



'Owning my Space' Leadership & Life skills programme for graduates report

July 23, 24 and 25, 2024; NYSC Eti Osa LGA

Owning My Space Leadership and Life Skills Programme

In 2017, Mrs. Ifeoma I. Idigbe founded boys to MEN Foundation to address a critical need - empowering men and young boys to become confident, compassionate, and responsible individuals. The insufficiency of positive male influences, combined with societal pressures and misguided norms, are a challenge to the beneficial development of males in society. "Owning My Space" Leadership and Life Skills programme is a boys to MEN Foundation initiative focused on male graduates. Our goal is to inspire positive change through mindset and attitude change, using various modules. By so doing, we aim to cultivate a new generation of ethical, compassionate leaders who embody self-awareness, humility, and inclusivity, and who will drive positive impact in their communities.

From the 23rd to 25th July 2024, boys to MEN Foundation held three Owning My Space programmes for three different cohorts of male corpsers from the Eti Osa LGA Office of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). These sessions covered issues such as 21st Century challenges faced by males (The Real World), topics like Successful Leadership, Emotional Intelligence, Personal Branding, and practical subjects like Managing Your Finances and Public Speaking. The Real World featured a video with monologues from

the book *About Men: Random Poems, Monologues, and Reflections* written by Ifeoma I. Idigbe to highlight some of the difficulties males face in society, and the fallout as reflected in their behaviour, through monologues and poems.

The impact of these programmes was reflected in the feedback received by participants. Our 'Owning My Space' programme promotes the Foundation's overarching mission to inspire, nurture, and develop confident leaders who will make a meaningful difference in society.

A total of 162 male corpsers attended the 3 programmes.



Programme Modules

Each Owning My Space programme had the following modules:

1. The Real World – focused discussions inspired by the video of male monologues.
2. Leadership module: Emotional Intelligence, Successful Leadership, Leadership values, styles and responsibilities, Creating Diverse and Positive Environments (DEIBS)
3. Managing Your Finances
4. Personal Branding
5. The Rudiments of Public Speaking

Facilitators:

Mrs. Ifeoma I. Idigbe, is a business/financial analyst, teaches Critical Thinking and Public Speaking to graduate scholars at the Nigerian University of Technology and Management (NUTM), and is the Founder and Executive Vice Chairman of boys to MEN Foundation.

Chiemezie Ilozulike, is an accountant and serial entrepreneur who operates across industries.

Christopher Oare Aneni, is a project manager and business operations strategist.

Sponsors:

Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS).

Feedback

Feedback was received from participants, some of which we reproduce below:

The programme to me has woken me up to some aspects of life which I was only knowing but now, I gained more insight and I must say it's really great and wonderful. Thankful for this great opportunity. – Ugwu Chizoba Kingsley.

The sessions were very inspiring, well planned and inspiring. Thank you for so much. Thorough presentations and insights. – Adetifa Timilehin.

A very wonderful foundation that help to build responsible young men in the society and I will be very proud to be fully part of it. – Joseph Fidelis.



It was a very all encompassing workshop. I learnt new things from this initiative and I'm grateful for every bit – Ogbajie Samuel.

The programme was very insightful, I have benefited greatly from it. I must say I will let this knowledge affect my life positively and let it drive my decisions in life – Lanre Koleola.

Well my review on this programme indeed it was my first time to be in this kind of programme it was a very positive one at least I was able to know about the father

role in the life of the children. Also, I was able to know how to manage my income in a month. Thank you!! – Nelson Uchenna.

It was educative. I learnt the styles of leadership and the situations they apply – Lemmy-Russel Daniel.

The programme was educative and [interactive] and I really enjoyed my time here and I will be glad to be part of this life changing movement – Ayiri Richard

I want to comment that the programme was impactful and I really gained a lot. All thanks to the organizers and the sponsors – Prince Chibuzo.

I, Alli Babatunde Abdulazeez have this honest feedback on this wonderful foundation [...] Mostly, the aspect of emotional intelligence (EI) had a serious impact in my attitude. I was here couple of months ago and the then speaker spoke about EI and I tried a lot to embed that into my life and it has honestly regulated my emotions in terms of the following [...] – Alli Babatunde Abdulazeez.



I also wondered why I don't see organizations that are centered on helping boys walk through life without feeling alone and less supported. But today I was actually amazed that such organization does exist. I am grateful to boys to MEN Foundation for the knowledge I gained today. Thank you – Ekwenem Chidera Innocent.

I do not regret attending this event. It is really a great one and I hope the team

remains strengthened to keep impacting lives directly and indirectly – Abdullateef Olatunji.

Initially, I never wanted to come here but [...], that would have been a massive loss of opportunity. I learnt a lot today and am grateful to God and to the Foundation for making it possible for me and all of us. Managing my Fnance (module) was actually directing to me personally. I [am] really grateful. – Uzu Jeremiah N.

My second appearance at boys to MEN Foundation was even better than the first which was very good. Love the atmosphere, discussion, gists, and laughs together. So impactful, I had to video so that I [won.t] forget. Thank you boys to MEN Foundation. – Victor Oseji.