



**SUCCESS STORIES OF BENEFICIARIES:
YOUTH CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL
EMPOWERMENT (Y-CEE)**

**SUPPORTED BY:
EMPOWER; THE EMERGING MARKET FOUNDATION LIMITED.**

ABSTRACT

Almost one year after the graduation of the first batch of trainees in Welding and Fabrication, NOYED-Ghana visited the beneficiaries to find out how they were coping with life. This document highlights a few cases captured in a form of stories from the beneficiaries sharing their state with the world.

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1. Success Story One (1)



Name: Fatawu Alhassan Wumpini

Country: Ghana

Region: Northern Region

Town: Tamale

Mobile Number: (+233-209861304)

Fatawu Alhassan Wumpini is 22 years old and hales from Zagyuri, a suburb under the Sagnarigu Municipality in northern region. Wumpini is the first (1st) born out of six (6) of his parents. None of the parents work. The father is a traditional warrior and the mother, a house wife. Wumpini is the only child who successfully graduated an Intermediary programme in Welding and Fabrication at the Tamale Technical University (TaTU). Only one out of the remaining five (5) is currently in primary three (3). In the words of Wumpini, his parents are unable to support in providing the basic needs required to keep the siblings in schools.

Wumpini, through the divine support of God through some extended family members, managed to successfully complete the Intermediate programme in Welding and Fabrication at the Tamale Technical University (TaTU). While he was wrapping up his exams, his Head of Department notified him of an opportunity at the Youth Center for Entrepreneurial Empowerment operated by the Net Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Development (NOYED-Ghana).

Wumpini mentioned that he went for the form, participated in the selection interview and was successful. Reflecting over the training he had from the Y-CEE, he described the training as active and participatory. He added, ***“I learnt lots of new things and perfected those I had learnt from school. I also learnt about group dynamics and how to relate with others”. “Business management, customer relations, gender issues and branding were all part of the things I learnt while with Y-CEE”*** he said.



Currently, Wumpini has gained admission into the Sunyani Technical University (STU) where he is pursuing Higher National Diploma in Welding and Fabrication. While at the Y-CEE, Wumpini applied and gained this admission. He revealed, ***“Even though I’m still schooling, I have established my shop in front of our house with the welding machine I received as part of my***

graduation support. I make enough money to support the payment of my fees, rent, buying of my handouts and my feeding. What I get from my family could not have seen me through to this stage”.

When asked what has changed for him, he indicated that he had lost hope even though he graduated from intermediary. Many of his mates are out there without any meaningful life because they are not able to establish themselves for lack of support. He said if he had not received the welding machine, he would not have known where he would have been by now. ***“Y-CEE has given me more hope and confidence that I can make it in life. I have also adopted a saving culture which has helped me to pay my school fees, stay in school and even bought additional tools to support the expansion of my shop”.***

Wumpini also noted his orientation on gender issues have also changed. He now feels that both men and women have equal opportunities in growing to become responsible citizens of any nation. He anticipates that after completion, he will expand his shop, recruit young persons and also train them as he was trained.

Wumpini extends appreciation to EMPOWER, the Emerging Market Foundation Limited, NOYED-Ghana and all those who supported in making him a better person.

Please see pictures of Wumpini.



2. Success Story two (2)



Name: Abdul Mumin A. Kahad

Country: Ghana

Region: Northern Region

Town: Tamale

Mobile Number: (+233-548182407)

Abdul Kahad Abdul Mumin is my name and I'm the second out of six (6) children. My father is a dealer in Television sets and my mom is a food vender. Among we the children, none has gone beyond senior secondary school including myself. I could not continue my school again after completion of secondary school due to financial problems. I could not pass all the subjects and my parents were not

able to raise the money to support me better my results and to proceed.

Before I joined the Youth Center for Entrepreneurial Empowerment (Y-CEE) of NOYED-Ghana, I was doing labour work. I use to follow constructors to carry blocks and concrete for them in support of their constructions for pay. One day, I had a call from my aunty who mentioned that a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) had opened a shop opposite of their house to train youth in welding and fabrication and is currently selecting beneficiaries. I followed up and picked a form and later on, we were invited for interviews and selections.



When I joined the center, I quickly picked up and built more confidence in myself. My pace was faster than I expected. I was motivated with the thinking that, in one and half years' time, I could have a shop and to earn a living out of the skill I was acquiring.

Today, I'm living my dream!!! I have opened my shop right behind our house and working in partnership with one of my mates from the center (Y-CEE) called Mahamudu. We share ideas, labour, and other resources and that makes it easy for us. From the earning of our

work, I now support the up-keep of my family, we also saved and bought additional equipment for the welding center. Currently, the motorbike I ride, was bought out of the savings. Averagely, in a month, we make between 600-900Ghc(\$120-180). Sometimes we make far more than that.

