



Paradigm Initiative Nigeria

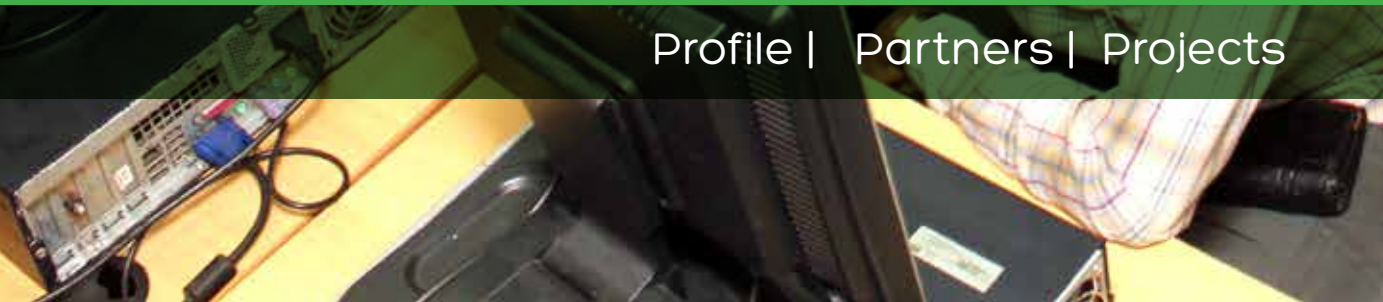
# ECHOES FROM AJEGUNLE

| *Inspiring stories from unlikely places* |



# PARADIGM INITIATIVE NIGERIA

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# Profile

Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) is a social enterprise that connects underserved Nigerian youth with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) opportunities; with specific concern about the ill effects of unemployment and cybercrime, among other vices that limit the potential contribution of young Nigerians to the nation's economy.

Having worked with government, civil society, private institutions and international organizations including United Nations agencies, PIN has worked in ICT education, telecenter support, ICT applications in rural areas, etc. PIN's projects include Ajegunle.org; Internet Safety, Security and Privacy Initiative for Nigeria (ISSPIN) and Techie. Entrepreneurial. Nigerian. Talented (TENT). PIN opened an ICT Policy Office in the Nigerian capital city of Abuja, in April 2013, to focus on Internet Freedom and other ICT Policy-related issues. With support from Rockefeller Foundation, PIN has commenced the replication of the Ajegunle.org model in North East and South East Nigeria.

PIN has strong competencies in ICT capacity building, research and reports. We have trained numerous non-profit organisations and educational institutions in the use of ICTs for Development, ICTs in Learning, Social Media, Website Maintenance and more. Over the past four years, PIN has trained over 200 NGOs and schools from 24 states across Nigeria on the use of ICTs for Development. We have also completed Social Media training/consulting, in-house capacity development and web/mobile development projects for various organisations.

Research assignments and reports completed include Research/Analysis on Nigerian Civil Society Involvement in the World Summit on the Information Society; Research on Youth Involvement in the African Information Society Space; Research on eAdvocacy and Technology Use by Civil Society in Nigeria; Research on Internet Activity during

Elections for the OpenNet Initiative (Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, Toronto Universities); Research on Possible Internet Censorship in Nigeria, for Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet & Society; Research on Digital Lifestyle of Connected Nigerians; Research on Internet Freedom in Nigeria; and Research on Social Media Use in Nigeria's 2011 Elections.

PIN's directors include **Prof. Pat Utomi (Chairman)**, **Dr. Seyi Adebayo-Olubi**, **Nick Jeckogian** and **'Gbenga Sesan (Executive Director)** and the organization was officially registered with the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission (with registration number CAC/IT/NO 30547), as Paradigm Initiative for Information Technology Development, on December 16, 2008.

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# Partners

Inspiring stories from unlikely places (from the Ajegunle.org project and other PIN projects) are made possible through the kind support of our board, staff, partners and volunteers including our programs' alumni. We thank you for your kind support, and look forward to working with you towards weaving more stories from Ajegunle, South East Nigeria, North East Nigeria, and many other communities!

