



The  
**Intelligent**  
**Lady** **ACADEMY**

# REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

A 6-WEEK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS WITH THE CORE AIM TO INSPIRE, EQUIP, NURTURE, AND EMPOWER THEM.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The flagship programme of the Intelligent Lady Academy, “**Aspire to Lead**” attracted a diverse cohort of 37 form 3 girls from different educational backgrounds, fostering an enriching learning environment to empower them with principles founded on leadership, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

The programme was established in response to the pressing need for the acquisition of valuable skills and values needed to thrive as adolescent girls and young women in today’s world. Through a holistic approach encompassing classroom learning, hands-on projects, mentorship, and real-world experiences, participants are equipped to embrace leadership roles in business, social enterprises, and beyond.

Facilitators, comprising professionals from diverse fields, played a pivotal role in delivering engaging sessions and fostering a conducive learning

atmosphere. Modules covered critical topics such as self-image, decision-making, and community engagement, fostering personal growth and development among participants.

Participants were awarded certificates to signify the completion of the programme. Feedback from participants and school management highlighted the positive impact of the programme. Testimonials underscored the invaluable lessons learned, emphasizing newfound confidence, improved interpersonal skills, and a heightened sense of purpose.

The success of the Academy sets a precedent for future initiatives aimed at empowering young women. Through collaborative partnerships and a commitment to excellence, “Aspire to Lead” stands poised to shape the next generation of confident, empowered female leaders.

## INTRODUCTION

In a rapidly changing modern world, young women face numerous challenges as they strive to achieve their full potential and be successful in their personal and professional trajectories. Many barriers including gender inequality, lack of access to quality education, and limited opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship stifles their ability to succeed. These challenges not only hinder individual growth but also impede the overall progress of society.

Based on these challenges, “The Intelligent Lady Academy” was established to address the pressing need for leadership, financial and entrepreneurial training among young women, particularly in the adolescent stage. Early education or training is fundamental and essential to their development. Our goal is to foster positive values, encourage academic excellence, instill leadership skills, and promote the importance of community involvement among the younger generation.

The Academy is a leadership and entrepreneurship capacity development programme for adolescent girls and young women which aims to inspire, equip, nurture, and empower them to be confident leaders and problem solvers in their communities.

The programme is aimed at bridging the gap between academic learning and practical life skills, equipping participants with the tools they need to succeed in various spheres of life. It provides a combination of classroom learning, hands-on projects, mentorship, and real-world experiences to prepare students for future leadership roles in business, social enterprises, or other fields. Trainings cover topics such as business management, innovation, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork.

# BACKGROUND

The founder of “The Intelligent Lady”, **Mrs Princess Sekere-Bih** ignited her passion for training young girls in values and essential skills to prepare them for the real-life world while working in Lesotho. She used to gather the girls at Mabathoana High School after school and take them through valuable learning moments. To crown the completion of the programme, students engaged in a community project. They contributed to buy mathematical sets for juveniles preparing to write exams at the Lesotho Correctional Facility. Girls passed out from Mabathoana High with impressive value systems and skillsets to advance into the next phase of their lives.

After a successful programme in Lesotho, Mrs. Sekyere-Bih nurtured the Academy idea and worked assiduously with her team to implement the initiative in Ghana.



*Mrs. Princess Sekyere-Bih*



ACADEMY PROGRAMME IN LESOTHO



PTICIPANTS DURING A TRAINING SESSION



EXCLUSIVE SHOTS FROM THE OPENING OF THE ACADEMY IN GHANA

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## PRE-IMPLEMENTATION

Proposals were distributed to potential schools and Accra Girls High School (AGHS) embraced the pilot programme with a dedicated list of 37 girls.

Several meetings were held between the school and the Academy team, and within Academy team members to complete logistics including venue, participants, commencement dates, learning or course materials, photography, videography, live streaming, branding items etc. for the programme.

