

2020

2020 PYP COMPLETE REPORT



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Powerful Young Project Institute



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INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year with the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw the global economy threatened, activities shutdown due to lockdowns, and an introduction of a new normal. For us at PYP, we had to stand strong like never before to ensure that no matter what, we still maintain our goals to make an impact together.

For the past 6 years, we have been making intentional and strategic strides to provide quality 360-education that offers opportunities for young people to Explore, Discover, Imagine and Create. Our dream is to see young people, who, having passed through the PYP experience, emerge better and well equipped with what they need to be successful and become nation builders. Therefore, it should not be a surprise that regardless of the pandemic, we still found a way to fulfil our yearly mission: to enhance the potentials of young people.

See below a summary of the activities we carried out for PYP 2020, progress made and pointers for improvement

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

The 2020 PYP tutorial was conducted offline and online. We had 123 students at the start for 5 weeks offline lessons and 39 students online for the rest of the tutorial session. What follows is a detailed description of plans made and the various activities carried out.

At the beginning of the year, our first step towards a successful academic year was to make good preparation for our tutorial sessions.

We sent out letters to ten public primary schools in Festac Town, Lagos State. This letter usually serves as an invitation letter to attend our program as well as a consent form, to request the permission of the parent for the child to attend our program. It is then required that the students come for registration with a signed form accompanied with their parents/guardians. Parents are given orientation on our plans for their children/ward and are solicited to support us. During this time, students also carry out reading tests which are used to gauge their capabilities and place them in the right class suited to their individual level of reading.

We made progressive efforts in recruiting student interns, training volunteer teachers and made several other plans to make the entire tutorial program effective and productive. We also partnered with Anchorage Field Schools for provision of venue for our activities at 5th Avenue, D1 close, Festac Town, Lagos state.

On the 15th of February, 2020, we opened our arms to welcome 123 students who showed their interest by coming in to register for the program with their parents/guardian.

On the day of registration, the PYP team members were assigned to their various points of duty. With some managing parent and student's registration while others conducted the reading tests.

Over the years our usual class categories based on the reading tests have been:

1. G1/2: For students with very poor reading skills, these students are automatically drafted into the English Hello Classes for personalized tutoring.
2. G3/4: Students in this class can read at Primary (Grade) 3 or 4 level of primary school.
3. G 5/6: This is a group of students who can read materials for students in Primary (Grade) 5 or above

This year however, due to the large number of students with reading ability of Primary 3 and above (a positive thing), we divided the students into 4 classes as described below.

G1/2: We had a total of **25 students** in this class, 20.32% of the total number of students

G3: Here we had **37 students**; the highest number of students in a class taking up 30.08% of the total number of students

G4/5: In this class, we had **33 students**, approximately, 26.83% of the total number of students

G6: and lastly, we had **28 students** in this class, with 22.76% of the total number of students

Find in Table 1 below, the volunteer facilitators and student-interns assigned for each of the classes

Table 1: PYP 2020 volunteer facilitators, Interns and their assigned classes

Grade	G1/2	G3	G4/5	G6
English	Benita Bulley Blessing Okafor	Dipo Dele-David	Chinemerem Ugagu James Ohiomoba	Chidinma Uzochukwu Martha Akpan
Mathematics	James Olawale	Chinaza Ubanagu Isioma Ukadike Ekpu	Onotu Andah Enyinnaya Osuji	Chijioke Ochubili Precious Anisiebo
Teaching assistants	Monisola Osunlana Chiamaka Onuoha	Sophia James Favour Nyeuwane	Frances Anayochukwu Ebuka Emmanuel	Tamar Odiete Chisom Odenigbo Samuel uduka
	Medina Saibu			

The tutorial sessions began on 16th of February, taking place every Saturday from 10am-2pm for only 5 weeks before the pandemic Lockdown. The last physical class held on 14th of March was a special session to teach our PYP students how to protect themselves against Covid-19. They practiced how to properly wash their hands with soap and water, and use a hand sanitizer. They were advised to share what they had learnt with their family members.

