

CRITICAL THINKING AND DECISION MAKING- ELSIE KIMANI WANJIRU



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I am a former student from Marion senior school where I served as the vice president at my third year. I am currently going through a mentorship program called AKAD and also doing a youth development program called VUMA. I cleared my high school in 2019, leaving a record for being position one almost throughout my time there. I have great passion towards the environment and as a result I would like to study environmental engineering. I aspire to bring solutions to the environmental problems we go through as a global world. My main aim is to greatly reduce or have control over the amount of damage caused by natural disasters, reduce levels of food shortage and come up with water solutions. This is a vision I would dearly love to live up to.

On Tuesday 10th of March I arrived at MOW Sports Club where I joined my other peer mentees for the session. We were privileged to have Dr. Mary Kimani as our guest. Dr. Weche started off with the “self-aware newspaper activity.” We all pitched the reason why we chose our various articles and what quick solutions can we emerge with. For us to tackle the topic on critical thinking and decision making, we referred to Dr. Spencer Johnson’s text “Who Moved My Cheese” and Kotter’s 8-Step Change Model.

I am always amazed by what I get to learn from AKAD with in even a four hour session with them. What stood out for me that fortunate day from Who Moved My Cheese and Kotter’s 8-step Change Model is:

1. Keeping my vision in mind makes it easier for me to change or adapt to change.
2. I should develop a positive attitude and mentality towards change because change is inevitable and that negative mentality will retard my ability to adapt to change.
3. I need to develop the art of sharing my steps to success so that the people I influence can learn from me and together we can grow.
4. When I am introducing a change that will affect people, I should at any given time talk about my vision and show them how they can benefit from it.

5. I should develop short term goals that will act as quick wins that will prove to the people that progress is been made.

Dr. Mary Kimani talked about the need for us to differentiate been successful and living a purposeful life for they are two dissimilar issues that people often think are the same thing. She says it will be wise if you intertwined the two; “If your place of work and not only at work but also at home and wherever you go is place you can still fulfill your purpose well and good.” Only been successful is an empty life, I should be living my purpose in whatever I do.

What I’m I going to do with what I learnt and how will I apply it? Since I am in a youth program in my church, I have spoken to the one helping with the coordination of the program and asked if I could help in building sensible and strong relationships among us as youths. I find it so wrong for as to be in a program for two months and not have formed great bonds where we can learn from each other, grow and hold each other accountable. This is a change I want to make and with the help of what I have learnt I know I will be able to manage and lead the change. I hope that I will be able to open the eyes of even one of the youths, for one is better than none.

Here are some of the photographs of the fortunate day:



In conclusion, I am really grateful for the exposure that AKAD is giving us as young adults. The push that Dr. Weche gives us makes sure that our potentials and passions are used to solve worldly problems. Every time I finish an AKAD session I am usually so glad that I never missed it, it never disappoints. I will share the great and marvelous things I learn from AKAD with my family members and friends. Another thing that AKAD emphasizes on is the act of sharing information. This is a program that has lived up to its purpose of mentoring youths.

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