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The mentorship held by Akad in partnership with YMCA at YMCA central was an eye opener into the world of emotional intelligence. The previously held explicit party “project x” which was highly publicized in the country and hosted by undisclosed people despite the fact that it had been banned on its immoral grounds probed us into discussing the topic which is mostly affecting we youth.

Dr. weche the founder and CEO of Akad Africa introduced his classmate in PhD class Mrs. Catherine Kimani the senior administrator officer at Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) who I personally got to network with and who amazingly had come with her two sons, one a lawyer with a law firm in Nairobi CBD and another one who had just cleared high school and despite their age they were still interested in mentorship and as if we had not seen enough of the family as we proceeded we got to know that they were very close in an enviable manner and open with their mother.

Dr. weche and Madam Catherine gave their experiences about how parties and group socializations used to happen in their younger age when they were still students and what came out was that youth have had fun as long as humanity has existed only that these parties were not publicly advertised and openly immoral as the “project x” was and of course the set up during their times was different. Catherine gave us example of how they used to take care of each other when they went to this social functions and how they would be responsible for each other’s welfare as a group and how also the children were owned communally and every parent was responsible for their own children especially girls and the children of the neighbors too, something which apparently no longer exists hence the moral decadence happening on the faces of some parents still watching it.

Some of the factors identified and cited to be causing the youth to engage and indulge in these types of socializations included; wanting to get attention of the parents who are too busy making money and forgetting they have children to guide, wanting to gain the sense of belonging to a certain social group, bad influence from friends, failure to plan and focus on the future goals and rebellion. Positive peer friends, remembering always that choices have consequences, planning and noting down however big the plan seems, taking challenge from

our failures to move on by remembering God is a God of second chances and can forgive ,knowing limit to yourself is within you, dreaming and dreaming big and always praying to God knowing he does not allow temptations we cannot endure or withstand to overwhelm us were some of the solutions discussed and pointed out to help out who may be affected or 'infected' by incidences or occurrences of such type as 'project x'.

Mugisha Aury Franck a burundian who is a motivational speaker and a masters student in USIU pursuing a leadership course and who dreams of been the president of Burundi by the next thirty years to come motivated us by reading us his poem entitled 'low battery' which talked of how sometimes we will be low and we'll need recharging like a phone's battery to function well and how we are born with a great capacity and with enormous potential despite the challenges we encounter and so we need stay strong remembering no challenge has overtaken us except that is common.

Catherine cited Mahatma Gandhi's seven things which will destroy people whether youth or old and warned us to stay aware of them and watch out. These things include;

1. Wealth without work
2. Pleasure without conscience
3. Knowledge without character
4. Commerce without morality
5. Science without humanity
6. Religion without sacrifice
7. Politics without principles

We ended the day by Dr. Weche telling us that no one is perfect but we should always identify our failures and rise up every time stronger and more wise. We all shared our greatest failures we have had in life and what we learned from them showing practically how no one is perfect and how we need to learn how to dust ourselves after we fail and move on stronger. This taught me sure enough everyone will carry the burden of their mistakes and no one will be judged on behalf of another and no matter what I do it trickles down to been part and parcel of my life and so I should be careful with my choices and decisions even if the parents we have might sometimes not be the best role models to be emulated.

I really enjoyed, learned and networked which am sure will impact me positively. I look forward to many more mentorships and discussions like this. Thank you.