship takes the form of getting students of tertiary institutions who are serving internship/industrial attachment as part of their degree and diploma programmes in CITAD to serve as mentors for the clubs and each Wednesday and Thursday they visit the schools to assist the students with lesson in computer studies as well in providing career counseling.



YouWin Sensitization Lecture for WeTech beneficiaries held at NULGE Secretariat, Dutse, Jigawa State

WHAT WERE THE ACHIEVEMENTS?

a. Accomplishments

- i. 156 girls have been trained on ICT skills and entrepreneurship
- ii. 68 women teachers were given training on Training of ICT Trainers in three state
- iii. 48 women have been given training on ICT and entrepreneurship
- iv. A mentor portal has been established
- v. 3 business forums were conducted
- vi. 150 women and girls underwent the BYB modules
- vii. 10 Students Peace & Empowerment Mentorships Volunteers (SPEV) clubs have been established
- viii. 38 girls were introduced into Google development tools and web technologies
 - ix. 13 women were able to setup their own businesses

b. Outcomes

- i. There has been improved awareness on the gender dimensions of the digital divide In the region
- ii. There has been stimulated a continuing advocacy to overcome the gender dimensions of the digital divide
- iii. A number of girls and women have been given training in ICT and entrepreneurship skills
- iv. School authorities in the three states where the project activities were implemented have been sensitized to the need to provide computer in schools and support
- v. Some women groups, for example WOFAN and FOMWAN have set up computer

Training units, and with the assistance of CITAD are already running training programmes

- vi. The Ministry of Women Affairs Kano has set up a computer training unit and has also approached CITAD for training support

c. Gains

- i. Has enhanced the visibility of CITAD
- ii. CITAD has been able to recruit a number of role models from the beneficiaries of the project which is helping to further drive the objectives of the project
- iii. CITAD has been able to deepen its partnerships with government authorities especially those in the education sector
- iv. It has provided CITAD with opportunities to also establish new partnerships
- v. CITAD was able to draw inspiration from the works of others in the WeTech network and to learn a couple of things from those partnerships which has enhanced our work
- vi. The project allowed CITAD to start implementation of a mobile learning project in 10 secondary schools of Jigawa and Bauchi to pilot an education app developed by CC-Hub Lagos
- vii. CITAD was given a certificate of merit and a plaque of Honor by the Kano State Senior Secondary Schools Management Board in recognition of the contribution of CITAD in promoting girls' education and building capacity in the area of ICT.

viii. An e-mentoring portal has been established that CITAD has continued to use for its mentoring programme

b. Challenges:

- i. The cost of moving systems and trainers to far places so that rural women and girls could benefit from the project: this was minimized by the help of local partners who provided security for the systems and other facilities.
- ii. Low level awareness about ICTs especially among women and girls which was addressed to through sensitization events empowered by the partners in the media (especially radio stations).
- iii. The initial reluctance of government officials to the goal of the project which was overcome through advocacy and courtesy visits on government official and selected reformed minded individuals
- iv. The fact that women have not enrolled on the mentoring platform that is yet to be overcome
- v. In ability to respond to the demands by many school and communities for training during the life of the project which has necessitated CITAD now to run a holiday training for schools girls, which is currently running in our training centre in Kano

c. Lessons

- i. That making linking with means of livelihoods makes it easier for both girls and women to be interested in computer skill

- ii. That working with women group on advocacy to drive ICT skill among women is a portent tool to quickly address the gender dimensions of the digital divide in the region.
- iii. Girls have scaring impression about computer skills before their first access of the facilities. For example, one of the trainees in Dakata made this comment during the closing of the training, "I never thought I would learn computer so easier, I thought it would take me like six months to learn how to operate it. The two weeks training makes me develop interest in studying computer science.
- vi. Increase awareness on ICT can increase the number of women having interest in taking ICT as a carrier
 - v. That there are still cultural and other inhibiting factors that a robust advocacy would need to overcome in mainstream girls and women in ICT
 - vi. That with careful cultivation of partnership, it is possible to provide training to many of girls in schools on a long term and expanded basis
- vii. There is a thirst for ICT knowledge and skills among girls in the region

f. Sustainability

- i. The portal will be refined and used as a major mentoring scheme for mentorship and encouraging girls and women in STEM. The portal would be popularized
- ii. The establishment of clubs in schools will help not only to maintain interest in ICTs in schools and as advocacy tool but also in providing an avenue for schools that have no ICT teaching infrastructure to benefit from CITAD schuss outreach
- iii. CITAD should work with women groups that have shown interest to assist them to establish computer training programmes for girls and women
- iv. CITAD should partner with groups that have shown significant interest to replicate some of training programme
- v. CITAD will leverage other projects in furtherance of the goal of the project
- vi. As a result of series of advocacy to government officials, there is seem to be more interest in building computer centres in girls' schools. The availability of the facilities will make accessibility of ICT easier for the schools, hence that promote the use of ICT for empowerment.