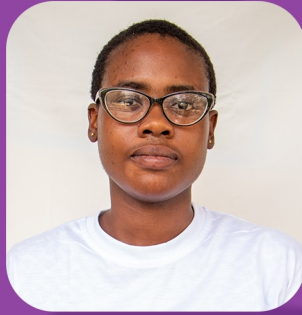
## PARTICIPANTS

The maiden edition of the Academy was well attended by 37 Form Three girls carefully selected by the school. The number presented overrode the initial proposed number of 25 girls for the 6 weeks duration. Participants were primarily made up of students from all educational backgrounds including the sciences, business, arts and vocational classes.





PARVATI GAWU-MENSAH



REJOICE NYARKO



KIRSTEN ESI YEDUAH  
KOOMSOM



LISA AGYEKUMWAA  
NANA-GYASI



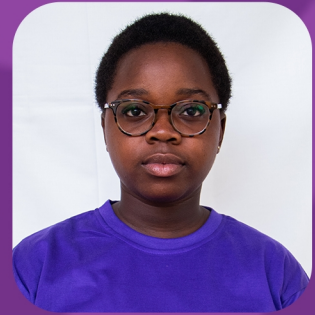
URSULA YAYRA AFENYO



ESTHER SEDINAM  
ABORCHIE



ESTHER YAA KYEREWAA  
OSEI-AGYEMANG



PRINCESS-MICHELLE APPIAH



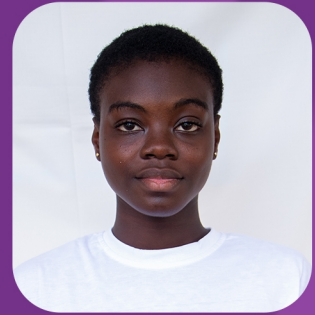
ANN-MARIE BAIDEN



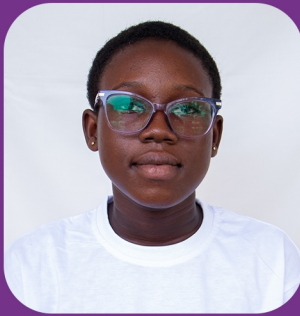
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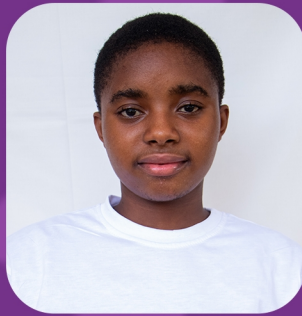
PRINCESS  
YAYRA AFI AGBOADO



