

BUSINESS DAY

WOMAN'S HUB

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AISHETU FATIMA DOZIE

PROVING SUCCESS IS ATTAINABLE
AND BEYOND GENDER



EDITOR'S

NOTE.

We are glad to bring you another thrilling edition of Women's Hub for this week. Our cover personality is Aishetu Fatima Dozie, and she is proving to the world that success is attainable and beyond gender.

We share on kids who went viral on social media and had their lives transformed. We bring you a story on Ondo women. The First Lady of the 'sunshine state' has revealed that Taekwondo is a must for women as defence against rape.

We write on 'labels' in relationships. Find out what that is all about. We ask "Who are you behind the internet?", we proffer solutions to managing conflicts, the influence of celebrities on their followers among other stories.

Enjoy!

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Aishetu Fatima Dozie,

proving success is attainable
and beyond gender

WRITTEN BY KEMI AJUMOBI

Aishetu is Founder and CEO, Bossy Cosmetics, Stanford DCI Fellow, Board Director and African Female Executive

Aishetu's passion for global finance began in the equities division of Goldman Sachs on the international desk in New York over 20 years ago. She went on to work for a USAID-funded project with the Nigerian government in its privatization program.

Her passion for demonstration development impact and understanding the intersection of the public and private sectors ability to stimulate economic growth led her to the World Bank in Washington, DC, where she focused on financing businesses in the manufacturing, infrastructure, and service sectors in regions such as Central and South America, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Africa.

Aishetu has worked for Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley, Standard Chartered Bank, and Rand Merchant Bank as a senior investment banking executive, having closed \$130 billion in M&A, financing, and capital market transactions. Over the past two decades, she's lived in New York, Johannesburg, London, Chicago and Lagos.

She founded a first-of-its-kind children's play and activity centre in Lagos and authored a children's picture book entitled 'Paloo & Friends in Imaginaria'. In 2016, she filmed ambitious and successful African women on the continent and in diaspora to showcase their lives and amplify their voice. The project is called African HERstory.

She currently lives in Palo Alto, CA with her husband and three superhero sons where she was a Fellow at the Distinguished Careers Institute at Stanford University in 2018. She is currently the founder of Bossy Cosmetics, an empowering and mission-driven beauty company.

Aishetu holds a BA from Cornell University, a MBA from the Harvard Business School, and participated in the Leaders in Development Program at the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University.





Where it all began

My early years were spent in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where my mother was a student. I definitely didn't have a lot of play dates as a young girl but I think that's something that this generation of young kids gets to enjoy that we didn't back then. We lived

in one of three high-rise buildings in our neighbourhood and all the children met in the playground and played in a completely unsupervised manner. Looking back, it feels like there were hundreds of kids playing without a care in the world. Those were some really great days. I went to school on the school bus and when school was over, I went to my friend's house, and then we played until it was supper time and my mom came to get me. My mom was an incredibly hard worker

and so I grew up knowing that hard work was expected of me. My earliest memories of my mom are of her going to work and never complaining about it. (At least to me). She did what needed to be done and I still felt an immense amount of love and support. I would say that watching my mother as a teenager has had a major impact on my life. I thought she was an amazingly glamorous and beautiful woman (she still is) and she was a boss. She dressed so nicely and worked in a Bank.

I think I secretly wanted to be her when I grew up and in a way that's exactly what happened.

Experience working with Goldman Sachs and lessons learnt

I started working at Goldman Sachs as a first year analyst straight out of university. I was around 21 years old and really thought I was cool when I landed the job. I was very grateful because a number of classmates of mine had interviewed for the same role and weren't successful so I definitely felt privileged to be there. I had no idea that college doesn't teach you much about the real world! Everything you need to know will be learned on the job. I realized very quickly that my education and qualifications (what little they were at the time) meant nothing on "the desk." It was fast paced and exciting. I developed a real knack for numbers and a maniacal obsession for detail. On the trading floor, every single digit or basis point counts, so precision is critical. I loved working at Goldman. It was exhilarating. Because I was the most junior person on the desk, I had to get to work around 5:15 am every single morning. It was brutal. It was pretty much always dark when I went to work. It could get depressing! I worked on the international desk for the first two years and I developed a passion for global markets and how events in one market affects others. I started a few days before the Thai Bhat devalued and that was a major event in the global markets back in 1997. It was like being back in school but getting paid to learn and have fun. Those were fun days where as junior resources, we had budgets to take clients out to dinners and social events. I made the most of those budget dollars and times. It was fun and I learned a tremendous amount. I'd say that the biggest thing I learned from Goldman was trust. I realized that it could make or break you professionally. The best bankers were the "guys or gals" who were trustworthy. This means that their clients believed in the advice that they gave them and relied on their word before they made investment decisions. It was a beautiful thing to watch seasoned bankers. I learned so much in those formative years of my career. I also made a lot of mistakes. It's from these mistakes that I learned how to be maniacal about detail.

