

Ghana Photography Workshop

Saturday, April 16, 2008

Team Work (Benjamin Mills Lamptey, Patience Dzormeko and Akofa Anyidoho)

The group led by, Guilhem Alandry, were sent out to interview several female students about themselves with regards to their educational pursuits, comparing theirs with their mothers and grandmothers. This was to gauge their own conceptualization of empowerment in the areas of education and what it means to them. 5 interviews took place with 6 people; one of the interviews with twins. Below is the write up from each interview. All the interviewees are students from the University of Ghana, Legon, except Martha Kwami.

Interview 1:



I am **Martha Kwami**, 26 years old. I went to school up to the J.S.S. level (that is **Martha** only has the basic level school education qualification). I could not continue with my education because my father died about that time. My mother also couldn't help me because she washes for people, thus her income wasn't sufficient to take care of me and my siblings. My mother did not go to school neither did my grandmother.

After my junior level education, my church helped me to raise funds to start my small trading business. I live with my mum. With my level of education, I've achieved more than my mother and grandmother. I have other siblings who are still in school; my younger brother is yet to go to the senior secondary school and the others are in the primary level. I fell sick at age 10 which affected one of my hands and I'm unable to work with it.

Although the doctors were not able to save **Martha's** hand, she is self-employed, selling food supplies and kerosene at home.

Interview 2:



Aurelia and **Audelia** (twins), are 23 years, final year undergrad students at the University. One is pursuing a major Psychology, envisioning herself to be a Clinical Psychologist while the other is pursuing a different programme.

According to them, their mother's formal education stopped after she completed secretarial school. However, she is a staff at the University. In terms of education, they said they are higher than their mother and their mother is higher than their grandmother. Yet there is a cordial relationship between these differing generational women at home.

Aurelia and **Audelia**, people have their different views of how they see things which influences their active involvement in decision making in the public sphere. "We are moving forward as a nation. Illiteracy was high in the olden days but now things have changed and a time will come when things will be better, all we have to do is to have the hope that things will get better." These were the assuring words the two lovely sisters gave us.

Interview 3:



We met **Priscilla** studying at a quiet corner in the post office building with her male colleague. We gently sought their permission to interrupt their studies for 5 minutes to interview **Priscilla** and take shots of her for our Photography workshop. With initial caution **Priscilla** consented to the interview and she turned out to be a

great model as well!

I'm **Priscilla**, 19 years and in studying level 100 Physical Science. My mother completed a commercial school, but my grandmother did not go to school at all. My grandmother is very traditional, my mum is more modernised than my grandmother and I'm much more modernised than my mum. I hope in the future, my children will also go higher and discover more than I will to become what they want to be. From the interview Priscilla's conception of educational empowerment has to do with 'modernization,' keeping up with the 'times'.

Priscilla is dead set on what she wants to be in the future: a geo-chemist. She chose this programme by researching careers options on the internet, way before she came to the University. No wonder her nose was stuck into her books when we met her.

Interview 4:



A 22-year old student of Nursing, **Eva** thinks the pursuit of education is a very stressful one. She believes in equal opportunities for both male and females in all fields of academia and as well as all aspects of life.

Eva's mother went to school up to the secondary school level but her grandmother has not been to school. Somehow, this educational difference, according to her doesn't adversely affect her relationship with her mother nor her grandmother, she says.

Interview 5:



Martha is 23 years old and a first year student, resident in Akuaffo (*Farmers'*) Hall. She is taking courses in Political Science, Information Studies and Religion, but hopes to major in Political Science in her final year with some concentration in evangelism/mission work alongside. Her mother's education level was up to

commercial college, often known as secretarial school. However, **Martha** doesn't know about her grandmother's educational pursuits, as it appears she doesn't know her.

Martha was in full praise of her mother who has had to raise 5 girls and one boy. She says, her mother has highly invested in her children's education and with this investment **Martha** intends to "come out successfully" from the University. "I believe I can make it," **Martha** kept saying. "I see myself as a BIG person in future. I don't belittle myself." Clearly, **Martha** is a self-motivated person climbing the ladder up in pursuit of empowerment.