DANIELLE NAA DENIKA  
FLEISHER-DJOLEFO



EMMANUELLA ETSIAKOH



CHELSEA EYIRAM  
AGBLEY-SIM



MIRIAM SELASIE BONEY



PRISCILLA NAA  
AKUSHIKA DOKU



ABIGAIL HAJOR PORTUPHY



MARY-MAGDALENE  
ADJORKOR OKPOTI



GLORIA ASEYE ADIGLAN



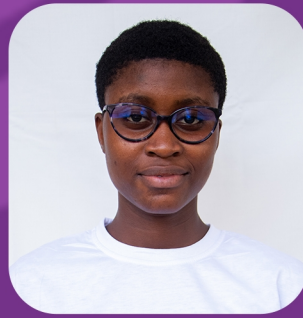
IRENE ACKAH AFONUAH



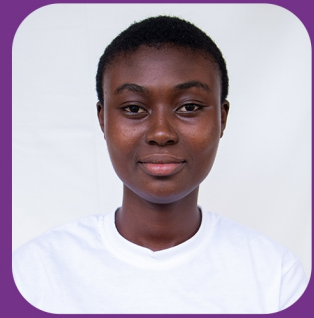
DARKOH BAAH  
MAAME NENRE



NANA AMA OWUSU ANSAH



AFRILYNE NYAME-NHYIRA  
ANAMAN



PERSIS BAAFI BOAMAH



BEATRICE NAA KWARTEƳ  
OFOSU-KWARTEƳ



THYWILL AGBERADE



COMFORT  
DZIFA AFI AKPABLI



HENRIETTA TETTEH BOATENG



DIANA AHUAHEY AMARTEƳ



SANDRA KORKOR OBIOKUTEƳ



MELISSA  
ARTHUR NKUMAH



PORTIA NAA ANGERLEY  
LARSEY TSAKELE



ASEMPAH ACQUAH



JOYCE NAA NORKOR OMABOE



JANICE  
EMEƳA AGBENYEGAH



DENISA ONIMFO NYAME



DANIELLA AKWELEY CEASAR

# PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPANTS



Although from the same school, students were not all familiar with each other, as such we encouraged a lot of networking and bonding through working in groups and play-acting for class demonstrations. Participants were a bit reserved from the start but that changed in subsequent classes. Modules were delivered each week by facilitators, highlighting important subject areas including Saying Yes to Your Dreams; The Power of Self-Image; Associations; Choices and Responsibilities; Chastity among others. They actively contributed to conversations and eagerly participated in class exercises

## FACILITATORS

In a rapidly changing modern world, young women face numerous challenges as they strive to achieve their full potential and be successful in their personal and professional trajectories. Many barriers including gender inequality, lack of access to quality education, and limited opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship stifles their ability to succeed. These challenges not only hinder individual growth but also impede the overall progress of society.

Based on these challenges, “The Intelligent Lady Academy” was established to address the pressing need for leadership, financial and entrepreneurial training among young women, particularly in the adolescent stage. Early education or training is fundamental and essential to their development. Our goal is to foster positive values, encourage academic excellence, instill leadership skills, and promote the importance of community involvement among the younger generation.



Dr. Mary Ansong is the Co-Founder and CEO of the International Sickle Cell Centre (ISCC). Her experiences as a carrier of the sickle cell trait and loss of loved ones with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) motivated her to work on ways others could have better lives with the disease or trait. She works full-time at the ISCC where she focuses on SCD education and advocacy, research and pragmatic interventions.



Maame Efua Arthur is a Brands and Communications officer at Kingdom Concepts Consult. She also volunteers at the Intelligent Lady, coordinating diverse range of initiatives by the brand.



Wendy Amarteifio is a Communications officer at Kingdom Concepts Consult. She assists with implementing programmes at the Intelligent Lady.

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program was structured to feature expected outcomes of the sessions, objectives of the lessons, demonstrative items and lesson materials. The sessions encompassed numerous icebreakers, team-building exercises, case studies, skill trainings and Q&As.

- **MODULE 1 - SAY YES TO YOUR DREAMS**
- **MODULE 2 - SELF - AWARENESS / SELF CONCEPTS / SELF IDENTITY**
- **MODULE 3 - ASSOCIATION | RELATIONSHIPS**
- **MODULE 4 - CHOICES AND RESPONSIBILITY**
- **MODULE 5 - SAY NO TO SEX AND STD**
- **MODULE 6 - SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

## LIFE SKILLS

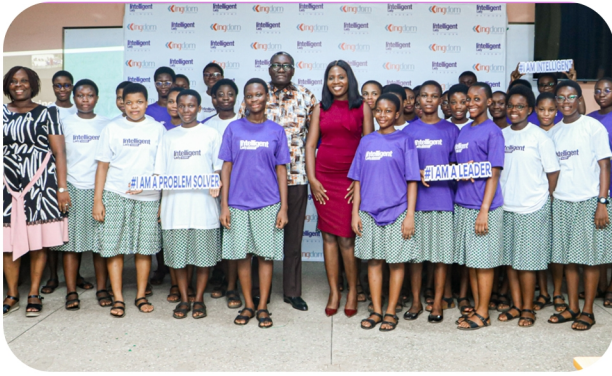
THINKING SKILLS	SELF MANAGEMENT AND COPING SKILLS	INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
Critical Thinking Creative Thinking Decision Making Problem Solving	Self - Awareness Self - Management Coping with Stress	Effective Communication Empathy Cooperation