Involvement with USAID and achievement

I wasn't involved directly with USAID rather they provided funding for a number of experienced staff to work within the Nigerian government. I believe it was in the form of a grant and I was one of the recipients of the grant working for the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) in Nigeria. As you know, the BPE is the privatization agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria and I worked alongside the then Director General of the agency. It was definitely an exciting time for me. I had just graduated from business school and was pretty naïve about life and what my own individual achievements could be. That being said, I worked harder than I had ever worked at that time in my life. My boss, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, was a true reform-minded technocrat and the entire team rallied around him to ensure that our policies and transactions stood the test of time and held up to international best practice standards. I didn't appreciate how different working within the civil service (or at least adjacent to it) would be to working at Goldman Sachs. Hence my comment about my naiveté! Eventually, politics got in the way and we experienced the proverbial 'two steps forward and three steps back'. It was an exciting time personally and professionally. I got to work directly with President Obasanjo, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Obi Ekwesili, and other truly amazing minds. It was definitely a testament to Mallam Nasiru in allowing his key staff access at the highest levels. I recall him encouraging me to drive a massive public-private partnership project on waste management in the Federal Capital City pretty much on my own. I worked day and night on it and I led teams of professionals who had ten to twenty years on me. I wasn't afraid because I knew that he supported his team members even though I knew that there was some resentment in the civil service towards me. The project was a success and I learned that as far as you get the job done and have the support of the leadership, you can get through the hardest of tasks.

How was your experience being a senior investment banking executive?

Busy!! Oddly enough, what I love most about banking is talking to my clients. I really enjoy listening to their concerns

and helping them think through strategic solutions. A lot of being a Banker is using the financial system to support business growth. This is what I did on a daily basis in varying degrees depending on the role that I occupied. I have been fortunate enough to have served in a number of different capacities in finance. I had a really great opportunity to work with the World Bank in their International Finance Corporation, so through that role I got to travel a lot in Central and South America and work with manufacturing companies that needed debt to finance their growth stage. I've worked at traditional investment banks where I have provided advice for a fee or helped companies to raise money for any number of corporate purposes. What I also really love about banking is that you always work in teams. It's one of the best parts of the job actually. Working in an environment that demands excellence with people who are also pushing themselves to do better for their clients. You learn a tremendous amount as an investment banker. It's pretty hard in the early stages, in terms of the sheer number of hours that you work. It does get easier as you get more senior. However, it becomes incredibly stressful because you are in charge of bringing in money and the budgets get larger and larger every year. As you become more senior, you have more people reporting to you and that comes with a greater level of responsibility and complexity. It's a tough job when you need to travel. I travelled pretty frequently and I have three young kids. It wasn't easy. It's a tough job but I enjoyed it while I was blessed to work as a banker.

\$130bn in Mergers & Acquisition

This number means nothing to me in my current life and that's fantastic. As an investment banker, especially when you are midlevel, you gauge your professional progress by the total close deal value size. It's all you think about in the earlier days, because it gives people an understanding of the depth and breadth of the calibre of work you've executed on in your career. But now that I am not a banker, it means nothing! I first worked on an M&A deal when I was at Lehman Brothers in New York (before the bankruptcy). It was pretty gruelling work. Nonstop work hours crunching numbers and talking to lawyers. I loved it because I learned how to think about value destruction and creation. Sometimes, businesses combine

for clear and obvious synergies and other times, there are deeper issues at play. I learned the intricacies of merger accounting (all of which I have forgotten now) and how to spin-off, merge, IPO, and capital raise for large global corporates. That figure just means that if you add the value of all of the various deals that I have worked on (as a member of a team) you'll get a number north of \$130 billion. Basically, I've been lucky, blessed, and busy.

Having lived in various parts of the world, where do you enjoy staying the most and why?

I'm a pretty restless person and enjoy visiting lots of cities in the world. I live in Palo Alto right now and I love it here. It's slow but fast enough. It's quiet but busy too. It's a really great place to raise children and it's allowed me to breathe and reflect so much on life. I love Paris, London, and New York but I don't know that I'd want to live in any of those cities right now. Let's see how I feel in three years though!

Experience working at World Bank? What initiatives did you take part in that you are glad you did?

