

THE AKAD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



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When deciding to attend the A.K.A.D. Youth Seminar at C.I.T.A.M. I had a number—of expectations, particularly on how the program would contribute to enabling my dreams and aspirations. Prior to attending I had interest in pursuing law and political science. These two careers were elaborated upon clearly during the seminar. I however ended up gaining much more than I expected particularly on self-confidence, critical thinking, leadership, effective communication and mutual understanding. Much of this was gained through interacting with other teenagers and participating in interactive and stimulating activities

Self-presentation is very important when expressing ideas to others. The first impression is the lasting impression (light travels faster than sound).In other words, “you radiate before speech”. Effective first impression is achieved through proper grooming. It is the way an individual presents their brand. Simple things such as putting a “the” before your school name when stating where you study gives one a sense of importance. The clothes one wears are symbolic. A maroon or red tie representing power and a blue one subordination. Accessories such as wrist watches show a person is time conscious. When giving views one has to be particular not to let the other party make assumptions about them. Simply put, you must project elegance and confidence.

We had the privilege of interacting with the senior pastor of C.I.T.A.M Embakasi The Reverend Martin Mbandu .He taught us the relation between God as a foundation to achieve ones dream. Holistic development of an individual must be based on a sound principle. [Matthew 7:24]...anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock...It is preferable that the youth focus on developing their individual skills and talents. However, it is of paramount importance that they develop credible ideas .this is well illustrated in the parable of the talents and in line with the teachings of Christ.



Participants giving their remarks

In order to progress to Ivy League universities, high school students must attain suitable grades. Academic excellence requires discipline, consistency, accountability, motivation and execution. To pass in their exams they must develop effective studying skills. They should ultimately desist from the norm of memorizing, understanding and applying and try better methods such as analysis, evaluating and creating. As young entrepreneurs some skills are intrinsic. When having a conversation with a potential sponsor one should briefly introduce themselves, state their problem, expound on it provide a suitable solution and hand in their contacts. Effective negotiations require that one establishes good rapport, have objective facts and definite targets.

A newspaper article we analyzed illustrated that most of the youth in our country lack ambition. This can be attributed to poor exposure and negative peer pressure. It is rather shocking that youth with diplomas and degrees are scrambling for jobs meant for lesser qualified Kenyans. These include security guard and receptionist jobs. This can be solved by maybe furthering their education in order to improve their chances for employment. They should also focus on starting businesses.

Another issue that was brought to light was education after failing KCSE. Most times a person's final grade may not determine their future. People are valued by their ideas and dreams. When one has a dream, persistence and determination play an all too important role in its execution. Aggression is an important tool for winning things which are precious as well as protecting them. One should be driven to pursue their dream for their own sake. A man's dream can hold dominion over the entire world while others can be pursued in solitude. Dreams breath life into people. To develop ones dreams effectively one must be able to think outside the box or better yet think without the box. People who view life as a sequence of events with no distinct changes are dead as they have no dreams. The most selfish and most advisable thing for one to do is to execute dreams which focus on the betterment of mankind since all the gratification is relayed back to you.

It was a thrill to participate in the AKAD youth seminar and I hope to participate in more of them.