Following the lockdown, we came up with a plan to keep in touch with our students. We sent them text messages of weekly assignments through their parent's phones. We shared any information from the Lagos State government regarding public Radio/TV lessons. In June when the Lockdown order was relaxed, yet public gatherings were still restricted, we saw the need to do more than we were doing at that time. Our students were lagging behind their peers in private schools who were able to afford virtual classes without waiting for full resumption of school activities.

After strategizing with our team of volunteers, we concluded that the best approach was to help students as much as possible by using available resources to provide them with learning materials. On the 22nd of August, we commenced our virtual tutorial class using Whatsapp. We created Whatsapp groups for online classes and invited all our students to join using their parent's phones or neighbours phones. We were only able to reach 39 students in total. We could not integrate all our students into the virtual lessons as a higher percentage of them (68.2%) do not own a Whatsapp enabled phone in their households. We created 3 virtual Whatsapp classes. See the attendance in Table 2. On average, 26 students attended the classes every week although this varied based on the class levels.

Table 2: Online tutorial attendance per class group

Class	Total Class size	Week 1	Week 2	Week3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
G1/2	4	1	3	3	3	3	3
G3/4	16	5	8	8	8	10	11
G5/6	19	9	13	13	11	8	13

While the virtual classes were overall a success, we had some challenges. For example, there were days some students would not be available for class, this could be as a result of their parents not being in close proximity to students during the time for class, low battery, bad network coverage, etc. There were also days the teachers would not be available to take classes because they had other engagements. Also, there was not enough time for teachers to further explain some problems to the students as we had to put into consideration the financial capacity of parents to get the required internet data for their wards to always be available for class as well as to be able to manage the student's attention span since it was not a physical class. These classes went on for another 6 weeks before the entire program was brought to a close.

Points of Improvement for PYP Tutorials

The following are the different ways we need to improve for a better learning experience for our students in the next year:

Sufficiency and Consistency of Teachers: As PYP teachers are recruited on a voluntary basis, maintaining consistency of teachers has always proved to be difficult over the years. Even with the new strategy of having substitute teachers, there were days this year that we ran out of teachers and 1 teacher had to take 2 sessions with different classes instead of one.

The need to move lessons online: Presently, the second wave of the Corona Virus threatens another lockdown. A second stay at home order could happen and we need to be prepared to go online if need be. Our target students are public school students who have limited access to learning tools and resources like mobile devices, internet connectivity and airtime. There is a need to look into this and strategize on means to carry all our students along while managing the limited resources available to them.

We would still continue to strategize on more ways we can explore to improve on all these points.

HELLO CLASSES

The Hello Class is designed as a supplementary class for PYP students that are weak in English Language. It was introduced for the first time in 2019 as a way to provide these students with a focused group tutorial to help bring them up to speed within six months.

Our Hello Class session for 2020 unfortunately could not be held. We were just a week into the program before the Lockdown order was given. Due to this we could not continue with the sessions as this program is one that needs a one on one interaction between the teacher and the students. We also did not have the adequate resources to facilitate these lessons virtually.

Points of improvement for the Hello classes

The need for virtual classes: As stated earlier, the second wave of the virus might propel the government to announce another lockdown. There is a need to navigate other means to reach these students by switching from offline to online.

Low number of signups: Based on the poor attendance of students in the previous year, we decided to have them pay a small fee for their learning materials as a form of commitment. Hence, we did not get as many students to register for this program unlike last year when it was free. A possible solution would be to reiterate the importance and benefits of these classes to parents from the very beginning of the tutorial program.

Teachers: We need to integrate more teachers into this program so as to have the much-needed effect on the academics of these students. Adequate and proper training is also required to ensure success of this program.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Every year, during our tutorial session, we organize PYP Children's day celebration. This year, in response to the pandemic, we organized an outreach where we distributed palliatives to our students and their families to help relieve the hardship brought on by the pandemic. It was a huge success through the help of several donors from around the world and our committed volunteers. Full details can be found in our report [here](#). And for picture highlights, check out our [instagram page](#).