- *234Give*
- *Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government*
- *Ashoka*
- *Citizen Lab*
- *CommonWealth Foundation*
- *Doran Foundation*
- *DHL Nigeria*
- *FATE Foundation*
- *Google*
- *Internews*
- *Korean Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion*
- *Lagos Innovation Council*
- *MainOne Cable Company*
- *Microsoft*
- *Phase3 Telecoms*
- *Peery Foundation*
- *Rockefeller Foundation*
- *Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship*
- *TVC Labs*
- *United States Embassy (Public Affairs Section)*
- *United Kingdom Trade & Investment*
- *United Kingdom (Deputy) High Commission*
- *University of Toronto*
- *World Bank Civil Society Fund*
- *World Economic Forum*

# Projects

THE AJEGUNLE.ORG PROJECT



## THE AJEGUNLE.ORG PROJECT

Ajgunle.org is a train-the-trainer capacity building initiative that uses to relay training model and positive peer pressure concept to transform a notorious slum in Nigeria, as a model intervention for other underserved communities. Following weeks of training in ICTs, the forty applicants (selected every quarter) are also trained on entrepreneurship and then matched with companies to compete internships or supported to pursue their entrepreneurial interests in order to transform their lives by giving them a chance to improve their livelihoods. These youth, who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to get a job are equipped with necessary skills and an opportunity to actually begin a career that may end in the pursuit of their entrepreneurial dreams or positions in the companies where they intern. PIN initiated a baseline study from May to July 2007, in which questionnaires from 242 respondents (chosen due to its notorious nature as Nigeria's most popular slum) were evaluated. The average age of respondents was 15 with a gender ratio of 1:1.

With a spread of occupations between 23 artisans, 24 undergraduates, 41 primary school students, 79 high school students, 39 non-specific students, 23 in transition between high school and university students and 10 with no stated occupation; we noticed 9% PC ownership rate, 44% computer literacy level, 100% with ICT learning challenges, 94% acknowledgement of ICT application importance and 87% with high expectations for ICT/Entrepreneurship training opportunities. With the extremely high unemployment rate, low entry barrier for the initiative and the opportunity to demonstrate the possibility of the model through Ajgunle, the idea was too exciting to be left unattended.

Unemployment is a major issue in Nigeria because of the continued dependence on existing jobs. The height of the vicious cycle is revealed in the fact that each year, millions of students graduate from high schools and colleges but only 10% of college graduates are able to get decent jobs. Underserved communities, such as Ajgunle, account for majority of these unemployed youth - many of who are involved in criminal

## THE AJEGUNLE.ORG PROJECT

activities and various vices such as cybercrime whose negative impact on the society are high. Focusing on combating unemployment in underserved areas is therefore deliberate because of the pressing need for an institution with adequate expertise. It has also been established that poverty, political instability and restiveness across Nigeria benefit from the increasing number of youth who have no daily goal owing to their unemployment status rising frustrations.

In the past, much of the problem has been left unattended because of the lack of a sustainable model that can allow actors reach out to areas where the youth cannot pay for services they may be offered. This major issue has been addressed through the Ajegune.org Project. Our approach provides a sustainable low-cost model that not only allows the participants access to training at no cost, it actually provides them an wholesome opportunity that includes capacity building, work placement, opportunity to give back and they are able to participate in the overall vision of improving the livelihoods within their own communities through the establishment of our community Innovation Centre.





## TENT: THE INTERVENTION



## TENT: THE INTERVENTION

With official figures from the Nigerian government on unemployment at 24.9% and a minister revealing that only 10% of graduates get decent jobs two years after graduation, we invite you to imagine the opportunity to reverse the trend of producing job seekers, and producing competent ready hands and employers of labour. Imagine what the best of today's young Nigerian code-spinners and ICT gurus-in-the-making – to who are exposed to the technical, business and leadership requirements of ICT innovation – can contribute to Nigeria's economy, technology businesses operating in Nigeria and the businesses that these young (wo)men build.

TENT, as PIN's response to this huge need, is based on analysis of the current circumstances and our team's experience with national and global best practices spanning a period of over 10 years – and over 30 countries. TENT is platform that showcases, connects, adds value and inspires. The platform fills an existing gap and will also provide a place where budding Nigerian technopreneurs can showcase their work, connect with resources, add value to market and inspire innovation, while building a sustainable business that they will run after graduation. TENT features an annual event, and also searches for unconnected tech enthusiasts who have the potential of building on globally accessible technology products or leading a new product development cycle for local companies.