The icebreakers always set the tone for class with fun activities to prepare girls for the session. In the course of the session, girls are divided into groups to tackle scenarios and come up with solutions. Girls also enjoy eventful experiences from facilitators in order to understand the topics, and given the opportunity to seek clarity to understand

better. Facilitators train the girls by imparting Knowledge through Experiences, Scenarios & Situations and ensure the expected outcomes of the sessions are achieved through a sustainable method of Repeat, Recap, Reinforce & Review. Girls are provided with adequate materials to finish of individual and team activities and projects

# CLOSING CEREMONY

The programme ended with an interesting vision board exercise and how to achieve their goals using mentors or helpers. Girls received their certificates to signify the completion of the programme. They also received words of wisdom from patrons of the Intelligent Lady Network to set them on productive journeys.



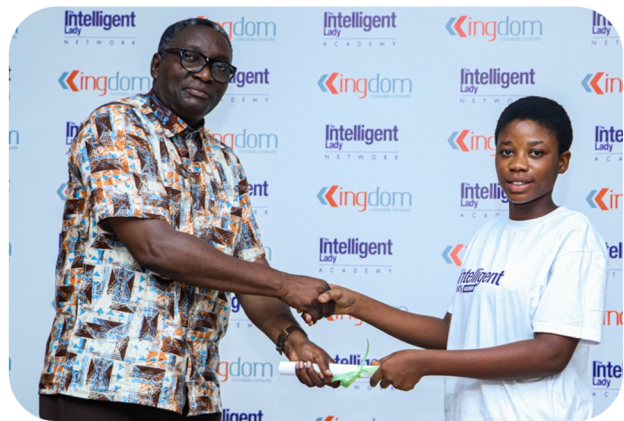
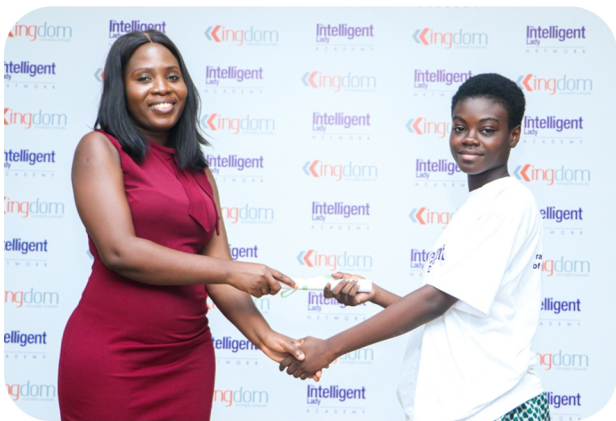
MEMORABLE GROUP PHOTO OF PARTICPANTS, ACADEMY TEAM AND TEACHER OF AGIIS



PARTICIPANTS WORKING ON THEIR VISION BOARD



**SPEAKING SESSIONS WITH PARTICIPANTS**



**PARTICIPANTS RECEIVING CERTIFICATES**

# PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



The Intelligent Lady Network is a community of accomplished and aspiring young women in leadership in various industries such as business, politics, non-profits, and academia. The network often provides support, mentorship, resources, and opportunities for leadership development and advancement for young women aiming to excel in their careers and make an impact in their respective fields.



