

Quotes

"It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

"Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."
-Anonymous

The Right Of A Child

- *I have the right to life and a balanced healthy, physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.*
- *I am entitled to basic needs such as food, clothing and housing.*
- *I have the right to protection against all forms of exploitation, abuse, physical and psychological violence, including what happens in the family and in establishments that look after children.*

Rights as specified by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (1989) and OAU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1991).



Mrs. Nomthi Odukoya talking to children in one of the schools visited in Lagos State.

Mission:

Funda Wazi Foundation's mission is to develop child-friendly and relevant resources and tools that will assist children and adults to "learn and know" how to address the social challenges affecting children.

Editorial:

Thank you!!!

As we look back, we recognise that we have been blessed by God with faithful partners, donors and wonderful volunteers. We want to particularly thank the following corporate and individual donors:

No Left Overs Kitchen, Majesty Kitchen, Vent Kouture, Afrigrants Resources Limited, Allied Computers, Treasure House Schools, Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, Mrs. Koiki, Mrs. Yewande Zaccheus, Mrs. Stella Ohiani, Mr. Femi Ifaturoti, Barrister Taiwo Akinlami and Miss Mayokun Adeniji.

Funda Wazi Foundation newsletter is dedicated to all who have provided us support in form of resources and time. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

We look forward to your continued support to reduce the various social challenges affecting children by focusing on innovative and needed services which lay the foundation for children's growth and development and reduce the possibility of more serious problems from occurring in the future.

Join us to get to this expected end of joy and peace.

Support Funda Wazi Foundation

Join hands with us as we help to ensure that children are well equipped with information and tools to understand and cope through childhood, puberty and adolescence by protecting themselves.

Become a Funda Wazi partner!

Contact

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FundaWazi Foundation @fundawazi FundaWazi Foundation

Books written by Founder and Chairman of Funda Wazi Foundation: Mrs. Nomthi Odukoya



Now available @ Cross Books Bookstore
@ the Fountain of Life Church Ilupeju, Konga.COM
and Laterna Bookshop Victoria Island.



Newsletter

Unveiling Funda Wazi Foundation



Children at the Launch of Funda Wazi Foundation

for or avoidance of sex, poor academic performance, etc, are largely traceable to the mismanagement of childhood.

This is why equipping children, parents and caregivers with the information, resources and tools needed to foster development in a safe and conducive environment has become imperative. Recent statistics show that the world is becoming an increasingly unsafe space for children. According to a 2006 UN

report on violence against children:

- 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence in 2002.
- Estimates from Year 2000 suggest that 1.8 million children were forced into prostitution and pornography, and 1.2 million were victims of trafficking and child labour.

Studies suggest that the abuse of children often begins while the child is below the age of 10 years old and continues for years, well into a child's adolescence. Although most reported victims are girls, especially in single parent households, boys between the ages of 5-9 years old have also been shown to be at risk.

The formative years of children, which span the period from birth up to eight years of age, are critical to their overall development. During this stage the interaction of genetics, environment and experience combine to shape the cognitive, social, emotional and physical functions of a child. Children require the utmost attention from parents and caregivers particularly at this stage. Safe spaces must be intentionally created to not only nurture them, but to also forestall emotional neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and other negative interactions that can lead to irreversible impairments.

Dysfunctional adult behaviours like addictions, self-isolation, self-mutilation, mental illness, suicidal tendencies, avoidance of intimacy, compulsively seeking



A child reading from the book “No! don't touch me there”

In Nigeria, the scale of violence against children and child sexual abuse are difficult to determine because they are typically under-reported. However, existing reports indicate that approximately 760 cases of sexual assault have been recorded in two years with only two convictions in Lagos State.

In many cases, children are discouraged and intimidated from reporting, resulting in repeated cycles of abuse. Parents and guardians have also been known to discourage children from reporting due to stigmatisation and fear of being wrongly labelled. It therefore becomes important for children and adults to be properly equipped and empowered with the requisite knowledge and information they need to protect children and sustain the environment that allows them grow into their full potentials.