PARTNERS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

1. Kano State Senior Secondary Schools Management Board, Kano
2. Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs
3. Jigawa State of Education, Science and Technology, Dutse
4. Jigawa State Ministry of Women and Social Development, Dutse

5. Bauchi State Ministry of Education, Bauchi
6. Federation of Women Associations Nigeria (FOWAN), Kano
7. Gaya Youth Development Association, Gaya, Kano State
8. Women Farmers Network (WOFAN), Kano
9. Google Developer Group Bayero University, Kano
10. Government Girls Secondary School, Dakata
11. Government Girls Secondary, Wailari, Kano
12. Government Girls College, Bauchi
13. District Head, Ajingi
14. Government Commercial Secondary School, Dutse
15. District Head of Rano
16. Gaya Youth Development Association, Gaya, Kano State
17. Government Girls Secondary School, Rano

APPENDIX

Training Outline

S/N	COURSES
1	<i>Computer Appreciation</i>
2	<i>MS-Word</i>
3	<i>MS-Excel</i>
4	<i>MS-Power Point</i>
5	<i>Internet Application</i>
6	<i>Film and Video Editing (FAVE)</i>
7	<i>Corel Draw</i>
8	<i>Build Your Business (BYB)</i>
9	<i>ICT-Based Exam CBT</i>

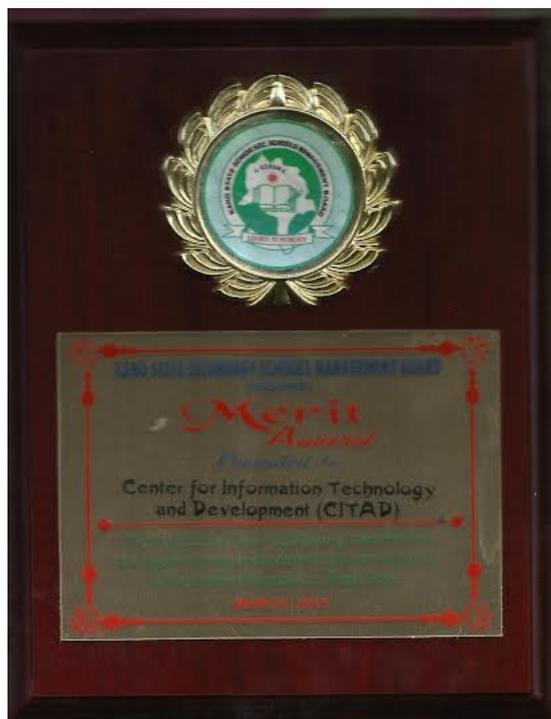
List of schools that took part in the quiz

S/N	SCHOOLS
1	GGSS Sharada
2	GGASS Yolawa
3	GGSS Hausawa
4	GGJASS Yakasai
5	GGSS Sabon Gida
6	GGSS Dukawa
7	GGSS Giginyu
8	GGSS Maryam Abacha
9	GGSS Jambulo
10	GGSS Chiranchi

LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR SPEV

s/N	SCHOOLS
1	G.G.S.S Aisami
2	G.G.S.S. Dakata
3	G.G.S.S. Maikwatashi
4	G.G.S.S. Giginyu
5	G.G.A.C. Goron Dutse
6	G.G.A.S.S. Gwammaja
7	G.G.S.S. Yakasai
8	G.G.S.S. Jogana
9	G.G.S.S. Shekara
10	G.G.S.S. Maryam Shekarau
11	G.G.S.S. Tahir
12	G.G.S.S. Hausawa
13	G.G.S.S.Gandun Albasa
14	G.G.S.S. Maryam Abacha
15	G.G.S.S. Fatima Muhammad
16	G.J.S.S. Daurawa
17	G.G.C. Kano
18	G.G.S.S. Hassana Sufi

Certificate of Merit awarded to CITAD by KSSSSMB



ABOUT CITAD

CITAD (www.citad.org) is a capacity building civil society organization whose activities covers research, advocacy, training and publicity in all areas of ICTs. Its vision is; a knowledge-based democratic society free of hunger while its mission is; using ICTs to empower citizens for a just and knowledge-based society that is anchored on a sustainable and balanced development



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Designed by Sufyan Lawal Kabo, CITAD Media Department