It was somewhat bureaucratic and slow but I loved it there. I met some of the smartest and most humane people that I have ever known. You get this sense of working with people who really want to do good in the world. I felt that the work that I did mattered and had an impact beyond just making money. I got the opportunity to learn Spanish and travel considerably internationally. I was sent to Mexico to learn Spanish and I am grateful for the advice that my mentor gave me which led to my deciding to focus on the Latin American region. He told me to think more broadly beyond Sub-Saharan Africa given that is where I am from. Best advice ever. I worked on some really great deals while I was at IFC (private sector arm of the World Bank) including an agribusiness deal with a farm in East Africa that grew a critical plant used in antimalarials. Very fascinating organisation and truly inspiring work.



African HERStory

The goal of African HERStory was to tell stories about amazing African women. Simple. I felt like people only "saw" celebrities and didn't see an entire crop of intelligent, successful, hardworking women who were well placed to be inspirational to a younger generation. Did we achieve that? I think so. I have received positive feedback from so many people that they liked the series and I have also received negative feedback too. For me, when I want to do something, I kind of develop

a real bull-headedness about it and do it irrespective of whether people think it's a great idea or not. I'm just grateful that people liked the series because I loved filming it! I keep getting asked if I would continue it and I'd love to but it's unlikely. I barely have enough hours in the day to take on side hustles any longer.

Bossy Cosmetics

Bossy Cosmetics is a very young company. We launched March 8th this year on International Women's Day. I often say

that Bossy is a women's empowerment and mission driven business that happens to sell cosmetics. I would love to be part of a conversation that looks at the intersection of work and beauty for ambitious women. Our vision is to change the way women think about beauty with respect to their careers. We sell beauty products but we also want to create content and provide services for professional working women. We have a lot up our sleeves and it's just an exciting time to be building this business. We launched with lipsticks, lip glosses, and lip liners and we have several additional products that we will launch in the coming months.

What separates your products from others?

They are cruelty-free, which means that they are not tested on animals and have no ingredients which have been exposed in such a manner. They are beautifully made and deeply pigmented so that you don't have to reapply constantly, specifically our liquid matte lipsticks and lip liners. Our lip liners are infused with shea butter so that you have that moisturized feeling all day particularly if you combine that with our matte lipsticks. Our products are incredibly well made and the colours are designed to be worn by an inclusive range of women.

What are your personal and professional challenges?

I still have to deal with confidence hacks. I was so much more confident when I was younger. I would walk into a room and walk straight up to someone, introduce myself and sell whatever it was that I needed sold. Now, I overthink things. I am shy. I don't want to bother people. I worry about whether I'm intruding. I think too much! My biggest challenge is unlearning and releasing all the baggage that I have amassed over the years and being childlike again in my approach to networking. Professionally, my sole objective is to create a global platform that empowers women to look, feel, and do good. This is pretty much all that consumes me professionally.

How important is women empowerment?

It's everything. I am a woman. An empowered woman. My empowerment – socially, financially, economically, mentally, psychologically, is everything to me. It has nothing to do with men or my husband in particular and everything to do with me. I want to feel like I too can achieve everything that I set out to do. I don't want to feel afraid that I can't afford to look after myself in the event of a life changing situation. I feel rested knowing that I am empowered and my empowerment doesn't take away from anyone. Women that are economically empowered do well for their communities and create multiplicative effects. You empower women and you empower the world.

Why in your own words is it hard for women to climb to the top of their careers? Why are there fewer women on boards?

Life is hard for everyone but I think it's harder for women. It's harder when you start to have a family and/or take on more responsibilities outside of the office. For me, that's when it really got hard once the kids started to arrive on the scene. A lot of women rise to the top but definitely not enough. Less than 5% of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies are women. But how many women really want to be Fortune 500 CEOs?! Ha! That's the million dollar question. Women are becoming entrepreneurs across the planet at an alarmingly high rate. We want to be our own bosses. We don't exactly like corporate politics and we want some flexibility. This is easy when you run your own business but not always when you are in a massive corporate infrastructure. It's harder but not impossible. Luckily, we are seeing more women rise through the ranks but we still need to see more. As for women on boards, the tide is turning albeit rather slowly. More and more, women are being appointed to corporate boards. The business case has already been established that diverse boards result in better and more profitable companies. This is changing for certain. Ultimately, big corporations want results. They want the best (wo)man for the job that will bring in the money. If you have a track record of doing that, it's easier to sell your skills. My advice to

women is to be hungry and work like crazy and talk about what you're achieving to everyone who has ears. You never know where you're next amazing role will come from.

What does family mean to you? How do you balance work and family responsibilities?