PIN commenced hosting TENT Workshops across Nigeria in 2011 (Warri, May 2011), which continued through 2012 (Umuahia and Minna, Q3 2012) in preparation for a multi-day event, the annual TENT Gathering, which held December 10-12, 2012. The pilot TENT activity in the Computer Science department of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife Osun State, Nigeria fed into first annual TENT Gathering and provided a dedicated example of what young people can do with technology, especially under supportive conditions. The 5-year intervention program at Obafemi Awolowo University's Computer Science department has introduced Year 1 Computer Science/Engineering students (now in Year 3) to the concept of tech entrepreneurship, challenging them to start out with an idea they would love to implement as a full-time business by the time they graduate, connecting them to mentors (within and outside the campus environment), supporting qualifying participants with industry-specific

## TENT: THE INTERVENTION

Student Industrial Work experience Scheme (SIWES) placements and supporting them to complete their Final Year Project be based on the idea they started developing in Year 1. More universities are also signing up including the Lagos State University and the Benson Idahosa University in Benin City .

The annual TENT Gathering in 2013, a 3 day event which held in Lagos Nigeria had over 250 computer science/engineering students from over 15 tertiary institutions across Nigeria in attendance. TENT Workshops have held in 2014 in South East and South South Nigeria with over 20 schools represented and about 2 300 students reached. The TENT Workshops are planned host about 1,000 students per 2-day session, and with over 100 tertiary institutions across Nigeria, the workshops can reach a potential size of 100,000 students directly. The aim is to see about 100 students from our partner campuses also sign up for the 5-year intensive campus programs that will see students of Computer Science/Engineering develop focused skills that will enable them create innovative products for their businesses or corporations they can add value to upon graduation. The TENT@School Project will see us working with about 50,000 students across various tertiary institutions in Nigeria through the 2-day workshops and the long-term engagement with students.



## ICT POLICY INTERVENTION



## ICT POLICY INTERVENTION

PIN has worked with stakeholders including Microsoft, World Bank Civil Society Program, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the National Assembly and others, on policy advocacy concerning Internet Freedom and cybercrime. Activities completed with the stakeholders include roundtable discussions, public conferences, advocacy visits and the production of advocacy materials – including a music video featuring popular Nigerian artistes. PIN has also completed numerous research projects and published a number of articles including Internet Activity During Elections for the OpenNet Initiative partnership between Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford and Toronto universities (2007); Possible Internet Censorship in Nigeria, for Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet & Society (2008), Security Spending for Telecommunication and Cyber Security Sectors in Nigeria, Ghana and Egypt (2009), Social Media Use in Nigeria's 2011 Elections (2011), and Internet Freedom in Nigeria (2010 to date).

PIN opened an ICT Policy Office in the Nigerian capital city of Abuja, in April 2013, to focus on Internet Freedom and other ICT Policy-related issues. With Support from organizations such as Internews, Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and Google, our ICT Policy work as gone from discussions to on-the-ground action. From releasing Policy Briefs (most recent was released in December 2013) to advocacy, co-hosting online discussions, training other non-profits and engaging stakeholders to draft an Internet Freedom Declaration for Nigeria, PIN is working hard to ensure that the Internet remains free and open in Nigeria.



Recent events are the south-south PIN Internet Policy Training (March 2014), Digital Broadcasting Roundtable in partnership with Association of Progressive Communication (APC) and Open Society Initiatives (OSI) (18th February, 2014, at the Sheraton Hotels & Towers, Lagos), as well as being on the Cybercrime Panel during the AITEC Africa Conference (March 2014).

PIN seeks to continue our work around Internet freedom in Nigeria by engaging traditional and new media for a campaign on Internet freedom in order to gain attention of citizens on the current state of affairs. Through a media plan, we aim to increase the awareness of Internet freedom by participating in segments of popular radio programs, buying airtime for jingles on radio station, hosting weekly social media conversations.