BOOK DRIVE PROJECT

The Book Drive Project was a new program we had planned pre-pandemic. This project was aimed at encouraging reading culture among students by making books available to them. Following our call for children's book donations, we received so much love from online bookstores, social media followers and our volunteers. Those who did not have books to give donated money to facilitate the distribution of the books. After the Lockdown, we successfully carried out the project on the 8th of September, 2020, at 23 road market, Festac Town.

Although the initial plan was to do school drive-ins, school closures made us set up a stand at a market square where we were sure children could come to. As soon as we were all set, young people stopped by voluntarily to pick up books they were interested in. Our volunteers were available to assist with recommendations and suggestions. We began the program with 300 plus books in the morning, and by evening of the same day, we had less than 15 books left, our cue to call it a day. For more details on this project, read more [here](#)

SUMMER PROGRAM

PYP's academic year will not be complete without our annual Summer Program. It is focused on teaching our students the necessary life skills they need in their new journey through secondary school and life in general. In previous years, we usually held the program 3 days a week for 4 weeks where students go through 14 life-study/skill courses. This year however was different, we had a 2-day program instead. Five courses were designed out of our usual courses. These include:

1. Confidence and Self Identity
2. Money and savings
3. Leadership skills
4. Career development
5. Skills acquisition

Students selected for this program were those that had shown commitment in attending the tutorial classes during the offline and the online classes. Out of the 30 students we contacted to sign up, 21 of them were able to participate. Dipo Dele David, Benita Bulley, Onotu Andah and Grace Kagho were the facilitators for the program. Saturday, the first day was focused on the first four courses and Skill acquisition was done on Sunday. While this was a mini version

of our usual summer program, we believe it was worth having it as our students were able to gain useful tips and preparation before resuming school. Find full details of the program [here](#).

STUDENT in TRAINING (SiT) SCHEME

We started a new program this year where we combined our scholarship and mentoring program under the same umbrella: SiT, with a goal to mentor selected exemplary students in their chosen career path. This is done through personalized tutoring, career counselling, physical and mental health coaching, skill training, engagement in internships and projects. For an initial testing of the SiT concept, we enrolled 3 more students to join the program in addition to our 3 scholarship students. We hired an Academic Coordinator whose role is to manage paid tutors to ensure personalized training and study reviews, as well as monitor student progress to ensure achievement of each students' individual academic goals for the year. Our goal is to ensure our PYP scholars become the best version of themselves and are equipped with all they need to achieve their goals. An example to many and a model of our 360Education Scheme.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This year we had three key partners, two of which have been our long-term partners, Anchorage Field Schools and Emmanuel's Bookstore. Anchorage Field Schools partnered with us for lesson venue provision and scholarships. Emmanuel's bookstore supplied us with preparatory textbooks and other stationery at subsidized rates. During the children's day outreach, the Anglican Church of Pentecost provided PYP with their venue for use. We are grateful for their support and look for many other opportunities to collaborate in the near future. We would also like to thank all our amazing sponsors and volunteers who provided financial and participatory support in our programs. Though 2020 was not filled with as many activities as we had planned, we look forward to doing more and building many more strategic and powerful partnerships in 2021.

Points of improvement

We are working to formalize our sponsorship scheme to make the process of partnering with us for impact to be more mutually beneficial and impactful.

CONCLUSION

It was such a wonderful time with the 2020 set of PYP kids, despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still in awe that regardless of all the challenges faced, positive impact was made in the lives of many children in Festac town. We hope all we have

taught them becomes a good part of them and helps them in making informed decisions even as they grow into adulthood!

We appreciate all our partners, sponsors, volunteers and volunteer facilitators who make it possible for us to serve a need in our community. Thank you for believing in us by contributing towards making such a positive impact in the lives of these students. We look forward to many more years of IMPACT! We are most thankful to Almighty God for a successful completion of another PYP year.

Join us once again, in 2021, as we make an impact in the lives of public school students in Festac town, we love you!

For more information on all our activities, please check our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram or check our website for a complete report on all our projects for the year 2020, follow us on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/powerfullyoungproject

Instagram: @ pyp_kids

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw1hG_78PgvSwseFXLK3TyQ

We love feedback. Reach out to us through our social media pages and [website](#).