Family to me is my mother, my husband, and my children. Of course I have an entire network of cousins, aunts, and uncles but my closet family circle is them. They are the people that I would do anything for and their love means the world to me. I'm not a perfect daughter, wife, or mother but I try my best and I hope they each see that I am trying my best to make our lives together beautiful, fun, and memorable. Balance is tricky. You just juggle a bunch of balls every single day and figure out which ones are rubber and which ones are glass. I never drop the glass balls but I drop the rubber ones as often as I need to. It's definitely a struggle. My husband and I share a lot of tasks especially now that we live in the US. My mom flies in to help. My friends are a great source of comfort and support as well.

What day is it that you can never forget and why?

November 12, 2009, April 15, 2012 and September 11, 2014

The birthdates of each of my sons. The most blessed and magical moments of my life. I didn't know it was possible for my heart to expand the way it did and continues to do.

What is the greatest lesson life has taught you?

Advocate for yourself. Speak up for yourself. Protect yourself. Love yourself. Say no more than you say yes. I went through a period in life where I did what I thought was right and acceptable. Not what I actually wanted to do. I was scared of being shunned to a large extent. The biggest lesson is that those that shun you aren't meant to be on this journey of life with you and that's ok.

Kids who went viral on social media and had their lives transformed

WRITTEN BY DESMOND OKON

All over the world, there are kids who had trended on the internet, melted the hearts of many with their talents and came into limelight speedily even without knowing what fame is and the accompanying complexities. Picking an example from nearby Ghana, Jake, a chubby-cheeked little boy whose serious expression turned him into a meme that ended up generating funds for the education of an entire village. But in Nigeria, the story began with Taju—a little boy from Ibadan. Last year, a video of little Taju showing him struggle with the White man's language went viral on the Internet after a

comedian, Ayo Makun, fondly called AY, shared it on his page. Many Nigerians found it funny as the little boy grappled with the English language. This hilarious video did not just melt the hearts of Nigerians, but it also brought him recognition and drew the attention of prominent figures. Soon after, his lot changed. Immediately the video came public, efforts were made to locate him and secure his future by celebrities like actress Funmi Awelewa, comedian AY, media mogul Mo Abudu and popular producer Don Jazzy, who donated the sum of N500, 000 towards his education. Risible actress, Funke Akindele, who bonded quickly with Taju's personality, volunteered to take the kid into her care. Few months later, she hinted on the boy's

new level in a post after sharing photos of the transformed boy. She wrote: "A couple of months ago the video of Taju a little boy from Ibadan, Oyo state went viral on Instagram...I reached out.... I thought about how Taju would have better care alongside a secure future and the best thing to do was hand him over to his state government, so I reached out to Her Excellency Florence Ajimobi, the First Lady of Oyo state and founder, Access Basic Care Medical Foundation... I'm delighted to let you all know that this little boy is doing well under this foundation." Before then, since Taju was found, he was living many people's dreams—hobnobbing with a large number of superstars.



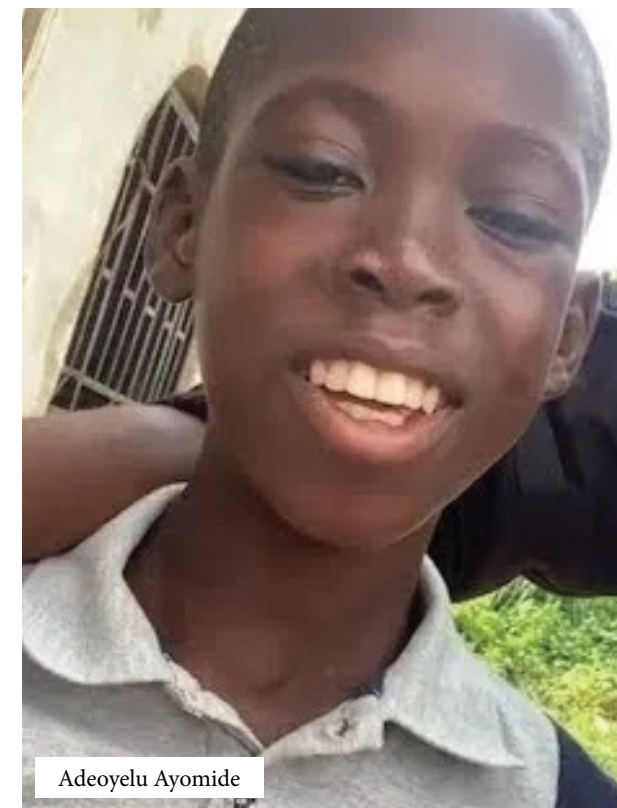
Success Adegor

Success Adegor, upset about being denied education, living her dreams today

We grew up to know that "Warri no dey carry last" and Success Adegor, a seven-year old girl from Warri, Delta State, showed the entire world that coming last is not in their veins when she went red for being sent home from school instead of being allowed to stay.