It is against this background that the Funda Wazi Foundation was founded in May 2015, to help provide a child-friendly environment for learning, and to promote educational development in children.

Funda Wazi, a Zulu term meaning “learn and know,” was founded by Mrs. Nomthi Odukoya, a seasoned child educator, author and pastor. The organisation is dedicated to deploying resources and tools to enable children, parents and caregivers understand and effectively address the growing social challenges facing children, primarily in Nigeria.

Since its inception in May 2015, the foundation has:

- Distributed free copies of its books and resources to primary schools within the Ilupeju axis of Lagos State.
- Organised talks and fora where key stakeholders were brought together to address critical issues affecting children.
- Enlisted the support of parents and teachers, who through the Foundation's efforts have become more aware of effects of child abuse, to help champion the rights of children in the community.



Founder/Chairman of the Foundation, Mrs. Nomthi Odukoya, Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, Members of Board of Trustee and Ambassadors



The Foundation presenting free books to schools in Lagos State to mark Nigeria's 55th Independence Anniversary.

These interventions have continued to empower children, parents and caregivers alike to create and sustain the requisite safe spaces children need to develop, with outstanding testimonies emanating from homes, schools, churches and communities. But there is still so much ground to cover.

The physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and other forms of social challenges are still prevalent in our society. The Funda Wazi Foundation seeks to close the gap through:

- The distribution of more books, materials and tools that will serve as 'conversation starters' for children and adults on difficult topics.
- The organisation of more fora that will bring key stakeholders together to address critical issues affecting children.
- The carrying out of informed advocacy to influence policies, practices and processes that affect children.
- Using social media platforms to inform the public on topical issues affecting children.
- Building the capacity of stakeholders to use resources to address challenges facing children.

- Building partnerships and collaborations with other NGOs, government agencies and bilateral and multilateral organisations.
- Carrying out empirical research on issues affecting children's social, emotional and physical well-being.

The foundation, in the near future, also intends to focus on the following areas:

- Operating affordable community-based crèches in underprivileged urban communities.
- Influencing policies and processes that affect Funda Wazi's focus areas.
- Offering hope, encouragement and practical advice to children and women who have been abused, as well as providing answers to some vital questions.

Did You Know?

Nigeria's Senate passed a bill in 2015 that approved life imprisonment for rapists and those who have sex with children under 11 years old. The legislation could help build a stronger law against sexual crimes in the West African country where scores of women and children are subject to rape and sexual violence.

The bill included various sentences and fines for other sexual offenses such as incest, child pornography, sexual tourism, gang rape, sexual harassment, prostitution of mentally disabled persons, lacing drinks with drugs with intent to sexually abuse, and deliberately infecting someone with HIV and other diseases. The bill also mandated the storing of names of sex offenders in a database.

EVENTS

Pep Talk at FISD Summer School



Ade and Ada with the children at 2015 FISD Children Summer School.

In July 2015, the Funda Wazi Foundation partnered with the Fountain Initiative for Social Development

(FISD) to hold a pep talk for the children attending the Children Summer School. Issues bothering on sexual awareness, bullying and confidence building were discussed at the event. The children also had a swell time interacting and taking pictures with the two main characters - Ada and Ade – of the books No Don't Touch Me There, A Bully is Not a Hero and Help! They Are Fighting Again.

A Special Christmas with Funda Wazi

Children, along with teachers, had fun during the Funda Wazi Christmas party organised by the Foundation. Present at the party was the Chairman and Founder of the Foundation, Mrs. Nomthi Odukoya, to share the love of the Christmas season with the children and teachers. In her speech, Mrs Odukoya explained that children have a right to enjoy their childhood, to learn, play and grow, but pointed out that there are, however, certain societal factors that unfortunately work against this, hence the Foundation's continued resolve to contribute in creating conducive environments across the country for the growth and development of children. Gifts, drinks and food were presented to children and also the teachers at the event.



Sharing the Funda Wazi Christmas love with students of Army Children School, Oshodi Lagos in December 2015



School Bags presented to children at the Funda Wazi Christmas Party