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from unlikely places



ECHOES FROM  
AJEGUNLE



# Abolanle

*Abolanle Jimoh, fondly called Bola by friends and family came across PIN in 2011 through her sister's friend. She wanted very much to learn how to use a computer and had been to a couple of computer schools but the fees were too high for her to afford. "The cheapest I found was about N10 000.00 and I did try to raise the money, but before I could raise up to a quarter of the money, a pressing family need took it away and I had to give up my dream for a while." She explained.*



## ABOLANLE JIMOH

When she heard about the Ajegunle.org and the opportunities, she immediately quit her job as a sales representative. By the time she completed her 6 weeks ICT training, Bola was a completely different person. "Just having to introduce myself to the class a couple of times and having to work with my peers to complete assignments took a great deal of my shyness away." She testified. "Besides, I had the opportunity of meeting lots of important people who volunteer for or partner with PIN in the course of my training. I couldn't believe the access I had. I had to engage them."

One of those engagements was with the Nkem Uwaje; CEO futuresoft who volunteers with PIN. Nkem and her siblings put Bola through a reputable catering college after her training, having expressed serious interest in the art and business. Since then, she has been able to live her dream. Her first job was as an assistant chef at the Beachland Boatclub. After a year, she moved on to The Avenue Suites in Victoria Island Lagos. "I am always comfortable and confident at interviews because in addition to using computers, I learnt boldness through the practical life-skills training and a great deal of exposure which my background didn't afford me. My interview with The Avenue Suites was more like a talk show; everyone was comfortable and laughing; especially me because I now earn more than I ever dream. I am a very happy person."

She concludes, and she attributes her new found confidence, feistiness and more importantly improved livelihood to the skills she picked up at PIN.





# Agodichi

*When his father died, all his dreams concerning education and a bright future seemed to die with him. But everything changed on a fateful Saturday while taking extra classes in preparation for his final high school exams. His teacher introduced the class to PIN, a non-governmental organization that enables young under-privileged Nigerians acquire ICT skills; free.*

## AGODICHI AGWU

At first he couldn't believe his luck. He found the PIN office, made his enquiries and picked up the form. When the training begun, he was shocked to find out it came with Life-Skills and Entrepreneurship training as well as internship placements! He was however more interested in running his own business than gaining an internship placement, so he paid rapt attention to the entrepreneurship training.

"One thing the ICT classes opened my eyes to was the fact that that I could start a business without any capital! I could sell my skills! Following the training on the use of the internet, I found a cyber-cafe and I started researching on how to configure phones for browsing. When I had completed my research, I walked up to people in my compound and started asking to configure their phones for a sum of N300.00 each. Then I moved on to my street. After earning some money, I went to train on how to repair phones as an added skill."

Recently Agwu planned a capacity building program for his pairs tagged 'Equip Ajegunle' through which he passed on the ICT skills he had learnt during his training and also taught trained them on how to configure devices for browsing. "I want many young people in this community to have skills that enable them earn some money and fulfill their dreams just as PIN has helped me fulfill mine. Now I can save to go to school and learn to be a software engineer." he says .





# James

*Alawa James roamed the streets like many other teenagers following his secondary education. "I always had a big question on my mind. What is my purpose in life, and how do I achieve it?"*

*When he heard of the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org) program through his elder brother; he knew within himself that his question was answered. "I just knew that in such an environment, I would find my way."*

## JAMES ALAWA

After the ICT training and Entrepreneurship Classes, we were introduced to an opportunity to attend the AUDAX CODE SCHOOL and I was selected! In AUDAX CODE SCHOOL I began to learn programming languages, and I stopped asking about my purpose because I loved programming and I knew that the Ajegunle.org training had opened a way for me to achieve my dreams!”

James now thinks differently than before, and seizes every opportunity to earn using the skills he is acquiring; no matter how little.” He hopes to go to University to further hone his IT Skills and he one day hopes to earn as a distinguished web developer.





# Azeez

*Azeez walked into the facility with unbuttoned shirt, spoke roughly and looked every bit a typical street boy. But he had one thing going for him – he wanted very badly to learn. Born into a family with three surviving children of several, he is the last of them.*

*He readily admits that even within the Ajegunle slum, his family is still considered among the poorest. “My attending primary and secondary school was sheer miracle when you consider the financial status of my family. To crown it all, my father was unwilling.”*

# AZEEZ SALAM

When he finished from the secondary school in 2012, Azeez was prepared to work anywhere just to keep him off the streets. "I worked hard at menial jobs and I had a hope that one day I would find that door that will lead me to a world of achievements." That door opened in the same year for Azeez. A friend told him about the Ajegune.org Program. In Azeez's own words, "Discovering the Ajegunle Innovation Centre in such an infamous place as Ajegunle believed to be the home of hooliganism and juvenile children was the biggest turning point of my life."

