



FEMALES IN TECH INITIATIVE



DREAMOVAL
FOUNDATION

INITIATIVE



Kofi Annan rightly states

“

When women thrive, all
of society benefits.

”

BACKGROUND

“Female enrolment continues to decline progressively from the basic to the tertiary level of our education despite several international and local interventions such as the Education For All and many other interventions”

Approximately 75% of girls throughout Ghana attend primary school, but there is a significant drop in the number of girls who attend secondary school and college.

Our future growth relies on competitiveness, innovation and productivity, and these in turn depend on the education of our young girls who hold the destiny of our nations.



WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?



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This gap can be bridged through the active development of females by introducing them to STEM related programmes especially in the field of ICT and for this reason we are introducing an initiative which encapsulates the aspirations of Ghana's ICT plan for young girls.

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Under the working title, FemITI which means Females in Tech Initiative. FemITI is a project to train young girls to develop problem solving skills through coding and robotics to empower them facilitate technology creation to generate opportunities for Societal Transformation and Poverty Alleviation.



WHAT IS FEMITI?

- The project targets girls in Junior and Senior High Schools within underprivileged communities between the ages of 13 and 18 years.
- The project in 2019 will focus on **2000** girls in the Greater Accra Region.
- Another important feature of this project is the unlimited access the girls will be given to a pool of experienced female mentors and entrepreneurs who will guide them.
- They will also participate in a boot camp to successfully graduate from this project.



WHAT WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE.




- Create the foundation to catapult female entrepreneurship in STEM related careers.
- Create the platform to harness knowledge sharing amongst women in the tech industry
- Create opportunities to develop women and increase female employment rate in tech industry.
- Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
 - 1 - Poverty Reduction
 - 5 - Gender Equality
 - 8 - Decent work and Economic growth
 - 10 – Reduced inequality
- Contribute to reducing the conditions that encourage youth extremism.




WHAT IS OUR APPROACH TO THIS INITIATIVE?



- This project will train about 200 girls between the ages of 13-18 within a time span of 2 months.
- Each girl will receive a maximum of 48hrs of tutoring segmented into 6hrs of training each week for 2 months.
- After the 2 month training, the girls will be further engaged at a boot camp.
- Our approach is to Groom and Mentor these girls to pursue higher education in computer engineering and tell a positive story with this project.



THE BOOT CAMP



The young girls will be engaged through a boot camp where all the participants, mentors will converge at a desired venue.

During the period the young girls will be supervised to complete projects and assignments they would be given.

Duration:

2 Days

Activities

- Entrepreneurship Workshops
- Leadership and Mentorship training
- Career Development sessions
- IoT project



THE PILOT



- FemITI was launched and the pilot project initiated in October 2018.
- The pilot project focused on young girls from Nima/Maamobi community, between ages 13 to 18 years.
- There were 9 facilitators who dedicated 48hrs in a total of 8 weeks to train the young girls
- There were 7 mentors who had inspiring sessions with the girls during the period
- The curriculum focused on IoT, coding and robotics
- The 60 girls were divided to 8 groups and worked in teams to complete projects assigned to them over the period
- The 60 girls participated in a two bootcamp at the Pentecoast Convention Centre







WHO ARE OUR STAKEHOLDERS?



- Partner Organizations
- Partner Institutions
- Sponsoring Entities
- Mentoring Resource
- Beneficiaries

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

To achieve our purpose, we worked with a number of organisations.

ACHIEVERS GHANA - NIMA

- Coordinated the selection of eligible young girls for the programme.
- Coordinated and ensured the selected girls attended the programme as expected.

STARTERS TECH

- Developed the curriculum for the project
- Provided the female facilitators who trained the young girls

SORONKO ACADEMY

- Provided the training facility for the program.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Sponsoring Entities



MENTORING RESOURCE



Thelma Quaye
Co-Founder: Netguard Ltd



Alice Mamaga
Founder: Autism
Awareness Ghana



Regina Honu
Founder: Soronko
Foundation



Asedua Debrah Ampomaa
Product Manager
DreamOval Ltd



Eunice Obugyei
Senior Developer
DreamOval Ltd



Lady Omega Hammond
Co-Founder: STEMBees



Hannah Kumah
Founder: TestHub

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

- The girls attended the programme with no knowledge about IoT, robotics and coding and its related benefits and had their first experience with IoT during the program.
- The Ministry for Inner Cities and Zongo Development are collaborating with the DreamOval Foundation to reach all underserved communities.
- Through this initiative we are getting the young girls off the streets and providing them with a skill in the digital world.
- Most of the participants had the perception coding is reserved for boys but after coming into contact with an all female facilitators and mentors who code, their perceptions have changed.
- Some participants have changed their career decisions and plan on pursuing careers in the field of ICT.
- The participants developed a lightening system that can be remotely controlled from any location in the world.



WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF FEMITI?



- Train a total of 50,000 girls within underprivileged societies over a 5 year period.
- Monitor and Support some of the girls who show interest to pursue higher education at Ashesi University.
- Create Learning centre/ information hub across the country for the girls from underprivileged societies to access information on coding, robotics and IoT.
- Institute a FemiTI Robotics Challenge (FRC) among the communities who have participated in the program to sustain interest and drive competitive spirit among the girls.
- Creation of Massive Open Online Content (MOOCs) for use as a refresher course for young girls.
- Creation of a web platform accessible to all the stakeholders for interacting, sharing knowledge and experiences and collaborating on projects.
- Introduction to Train the Trainer model to ensure sustainability of the project.

WHAT IF WE CREATE THE FEMALE IN TECH INITIATIVE FELLOWSHIP?

The FemITI Fellowship will serve as a status symbol to create a platform for:

- Knowledge brokerage.
- Fundraising to support FemITI girls Start-Up Companies.
- Provide Scholarships for beneficiaries.
- Sponsorship for FemITI conferences and projects.

The FemITI Fellowship will constitute;

- Fem-Tech Fellow: The young girls who are trained

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