Adegor was filmed expressing anger over being sent home for not paying her school fees. In that video, according to her, given the choice, she would have preferred punishment over missing out on her studies. This was unacceptable to this little girl. "No be say I no go pay o. Dem go dey pursue person. Instead of them to flog person, dem go dey pursue person. Dem go flog me, the cane e go taya...dem go taya for flogging..." Adegor said in that flawless Pidgin.

Her display of anger in a 29-seconds video quickly went viral and sparked mixed reactions from Nigerians. Many people found the girl's action funny while others were saddened that she would be denied an education over her parent's inability to pay her fees. There were also those who perceived the treatment as unjust.



Adeoyelu Ayomide

However, ultimately, it quickly changed her life and that of her parents'. Adegor instantly became a meme, and attracted the attention of celebrities. A Nigerian comedian known as Mr Jollof, promised to grant Adegor scholarship to university level. "Please who can locate this child for me? I will give her scholarship till she graduates from university...." he wrote. Another comedian, Ayo Makun, who had successfully reached the child advised Nigerians to help little kids around them that are in similar situations. Adegor's video broke the internet at a time when Nigerians were grieving the Ita Faaji building collapse which had children like her in it. But the most significant impact was that it revealed the corruption in her school and forced the move of the government who also showed interest in taking up her education.

Adeoyelu Ayomide, the orange seller

Adeoyelu Ayomide is the recent kid who went from complete obscurity to fame. Ayomide, a boy from Ogun State who (prior to his breakthrough hawked oranges and groundnuts), became an internet

sensation when a video of him trended. In the video, he was seen singing Tope Alabi's song with a voice Nigerians described as "Angelic" while peeling an orange for a prospective buyer. It was this buyer who filmed and exposed the young talent to Nigerians.

Few hours after the video surfaced online, the reaction was massive. Tope Alabi posted the video on her page and pronounced God's blessing on him, just as many Nigerians did. Following that, a US-based Nigerian policeman gifted Ayomide a sum of N500, 000. According to report, the money was to support Ayo's education.

But what may be regarded as the biggest help the boy got was the scholarship. The scholarship was given by a female cleric, and the founder of the Love of Christ Generation Church, C & S (Iya Adura) in London, Esther Ajayi.

Ayomide, got the scholarship after leading praise and worship at a concert in Tafawa Balewa Square organised by her church. She said her foundation had totally taken over Ayo with life changing measures, from change of school to private School, specialist voice training with studio album before the end of the year.

'LABELS' AND RELATIONSHIPS?



WRITTEN BY RUTH UDEMBU

Anita had been seeing a particular guy for almost six months but anytime she was asked if she had a boyfriend she would say 'no', but everyone had seen her around with a particular guy. It was probably no one's business whether she dates or not, but what her friends couldn't understand was why she was pushing away potential suitors if she wasn't in a relationship, talk less of one that made her happy and secure. Finally, Anita told her friends that she was doing everything in a relationship but the guy had never asked her to be his girlfriend. She was upset because even if he might have had insecurities about starting a full blown relationship, she didn't know what her purpose or how long her purpose was in the supposed 'relationship'. She could easily tell a guy she was single because he never asked and she could do the same. Her friends could see how unhappy it made her but she liked him too much to let go. Now the question is, if he said he loved her as he claims why is it so hard for him to

tell her and the whole world who she is and his role in her life? And lately, a lot of guys are trying to follow this rule believing that titles are overrated, especially since they don't call you by that title.

For me, that is a scam because, at the end of the day, someone around them will still have that label they didn't want to give you. Any guy that truly wants you, will want you and anybody ranging from your parents to your potential suitor to know who you are and your responsibility in his life.

Whether at work or in a relationship, labels have always been necessary in identifying who you are and what you do. It gives you relevance and some form of assurance. It might not necessarily guarantee happiness, a long lasting relationship or a job, but it assures your status either in a company or in your relationship. It tells not only you who you are but also the world.

Some people {guys I know} might be of the notion that 'labels' just cause problems, especially in the area of side chicks. If he didn't call you or label you a side chick then there should be no problem, but that is not how the society works,

when you 'play' a role, a name automatically gets attached to you. So a side chick might not know she is the side chick but is playing that role.