"After my training, PIN displayed such confidence in me as to send me to DHL Nigeria as an intern. I had to build confidence in what I had learnt and in myself." Azeez continued. Azeez worked with DHL for six months. In these few months, he was able to take some of his friends off the streets and introduce them to the Ajegunle.org training. He used to be one of the most popular street boys in his environment and had his own following. When he completed his training and a small graduation ceremony was held during a community town hall meeting organized by PIN, Azeez's previously 'uninterested' Father was present. "I am transformed." Azeez says proudly, explaining his father's sudden interest. "I speak better. I now share ideas with my managers at work. My friends see I have become a person of dignity and I can now hold my head up high."

Since leaving DHL, Azeez has taken entrance exams into the university and also gotten a part time job. He hopes to start seeing himself through university very soon.





# Christiana

*Christianah stayed home every day after her final secondary school examination and watched movies. "I had no idea what I wanted to do." She said. A friend of hers introduced her to the program and persuaded her to learn computer skills even if she wasn't really keen on it. In her friend's reasoning, learning was better than staying home and watching movies. When she was told she had to go through interviews, she was scared and almost gave up.*

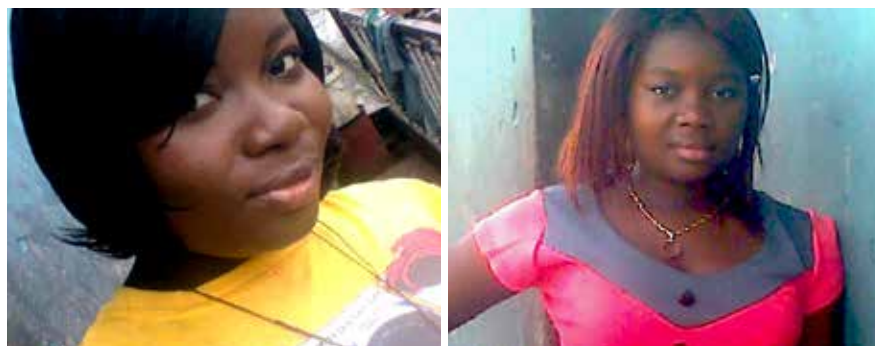


# CHRISTIANA CHIAMAKA UBAH

"I didn't know anything about computers. I didn't even know if I was interested in learning. But eventually I made up my mind to give it my best shot. It wasn't bad after all." Nevertheless, she was both surprised and happy when she was selected. "We were up to 50 who were interviewed, only 20 of us were selected and I made the list!"

Christianah found the experience really eye opening. "Almost every day, a special person came to our training to volunteer. That was how I met Ms. Ify Nonyelu, MD Gina Consulting. After my training, I started interning with Ms. Nonyelu as an administrative assistant. My work involved extensive use of Microsoft Office Packages and the Internet. I earned good money and dressed up like an executive every morning at my young age. My family was very proud."

Christianah moved on to another job as a sales manager after internship. "PIN taught me that I can achieve my goals. I am now preparing hard for school." She said. Christianah volunteers for PIN on a consistent basis, taking part actively in community awareness programs focused on secondary schools in Ajegunle.





# Damilola

*She was offered a free form to register for the [Ajegune.org](http://Ajegune.org) training by a young man in the community who she looked up to; Michael Alabi. Michael purchased the N500.00 form for her after she participated in and won the essay competition organized by his 'FutureCity Project,' a project seeking to inspire young people to increased productivity.*

# DAMILOLA OMOTOSHO

BeforeAjegunle.org, Damilola wasn't entirely new to computers but she could not use any package productively. "I didn't really know how to work with the computer." She said. The training not only taught her to use Microsoft productivity tools, she also learnt to how to write a business plan and carry on with her own business. Following training, she began to implement her business plan as a beautician.

Only two months into her new business, she got an internship placement with Gina Consulting where she worked as a front desk officer. "The greatest thing about my internship experience was that my boss, the MD Ms. Nonyelu was open and genuinely interested in our development and I learnt a great deal from her and also from my co-workers."