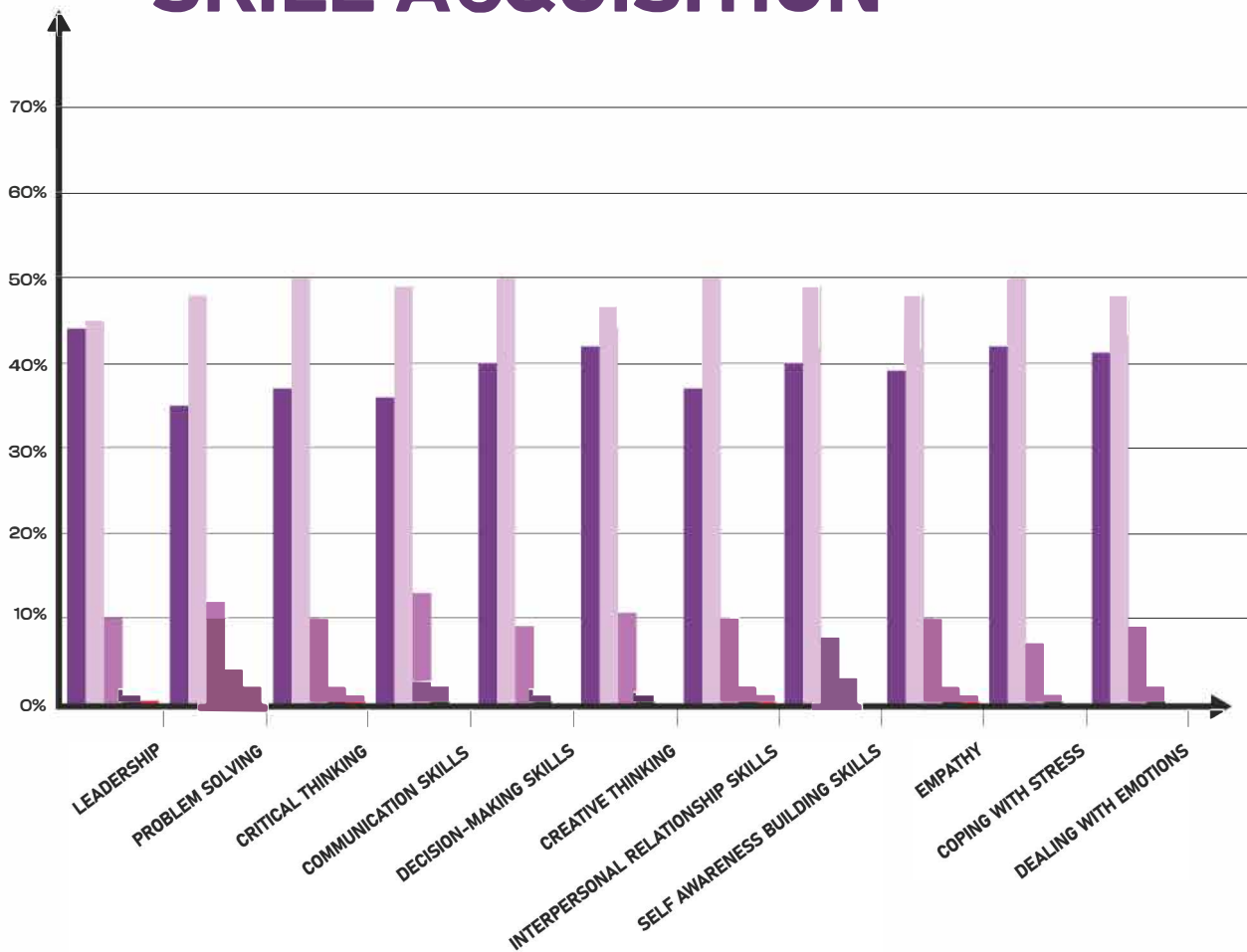
KCC is a communications and development company with a dedicated team of professionals servicing organizations, individuals and communities with tailor-made communication and development strategies to deliver high impact for clients' satisfaction. The company take pride in a diverse portfolio of successful projects to drive transformation across various industries.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The six-week course garnered tremendous feedback from participants and management of AGIIS. They gushed on the success of the pilot programme and shared testimonials on the impact of the training sessions in their lives as they prepare to leave school in the coming months.

Evaluation of the programme was ascertained through a mid and post- programme interview with the headmistress, teacher in-charge and some of the girls. Alternatively, participants shared their learning experiences through the Google-based application form containing questionnaires.

# SKILL ACQUISITION



- I'M THE BEST!
- I'M VERY GOOD
- I'M AVERAGE
- I'M BELOW AVERAGE
- NOT AT ALL A STRENGTH

# TESTIMONIALS & SUCCESS STORIES

Below are testimonials from the headmistress, the teacher-in-charge, and participants at the end of the programme.