I believe people who are afraid to put a 'label' on a relationship is because they fear ending or starting that relationship, or what being 'tagged' means.

Nevertheless, if you love someone deeply, being able to face your fears to make that person feel safe and comfortable will go a long way in showing how much that person means to you. I mean why waste so much effort, time and money on someone just to let the person go out there to say she or he is single and free to mingle?

Still, if you feel safe doing everything in your relationship without the title of a 'boyfriend', girlfriend, 'wife' or 'husband'? I wish you good luck in whatever relationship you are in because you alone can determine what makes you happy but you should know that you deserve the gift of being loved, adored and cherished by the man or woman you give yourself to. So protect your heart and let the man or woman that truly loves you find you.



WRITTEN BY
IZUCHUKWU
VICTORY

Managing conflict

People often alter our peaceful, beautiful and amazing day with disagreements in any structure what so ever. Conflict is what happens every day in our world, it is inevitable because billions of people coexist with each other with their differences in opinions, beliefs, gender, culture, race, and many other things. Every day, you wake up and get out of bed, you are bound to face many conflicts, since the problem is not encountering it but how to manage it, people must work hard to manage their disagreements with others in the society.

There are several ways to manage conflicts, but here are five ways. First is to consider others or be selfless, this is be-

cause for one to think of resolving a conflict you must think how the other person involved feels.

Second is dialogue. The conflict started with a dialogue therefore, it should end with a dialogue. If two people come together to rob minds and discuss their differences or reasons for taking certain decisions, although it may be hard to work with others, nevertheless, it can be resolved.

The third is being able to listen to and understand their opinions. After the two or more opposing parties have decided to discuss their differences through dialogue, before anyone or any party can come to a truce there has to be an application of understanding, and also listening to the other party's point of view and bringing it into consideration.

Unfortunately, not many can do this because they don't have the patience to listen to others. I was in an argument about what obsession and addiction meant with a colleague, later I realized that I was wrong when I considered her point and from that disagreement, I learnt what it really meant. If I had not patiently listened to her and considered what she was saying, I would have continued believing the wrong thing.

Lastly, after going through this process and you want to make a point, understand that it is not every one who will understand what you want to say. Everyone is wired differently, but learn today to manage it so that we can avoid hatred, anger and hurt.



Ondo women to learn Taekwondo as defence against rape

WRITTEN BY DESMOND OKON

Beyond dragging the government, online and location-based campaigns against rape, and naming and shaming perpetrators, there is need to equip women, and girls with skills on self-defence against sexual predators.

The Nigerian society is overwhelmed by reports of rape and sexual abuse against women. Despite efforts to reduce news of these barbaric acts, it seems as if more perpetrators rise with each effort, waiting for the next vulnerable woman or girl.

Therefore, as part of her efforts at curbing the menace in Ondo state, the wife of the state governor, Betty Anyanwu Akeredolu made known her intention to train females, both young and old in Taekwondo knockouts as a self-defence against rap-

ists.

The significance of this move can be found in the fact that getting justice for any act of violation, especially sexually, is difficult in Nigeria. The burden of proof is a major factor that precludes justice for victims. So, the ability of women being in a position to defend themselves cannot be overemphasized.

Akeredolu made this decision in response to the recent rape of a student of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko by Soldiers in uniform at checkpoint, and introduced an expert in Taekwondo skill whose services she has already engaged for the task as a show of her readiness to combat the act.

"I'm making a public announcement that

we are going to promote Taekwondo in Ondo state, all our daughters will learn Taekwondo for our safety because if that student had the skill, those randy soldiers couldn't have been able to overcome her", she said.

She added that if the case of Soldiers rape in Army uniform is not swept under the carpet and the perpetrators are made to face the wrath of the law, it would serve as a deterrent to others.

The governor's wife had earlier scheduled a One Million Woman Protest against rape in Army uniform, but decided to suspend it on the grounds that political detractors might capitalise on it to cause mayhem.

WHO ARE YOU BEHIND THE INTERNET?

WRITTEN BY RUTH UDEMA

I have thought long and hard about why social media has negative effects, and although they say everything in this world has its positive and negative side, I can't help but think the negative side of the internet and the social pages on it is because of the choices we make on how we want to use it.

Social media is a platform, what we choose to say and see, how we choose to act, what we write and let the world know about us, is a choice we decided to make. But then, how is it that we blame social media for all the wrong acts people choose to do when it was a choice they made and wrote with their own hands?

uploading 'Adult' films, online scamming, fraudulent practices and so on were all started by human beings, the internet didn't do it on its own. The power the internet and social media has is gotten from the people that use it, and just like how a gun has no power till someone pulls the trigger, so is the internet.