Like many of her peers, Damilola passed entrance examinations into the university shortly after her internship and has now been admitted into Nigeria's first established university, the University of Ibadan to study law. "The training helped me to discover myself. I like research, I speak well and I love to help people. My business plan is my financial plan to see myself through school. I would have many of my friends & several students as customers." She finished excitedly.





# Daniel

*Daniel Mawuyon Emmanuel lived miles away from the Ajegunle Innovation Centre but he was willing to pay any price to be part of the training. He had carefully tucked away a handbill a friend had given him while in the secondary school containing details of the Ajegunle.org Capacity Building Program. "I was very excited and could hardly wait to attend the training. I didn't know anything about how to use a computer. All I know about computers is that they come with a monitor, mouse and a keyboard."*




## DANIEL MAWUYON EMMANUEL

He purchased the form the following Monday after his final exams. "When I was told only 20 people would be selected, I panicked and was sad. I didn't know if I would make it. The day I received the good news I had been selected was one of the happiest in my life."

Daniel soon lost all trepidation about learning to use a computer and settled into the experience of his life. "I enjoyed all the classes especially the ones on the use of the internet and the ones on design. I also enjoyed our entrepreneurship and life-skills cases very much."

Daniel now teaches others how to use Microsoft productivity tools. "I am eager to pass on the knowledge to others who are in the position I was in and teaching others is a sure way of improving my skills." He explained. He focuses on teaching children, and has taught up to five children living in the same neighborhood as he as well as two of his friends. "I want to start earning some money from this soon, as soon as my practice is good enough." Daniel wants to become an Electrical Electronics Engineer in future.





# Ebitimi

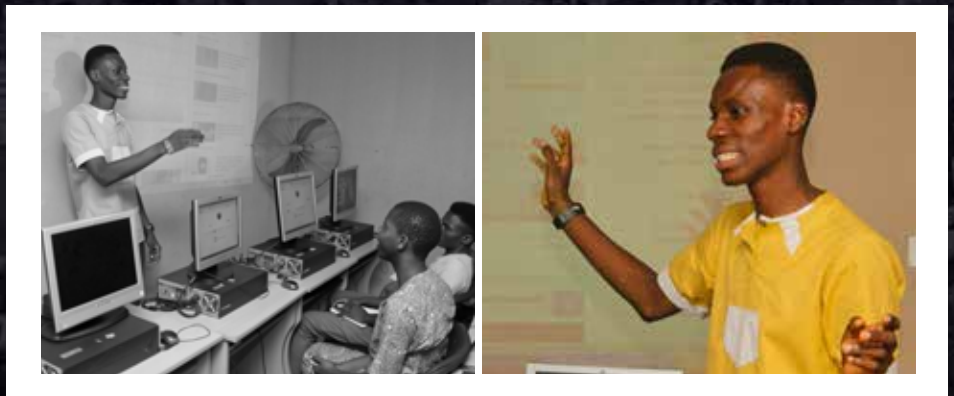
*The year 2012 was a difficult one for Joshua. He had just graduated from secondary school and needed money for the university entrance examination form. His parents were unfortunately unable to provide this, despite his deep passion for education. In order to obtain the university entrance examination form, he began to work in a soap making factory earning about N600 a day*

## EBITIMI JOSHUA

After two weeks, Joshua became sick from the toxic substances used in the production of the soap and had to resign. He picked up another menial job with a food factory, 'Leventis Foods' where he would be required to work three months before he could earn enough to make the fees for the examination registration.

Then an uncle came across the Ajegunle.org projects and purchased forms for Joshua and his brother. "I gave the interview my all. I was determined to get in because I believed learning ICT skills would change my luck forever." He got in. According to Joshua, "The training restored my self-esteem. I sat in a conducive environment and used my brain instead of slaving out myself at jobs that made me sick."

After his training, Joshua interned at the commercial section of the British Deputy High Commission. He earned well, now has an improved livelihood and his favorite pastime is volunteering with PIN. He has since taken the University entrance examinations and hopes to be admitted to study computer science.