Previously, I didn't have so much respect. Because I was a labourer, people thought I was a useless person and into drugs. This because, mostly, many of those who do labour work take hard drugs to help them do the work and to recover from the body aches. Also, anytime the constructors did not have work, I would be idling and that was not good for me. Now, I have some amount of respect among my peers in the community, I don't idle again and I now make money continuously.

While we were at the Y-CEE, we learnt a lot including how we should relate with women and through that I now respect women more than I use to do. If I marry, I will treat my wife with respect, support her in taking care of the family and my female children will go to school just as the male students will go.

I'm a happy person today because of the support I got from Mr. Iddi and NOYED-Ghana. I say a very big thank you to him and the organization. I also know that there are some other persons and organisations that are supporting him to do this wonderful work. God will bless all of them for their support.

3. Success Story Three (3)



Name: Aminu Awal

Country: Ghana

Region: Northern Region

Town: Tamale

Mobile Number: (+233-508768292)

Aminu Awal, a beneficiary of the Youth Center for Entrepreneurial Empowerment (Y-CEE) is a 19-year-old young man born to Mr. and Mrs. Aminu. His father, is a professional meson and the mother, a house wife. Due to financial limitations, Awal dropped out of school at Junior

Secondary School form one (1). This because, his parents could not buy him the needed books, provide continues feeding money and pay other minor school charges such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Levies.

When Awal dropped out of school, he initially joined a carpentry shop to learn to become a professional carpenter. Unfortunately, his master passed on bringing his training to an end. Awal was not doing anything productive after the demise of his master until he heard of the opportunity created for youth by the Net Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Development (NOYED-Ghana) under the Y-CEE Project.

Awal saw his participation in the Welding and Fabrication trade at Y-CEE as a big success and a relief to his family. He said, ***“It was a life-changing opportunity I will never forget and will forever be grateful to NOYED-Ghana for the opportunity”.***



He mentioned that, it was not just welding and fabrication he learnt, but was also taken through business management, customer relations, leadership and gender. When Awal was asked whether he has been able to open and operate his own shop, he remarked ***“Not yet. I have realized that I need to learn more in addition to what I have learnt from the center so that I can do many things on my own without relying so much on others”.*** He added that he hopes to start his shop by mid-2019. While learning here, I’m gradually buying the tools that I would need to support the set-up of my shop.

“When I was graduating from Y-Cee, I was given a welding machine and a certificate. I need other tools to attach to the machine so that I can work. I’m currently working on buying those

tools to support myself". Said Awal, and added, ***"I'm a better person now and I support my female siblings back to home now. I don't leave everything for them to do"***.

Awal could not mention in estimation, how much he makes a day because he still under a master trainer who has complete control over the operation and earnings from the center. But once in a while, he gets opportunities to do some works at home with the machine has was given during weekends. Through this, he safes towards his needs.

4. Success Story four (4)



Name: Mohammed Adam

Country: Ghana

Region: Northern Region

Town: Tamale

Mobile Number: (+233-247966006)

Mohammed Adam, is a young man who just turned 26 years this month (October 2018). He is the 1st out of six children born to a retired tractor operator (father) and a food vender (mother). Due to financial limitations, Adam had primary education and dropped out at primary six (6).

Adam was fortunate to have been selected as a beneficiary of the Youth Centre for Entrepreneurial Empowerment (Y-CEE), an initiative of Net Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Development (NOYED-Ghana) supported by Empower: The Emerging Market Foundation Limited. He was given intensive training for one year six months in Welding and Fabrication.

After Adam dropped out of school, he wallowed for a number of years before joining an electrical engineer to train towards becoming one. Eventually, he stopped this trade too after his master travelled to Accra, the capital city of Ghana, in the name of going for his contractual license and ending up staying longer.

According to Adam, his participation in the Y-CEE programme was a rear blessing. He noted ***“I never paid anything to join the center our training was flexible and we had full access to all the machines, tools and materials in the center. We the trainees too were free and open to each other and that helped us a lot”***.

“I am a happy person today!!! I now have a certificate in welding and fabrication from NOYED-Ghana and The National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) of Ghana, I have a welding machine and I have secured a place as a shop and currently working on the power connectivity”. He said. Currently, Adam is with another master trainer further engaging himself while working to complete his shop and to move there.

While with Y-CEE, Adam learnt to cope with others, learnt about customer relations and the need to be polite and accommodating in engaging with customers. When asked how

much he makes a day, he noted ***“It’s difficult to say. it’s not fixed but have been able to save and I even bought a piece of plot out of my savings”***

Adam ended up our discussions with him remarking that he would forever be grateful to Empower, NOYED-Ghana and the other stakeholders who all supported in different ways to make their training a success.