Therefore it is important to realize that the internet and social media is just a tool in our hands and how we use it determines the type of person we are. So, the question is, what type of person are you behind the internet? Are you one of those that take pleasure in badmouthing others or are you one of the people that helps others grow, influence others positively and try to make changes where they are needed?

I was watching a political debate on channels news on YouTube during the election period, and after watching it I scrolled down to see the comments and there were such harsh negative comments and I know we have the freedom of speech, but come on: do we have to be savage?

Back to my story, I then replied to the comments on my own opinion on the matter and before I knew it, one of the people that left a comment started insult-



ing me, I was so angry and I won't lie I might have insulted him a bit but I apologized and ignored him after.

Now, that is how hate and savagery starts spreading on the internet and before you know it, you have involved one or two more people who are involving others.

I agree that there should be some restrictions to what people view, but people also need to restrict themselves on what they decide to see, hear and talk about because if they need someone else to restrict them all the time then they may never know to what limit they should control themselves.

Awareness on how and what to use the internet for should be encouraged and taught by parents, family members, schools and any other educative institutions. That way, there is a positive mind-set which helps to influence what is typed on the webpages and social media. People should be prompted to surf more for things that will benefit them morally, economically, legally and so on, to help them become better persons.

Engaging your children this summer

WRITTEN BY IZUCHUKWU VICTORY

When parents are planning on how to engage their kids during summer break in Nigeria, you must consider three things; fun, education and vocational or skill training. During this July/ August summer break, children have a high tendency to be mischievous because they are bored and have nothing else to do. This is

also because they have so much time in their hands, so parents must find a way to help channel their energy positively. Parents have no choice but to carefully help by making plans for every week to make sure the kids will be willing to participate in the activities set out for them.

When I was much younger, my siblings and I were fond of misbehaving a great deal when we were bored especially during summer breaks after we were left at home by our parents. We were the happiest kids alive because of the mischievous things we had planned to do. I had a doll, dressed her up, played with a lot of other things I was not meant to play with, while my younger brother would turn remote control gadgets to

wrestlers

or would play ball and end up breaking something, we did so many other unimaginable things. The most annoying thing that happened to us besides boredom was the consistent change in house maids during and after breaks. At some points, we were rebellious towards the maids.

Engaging your children in what can be fun for them like creative activities will make a lot of sense. Parents should not think that after the kids have had months of teaching in school, they should still be enrolled for summer school lessons, isn't that too much? Parents should know that there are other things children can be involved with because knowledge acquired in school is not all there is to this life. Let your children be equipped with several skills like hair making, makeup, soap making, tailoring, learning musical instruments, dance lessons, and other skills. Parents should enrol their children into schools that are teaching these skills like the CEO APPRENTICE, one week program for teenagers which is timely enough in this August period, organised by BusinessDay Media Limited. Keeping your children busy by making them learn skills that will help them now or in the future is highly recommended.

There are other things your kids could be involved in like spending time with other kids, visiting the museum, going on trips to places, going for sleep over with friends and the likes.



Five African countries with more women than men

WRITTEN BY DESMOND OKON

In order to monitor the progress of women around the world, every year, the United Nations publishes statistics on the global ratio of women to men in many categories such as population, education, work and political decision making, health, women and men in families. Findings included sex ratio of 201 countries and regions. The human sex ratio is the number of males for each 100 female in a population. While sex ratio above 100 means there are more males than females; sex ratio below 100 means there are more females than males, and sex ratio of 100 means there are equal numbers of females and males.

According to United Nations, Sex ratio of world in 2018 is 101.783. This means that the World has 101,783 males for each 100,000 females or 98,248 females for each 100,000 males. The data showed that 12 countries have sex ratio less than 90.0 and 37 have less than 95.0. There are more females than males in 128 countries.

The recent world population index indicated that there are more women in the world than men. While Nigeria has more men than women, here are African countries with more women than men.

Angola

In 2018, the female to male sex ratio increased slightly with 104.044 females to 100 males. But before then, there were fluctuations. For instance, as of 2015, male to female ratio for Angola was 97.86 males per 100 females. Between 1970 and 2015, male to female ratio of Angola declined at a moderate rate to shrink from 106.56 males per 100 females in 1970 to 97.82 males per 100 females in 2015.

Angola is the seventh-largest country in Africa. With a vast mineral and petroleum reserves and a booming economy, standard of living remains low for the majority of the population. It is located in South-Central Africa

of Eswatini is a developing country facing major health issues in Southern Africa. According to the World Population Review, its total population is 1.1 million and 50.98% of it is female. Its female to male ratio is 106.375 per 100 men. With a fairly young population, it has a low life expectancy at 58 years.