# Sabastine

*Sabastine heard about the Ajeunle.org program after his secondary education at the age of 18. This was in 2013. Before this time, he knew nothing of the use of computers.*

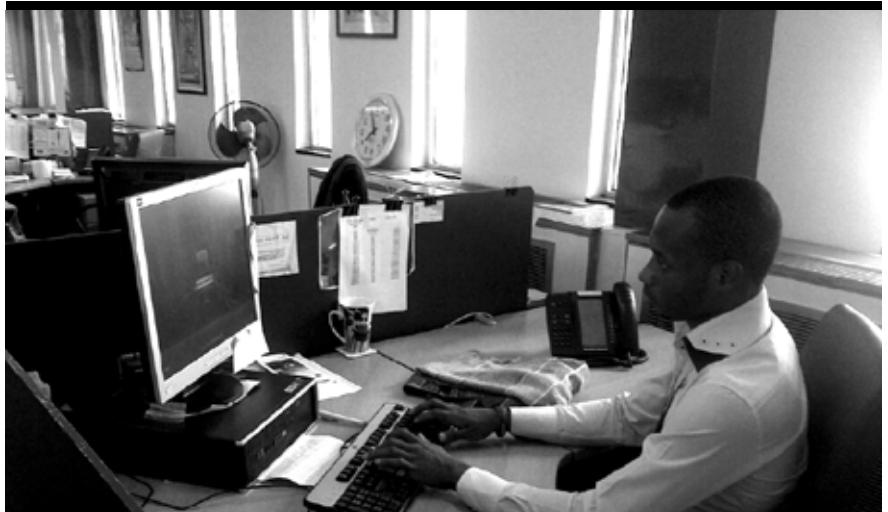
*Now he interns with the UK Trade and Investment of the British Deputy High Commission following his training with the Ajeunle.org Project. "The Microsoft productivity tools I learnt to use are the tools I now work with and it is exciting."*



## SABASTINE EMMANUEL

One thing that has stood out for Emmanuel is his experience at interviews before he got the job. "We were six of us sent to the Deputy British High Commission for interviews. Everything I has learnt in my training helped me, including life-skills such as being confident and communicating effectively."

Like the rest of his peers, Sabastine is grateful not only to have learnt basic ICT skills but to have been introduced to a new world of opportunities. "PIN supports their alumni, and they are still involved with us. I still have to send monthly reports and 10% of my earnings for six months to support the project. This makes me want to be loyal to be a good ambassador of the project always." Sabastine hopes to further his education to the university following his internship.





# Godswill

*He was planning to enroll at a computer training center in the month of April 2013 when his Dad informed him one evening about the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org) program. His father had gotten information from a relative he ran into on his way from work.*

*Before this time, Godswill had lost a job opportunity he thought could have been life changing due to his inability to use the Microsoft Excel package, so you can imagine his determination to learn.*

## GODSWILL NWOSU

"The four weeks of ICT training was an experience for me. Then this was followed by three weeks of training by industry experts who volunteer with PIN on entrepreneurship and life-skills. This was to me like an MBA program for teens."

For Godswill, his training changed everything. His life-long dream to be a social entrepreneur is well underway and following his training, he began work on his own social enterprise which he calls 'Life-Torch Platform.' "I feel ready to face the challenges of entrepreneurship," he says. "I have organized several empowerment programs including workshops and trainings focused on leadership in my church and other churches for young people. I get invitations to speak. Some of the partners we now work with include Christian Association of NIGERIA (Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area), The High Chief (Balogun) Amukoko Community, Head (Baale) Badia Community, Masora Computer College, and African Minds (an NGO) among others."

Godswill is currently interning with the British Deputy High Commission where he works as a Personal Assistant to the Director of UK Trade & Investment and also manages the Business Group Meetings.

"All this is made possible for me because PIN works hard to give hope to young people in my community." He says passionately. "This is great inspiration for me."



A young man with short dark hair, wearing a light pink long-sleeved button-down shirt, is seated and speaking to a group of people. He is gesturing with his right arm towards the right side of the frame. The audience consists of several people, mostly men, seen from behind or in profile, seated in white plastic chairs. The room has walls made of mud or clay, with some wooden beams visible. The lighting is warm and indoor.