**- MRS. GIFTY ANDOH, HEADMISTRESS (AGIIS)**

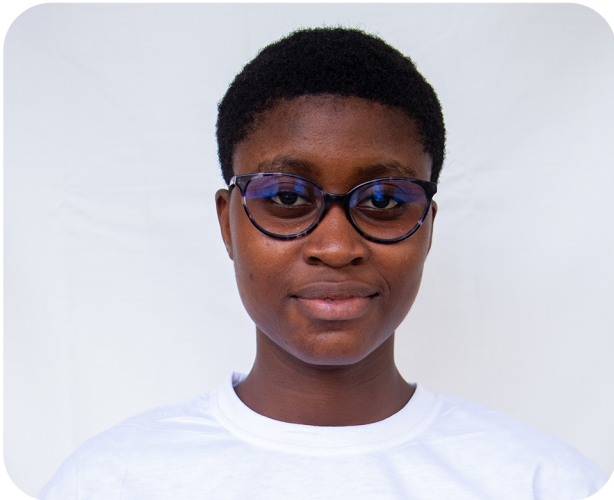
I am happy the pilot programme of the Academy took place at Accra Girls Senior High School. It has been my dream since I took over as headmistress of the school to bring together intelligent girls and nurturing them for academic excellence. The Academy came as an external intervention plan to groom the girls and talk to them from time to time.



**- MS. EUNICE AYENSU, PATRON,  
ACHIEVERS CLUB (AGIIS)**

I would like to thank you so much for choosing our school to kick-start this programme. It has been very educative and interactive. We supported the girls throughout the six weeks of training and we will continue to encourage them to use every information to cause changes in the school and the society. We are in a country where we want to move from academic education to problem solving. Yes, we want the children to acquire the skills that will help them to go into society to solve problems. They took us through life skills, communication skills, leadership skills, managing stress and emotions. I think it will go a long way to help our students. They will be better leaders in the future and this training will go very far to help them solve problems in Ghana.

# TESTIMONIALS & SUCCESS STORIES



~ AFRILYNE ANAMAN, PARTICIPANT

The Intelligence Lady Academy has helped me in so many ways and I have been able to relate better with my friends, and my peers, and it has brought me so much closer to God. It has taught me about life skills, friendship, relationships with the opposite sex, among other things. It was a very great opportunity for me to be here. I am grateful, very grateful.



~ PARVATI GAWU-MENSAH, PARTICIPANT

I am very glad I was part of this Intelligent Lady six-week programme because I was able to discover many things about myself. I have made new friends, actually two friends from here. I was not really outspoken but this programme has made me very confident. The topic that I really liked was the power of self-image. Usually, I downgrade myself because of my medical condition aside other things. I usually feel like I will not be able to make it but this programme taught me many things and made me stronger. I believe in myself; I can do anything without putting myself down.



# TESTIMONIALS & SUCCESS STORIES



- GLORIA ASEYE ADIGLAN, PARTICIPANT

I am a proud benefactor of the Intelligent Lady Academy, which seeks to empower young women like us. The Academy has really impacted us. For the first session, we talked about “Saying yes to your dream”. It made us know who we are, why we are here and the purpose for which we are here. We learnt about factors and forces that influence us positively and negatively. For the positive factors, we have our parents, good friends, role models and others. For the negative influence, we have social media, the society and other factors influencing us negatively. The Intelligent Lady Academy has been very beneficial throughout all the sessions. We have been impacted very well and we would love to have this session again.



- EMMANUELLA ESTIAKOH, PARTICIPANT

The Intelligent Lady Academy is a programme used to nurture young people to achieve their aims and objectives in life. Through the six weeks spent at the Intelligent Lady Academy, I have learned about ways and means that one can improve herself, and methods and procedures that one can use to achieve her aims and objectives in life. Among other topics that we have learned so far, the one that is captivating to me is that of responsibility. I learned that responsibilities are the duties that one is supposed to perform and one should be accountable for their responsibility. We learned the “parable of the talents” where a rich man gave his servants three talents. He travelled and when he returned, he expected an account from them. Each of them gave accounts- two of them made profits of what they were given and the last one just returned his talent, untouched. I learnt that to be responsible, you have to learn how to take care of what you are given and develop it. One must develop resources such as skills with greater returns and not just give it back as it was given.

