

“PEER PRESSURE”

BY

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It was to be my first time going to a school as a mentee with the AKAD group. I didn't know what to expect, and anxiety was indeed a large part of what I was feeling. I wasn't afraid of talking to a crowd, I have never really been afraid of speaking to a large number of people. It is what I would tell them that scared me or rather, what they expected me to say.

I was certain that every student came into the chapel that day to find out how and what to do to go abroad, and secretly I did too. I felt like re-living the process through my peer's anecdotes was simply better than having them narrate it to me personally, it felt more animated; alive.

As we went into the chapel, I felt the student's anticipation and was hit with a wave of pride. Call it stolen glory, but I was definitely proud of the fact that we were thought of highly by these equally brilliant minds. AKAD as a brand carries weight on its own, just from the name and I was glad that I was part of it.

The event began and my peers started giving their stories, each unique in its own light. I then got to find out that people really come from far, and success doesn't come easy. From Cathy's story about her



challenges in cleaning up south C, to Shadrack's story of helping out disadvantaged families who were starving in Rift Valley, I felt insufficient. I had done projects on my own and had deemed myself successful. But these were people who had given 100% to see what they believed in work out.

Having thought of this, I remembered a quote that I had read in "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell,, which stated that all the successful

people you see in the world have probably given their dreams 10,000 hours of commitment to see them succeed. Most people think that you wake up one day, and success comes knocking at your door on a silver platter, without putting much thought on how much work goes into it.

It was much more eye opening to hear this real time in a forum such as this, from my very peers, and quite challenging having to accept the fact that Shadrack, Cathy, Michael and Norah were just within the same age bracket as I am.



What I love about AKAD is that it provides an ambiance for excellence. In AKAD, every one breaths out excellence, and breaths in improvement. I believe that it is a personal requirement to stay in AKAD and it is acquired overtime. With the engagement we are put through, and the people we interact with, there is barely room for you not to want to improve.

What I mean is that I learn each and every time I attend an AKAD event, and grow. I learn from my peers, from their experiences and even their failures. I even acquire their ambitious nature, and their zeal to want to surpass what they already are. I am never quite the same after the events and I thank God for that. More importantly, I feel challenged. I believe that it is that push that I so badly needed to become who I really want to be, and I am so grateful for that.



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