Namibia

Not as big as Angola, Namibia is a small country in the south of Africa. It is ranked 33rd in the world's female to male ratio index, with a ratio of 105.776 women to 100 men. Based on the latest United Nations estimates, Namibia has a population of 2,642,907 as of July 2019.

Mozambique

51.44 percent of women make up the country's population of around 30 million against the 48.56 percent of men. According to statistics, the female to male ratio is 105.051 to 100 men. Mozambique is one of the biggest countries in Southern Africa.

Lesotho

It is ranked 31st in the world and 2nd in Africa with a female to male ratio of 106.182 to 100 men. A scenic land of tall mountains and narrow valleys, Lesotho, is a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom encircled by South Africa. The country's population is around two million 50.8% of the country's population are women.

Kingdom of Eswatini

Formerly called Swaziland, the Kingdom



ARE PROTESTS MAKING AN IMPACT IN NIGERIA?

WRITTEN BY RUTH UDEMBA

What is your view on being part of a protest? For me, I can, depending on who or what I am protesting for. Since 1913 when Gandhi protested for the independence of India from British rule and for the right of poor Indians to be adhered to till when Nigeria protested for independence which she got in 1960. Protests has been seen to reap beneficial and not-so beneficial impacts, especially as it continues to walk the thin line between being peaceful or violent and likened to being a cause of death for the very few who participate in it. With the recent death of Precious Owolabi, a National Youth Service Corps mem-



ber and others, it has become a 'no go' activity for change and becoming more of a sceptical way to object to the policy of the present day government. Protest has basically been a way of publicly making our voices and opinions and those of others heard while influencing public opinion and government policies. In Nigeria, there have been various religious, gender-based and industrial protests which has had little impact in Nigeria. The protest on the release of Leah, and Chibok girls, the protest for the arrest of Coza's Pastor, the protest for the release of women arrested during the Abuja raid and the arrest of the officers who engaged in sexual activities is showing that Nigerians are beginning to speak up. I can only hope that action is taken soon so the pro-

tests won't be in vain.

Although you might hear discouraging statements like, 'It is not my protest that will stop Nigeria from the rot', their bad experiences and so on. Protest should and still can be used to object to any form of mistreatment either by a person or the government; it can be used to raise awareness and fuel others to fight for their rights they might have been unaware of. If someone you know is suffering injustice, a protest not only helps support to stop them from being oppressed, but it could also guarantee you freedom or at times the salary increase you deserve as workers demand. In more than one case, protests in Nigeria has worked to an extent and is evident in the protest against fuel subsidy which made the price of fuel

reduce although not completely. Another is for the bail granted to El- Zakzaky to travel out for medical treatment. This shows that protests have achieved a degree of success if not a complete one.

So the question is, are you going to be part of the people that no longer fight for a better Nigeria or are you going to join protests that will make a difference in your own way? Whether it is through press conferences, rallying, letter-writing campaigns or social media, do your best to ensure it is non-violent.

Protests should not and are not meant to cause harm to the very society they are 'fighting' for.



Celebrities and their influence on their followers

WRITTEN BY IZUCHUKWU VICTORY

Either good or bad, celebrity influence on the youth cannot be underestimated, because most of them serve as mentors or role models to majority of youths. For instance, last month I wrote an article about Bill Gates and Mark Zukerberg being drop outs and after speaking to someone else about it, that person felt the sudden courage and morale to drop out because they believe school is scam and if Bill could make it in life, then they can. Many celebrities that stand as an icon of success and achievement for young people, may or may not know that they are looked up to and that their day to day activity matters a lot, because these young ones are not only looking up to them just for success but they also follow their footsteps. They will want to copy the way they dress, the meals they eat, how they spend money, how they treat people and their relationship with their friends.

For instance, same way we have international celebrities enhancing their bodies, same is going on here in Nigeria.

Another example is drug and substance abuse. Many youths partake in some acts because the celebrities they admire are doing same. This shouldn't be the case.

Many argue that fashion trends starts from celebrities, e.g. Big Brother famous presenter Ebuka, last year, after slaying the lion head native attire, it began to trend in Nigeria. Youths put on outfits they see their celebrity role models put on. So you see that celebrities can influence their followers positively or negatively. In this instance though, Ebuka always positively inspires others with his outfits.

Although the influence of celebrities on youths might be good or bad, children should guide their actions and be positively influenced only. Ensure your role models or mentors are positive influencers, not otherwise.

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