



Ahmed Sanni, Ask Nigeria Intern, facilitates a discussion with community leaders in Kaduna State as part of internship process

PATHS2 Focus on Future Health Promoters *through Ask Nigeria Internship*

Human resource development is a key feature for the implementation of the National Health Promotion Policy. Towards this aim, PATHS2 through the Ask Nigeria pilot process internship scheme commenced partnership with four academic institutions in order to provide this critical segment of human resource in Nigeria with firsthand and practical skills of health.

The four institutions include the Enugu State University of Technology (ESUT), Jigawa State Polytechnic, Bayero University (BUK), Kano and Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Kaduna State.

A dozen final year students were selected from health promotion related departments of the institutions like Mass Communications, Physical and Health Education and Community

Medicine. They must have offered course(s) such as development communication, maternal child health (MCH) education, communicable and non-communicable diseases and adolescent health e.t.c.

The interns with the support of PATHS2 team and the NGOs/CSOs/CBOs participated in the entire Ask Nigeria process which include trainings, advocacies, community mobilisation, opinion polling, content research, public health dialogues, media production, monitoring and evaluation, report writing e.t.c.

They all had a Departmental Supervisor, who guided and monitored them throughout the Internship period.



...Naija health talk

Ask Nigeria is a grassroots/ community engagement initiative for public health discussions about barriers to good health and practical motivation to change behaviour in health seeking behaviour by awakening a sense of personal responsibility and accountability

Specifically, the internship programme modules will ensure that three students from each of the institutions gain firsthand experience in the following disciplines:

- Audience research (design, analysis, and utilisation of data in communication through the media polling).
- Community outreaches (mobilisation, facilitation and follow up of community dialogue through the qualitative discussions).
- Monitoring and Evaluation (media monitoring as part of the M&E framework).
- Media productions through the mass media outputs from Ask Nigeria.
- Documentation and Report writing through the knowledge management component.



Ask Nigeria Intern, **Egbo Ifeanyi Salem**, plays a lead role in a drama session on Malaria during Ask Enugu community dialogue

The experience shared by some of the interns and their academic supervisors showed that it was a wholesome capacity building experience for many;



Jane Madueke



Ahmed Umar



Faiza Lawan Mohammed



Ahmed Sani Faki

"For the first time in my life, I was involved in an evidence-based research. I learnt all the processes involved in data collection and data analysis. Being part of the Ask Enugu process is giving me opportunity to put the essence of my course into practice." **Jane Madueke**, Physical and Health Education Department, ESUT, Enugu

"Ask Kano has been fantastic as it has exposed me to the real health conditions in the rural communities. I gained experience on features and documentary coverage as well as practical manipulation of the recording camera." - **Ahmed Umar**, Mass Communication Department, BUK, Kano

"My area of interest is maternal health and I am proud to be involved in educating the community on health-related issues as part of the Ask Kano team. I want to learn more about communications and information gathering so as to be able to apply them in other aspects later in life." **Faiza Lawan Mohammed**, Community Medicine Department, BUK, Kano

"Ask Kaduna has widened my horizon to know beyond what is taught in school to the nitty-gritty of development challenges in rural Nigeria and the role of change agents. If

possible, more interns should be incorporated so as to allow more students benefit from it."

Ahmed Sani Faki, Mass Communication Department, ABU, Kaduna

"The Ask Kaduna programme has enabled our students to get practical experience in their learning process. It also enabled them learn how to work in a team and how to deal with people effectively. It exposed them to real life situations and common problems being faced by the average Nigerian in the rural community." - **Maryam Ibrahim**, Lecturer and Ask Kano Intern Supervisor, Mass Communication Department, ABU, Kaduna.

"Our intern was actively involved in the community work and media editing and she was quite enthusiastic about the real life experience which she would not have gained because the school does not insist on mandatory IT (industrial experience) for the students. So the knowledge she gained will facilitate her ability to design and administer her research project questionnaire with ease"

- **Dr Mary Ngozi Nnamani**, Senior Lecturer and Ask Enugu Intern Supervisor, Health Education Department, Enugu.

ABOUT PATHS2

The Partnership for Transforming Health Systems Phase Two (PATHS2) is a six year development initiative that aims to ensure Nigeria achieves important health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Funded by UKaid, through the UK's Department of International Development, PATHS2 is working in partnership with the Government of Nigeria and other stakeholders, to improve the planning, financing and delivery of sustainable health services for those in most need.

Apart from working at a Federal level, PATHS2 is working in the five States of Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and Lagos.

PATHS2 follows the successful PATHS1, which ran from 2002 to 2008, and was also funded by UKaid.

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