# PUBLICITY, COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

A press release was prepared and distributed to four (4) media houses including Ghana Web, Citi Newsroom, BFT and MyJoyOnline. Other media outlets also published the release, amounting to ten (10) altogether.

- Ghana Web- **The Intelligent Lady Launches Innovative Academy for Adolescent Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training** - 30th March, 2024
- Citi Newsroom- **The Intelligent Lady launches innovative academy for adolescent leadership and entrepreneurship training** - 30th March, 2024
- Ghana News Agency- **Intelligent Lady Academy launched** - 30th March, 2024
- Joy Online- **The Intelligent Lady launches innovative academy for adolescent leadership, entrepreneurship training** - 30th March, 2024
- Only News Gh- **The Intelligent Lady Launches Innovative Academy for Adolescent Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training** - 30th March, 2024
- Business & Financial Times (BFT) - **Academy for Adolescent Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training unveiled** - 6th April, 2024
- News Online - **Academy of Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training for Adolescents unveiled** - 6th April, 2024
- Gh Headlines- **Academy for Adolescent Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training unveiled** - 6th April, 2024
- MSN - **Academy for Adolescent Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training unveiled** - 8th April, 2024
- BFT, 6th April, 2024

# Academy for Adolescent Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training unveiled

The women's empowerment brand, The Intelligent Lady, has launched The Intelligent Lady Academy in Ghana after a successful pilot programme in Lesotho. The academy, a revolutionary initiative aimed at equipping adolescent girls with essential leadership and entrepreneurship skills, seeks to prepare the next generation of female leaders for success in an increasingly competitive and dynamic world.



The academy, through its flagship programme 'Aspire to LEAD' - a six-week leadership capacity development programme, trained 36 girls at Apena Girls' Senior High School. The programme, designed for adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 years in Senior High Schools, aims to inspire, equip, nurture and empower them to be confident leaders and problem solvers in their communities.

Aspire to Lead uses a comprehensive curriculum designed to cultivate leadership qualities and foster an entrepreneurial spirit among adolescent girls. Through a combination of life skills-based training

leadership roles and entrepreneurial endeavours.

"At The Intelligent Lady Academy, we recognise the importance of equipping adolescents with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in today's rapidly evolving landscape," said Maame Ebus Arthur, Project Coordinator of the Academy. "With the launch of the academy, we aim to empower adolescents to unleash their full potential, cultivate innovation and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond."

The curriculum at The Intelligent Lady Academy covers a wide range of topics, including The power of self-image, associations, choices and responsibilities, communication and

opportunity to engage with industry experts, successful entrepreneurs and community leaders through guest lectures and internships.

"The Intelligent Lady is not just about imparting knowledge; it's about nurturing a mindset of resilience, adaptability and collaboration," said founder Princess Sekyere Bibi. "We believe that every adolescent and young woman have the potential to become a leader and entrepreneur, and our goal is to provide them with the tools and support to turn their aspirations into reality."

She revealed the programmes of the academy are run in collaboration with both senior and junior high schools in the communities.



The academy is one of many initiatives by The Intelligent Lady brand. In the past 5 years, through its Network, it has organised events, including Purpose and Plan, The Dialogue Series, and Entrepreneurship workshops

love. The Intelligent Lady is a dynamic social enterprise dedicated to the empowerment of adolescents and young women into the realm of leadership, business

their journey toward success by providing comprehensive training, interactive workshops, seminars and the power of storytelling. Our programmes are meticulously designed to not only inspire, but also to provide the

## CONCLUSION

The success of the first ever Academy programme of the Intelligent Lady cannot be over-emphasized. This significant milestone can be attributed to effective collaboration and communication between team members of the Academy, the school authorities and the production team. However, the continuity of this impressive initiative and extension to different schools lies with partnership and collaboration with other organizations. This is a rewarding and impactful project for well-meaning organization interested in education, women empowerment and development of the next generation of future leaders and entrepreneurs.