# Tochukwu

*James always wanted to be a mechanical engineer, but the path to this dream was never clear. As a matter of fact, he got really mixed up along the way. "As a thirteen year old, I had started attending meetings convened by a non-profit organization working with young people in my community on sexual health education. I think I was too young for all the information I was exposed to because I got really confused. I avoided the opposite sex and developed inferiority complex. Then I dropped my mechanical engineer ambition for wanting to be a 'motivational speaker' like the various speakers who came to 'motivate' us."*

## JAMES TOCHUKWU OSUAGWU

After his graduation from secondary school, James wanted to start earning but he did not get any job, so he decided for the Ajegunle.org Capacity Building Program. His account of the interview experience was really interesting. "I was really messed up, but I didn't know better. I entered the room without knocking, dragged the chair and it screeched in everyone's ears and I sat down without greeting anyone. When I was corrected, I felt great pity for myself. I just didn't know anything about etiquettes. When I was asked, 'Where do you want to be in the next five years?' I just blabbed. It was the hardest question I had faced in my life."

James was admitted into the program but he wasn't even comfortable with the environment or with his peers. He suffered from great inferiority complex. But somehow, he was made representative of his class as the program officer saw potential in him. This was the beginning of great change. "The Ajegunle.org training straightened me out." He said. "With time, I began to develop confidence and socially acceptable behaviours. I had to speak in front of my class several times and I improved each time. I met with people and we even went on excursion to the CChub to meet with other young people doing great things with technology. PIN has afforded me great exposure and this has built a determination in me never to be poor."

James got a job soon after his training. He worked in a tutorial center for kids in higher classes from elementary schools at first. Then he got a job as a teacher in a proper school. "The proprietor was so impressed with the reforms I introduced and how I train and encourage students to use technology that he made me the temporary head-teacher when the head-teacher resigned. Ajegunle.Org really changed everything for me."

James is taking examinations to gain entrance into the university. "I still want to be an engineer but I don't also think it hampers my drive to teach. I would really like to impact young people like myself someday like PIN has done for me."



# John

*Prior to his participating in the program, John used the internet as a tool for learning and research. That's how he came across the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org) capacity building program. After secondary education, John had picked up a job as a primary school teacher but he was willing to give up much needed extra income in order to acquire the training. "It was just too good to be free but it really and truly was." He said*

# JOHN MADUFORO

John loves technology and enjoyed the ICT classes the most. "The entrepreneurship classes set me on the part of thinking about technology entrepreneurship. I want to turn my ideas into technology products that are globally accessible and economically viable."

John recently was placed on internship with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the commercial section of the British Deputy High Commission. He is also working with some of his peers to realize a project for secondary schools focused improving the learning experience through technology. John volunteers with PIN to retrain subsequent sets of trainees. He has also taken part in the Google web academy, a program which also runs at the Ajegunle Innovation Centre and has taken part in Mapping projects in Ajegunle.

In five years, John wants to own his company providing IT solutions to businesses and individuals.





# Kingsley

*As a 19 year old, Kingsley had formed a mindset that life was really unfair. He roamed round several months after his secondary education searching for a job to no avail. His idleness and inability to earn much needed support for himself and his family were really getting to him at the time he heard about the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org). He was sarcastic. "I actually laughed when he told me." Kingsley said. "It sounded all too good to be true and I did not want to set myself up for any disappointments."*



# KINGSLEY OKAFOR

But his friend persisted in explanation until Kingsley agreed to give it a shot. He came to the center and picked up the form. "It happened to be the best decision of my life," Kingsley says.

Following his training, Kingsley got a job, with the British Deputy High Commission! He couldn't believe his luck. "I was searching for a menial job. I did not ever stand a chance because even university graduates with masters degrees do not get this kinds of jobs in Nigeria unfortunately, but the Ajegunle.org Capacity Building program prepared me."

Kingsley is grateful to be able to support his family and he now sees such greatness that he previously thought impossible in his future. "I am saving to go to school. The Ajegunle.org program has opened up a new vista for me."





# Obinna

*"The first time I came across the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org) program was in 2010 through a friend. We both applied but none of us was picked. The competition was stiff. Spaces were very limited." says Obinna reminiscing about his journey with the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org) Capacity Building Program.*

*Following his failed attempt at entry exams into the university, he picked up a teaching job with a nursery school. The university entrance exams cost money, and the reality of many young people living in [Ajegunle](http://Ajegunle.org) is that they have to raise the money for these exams on their own, even pay their way through school .*

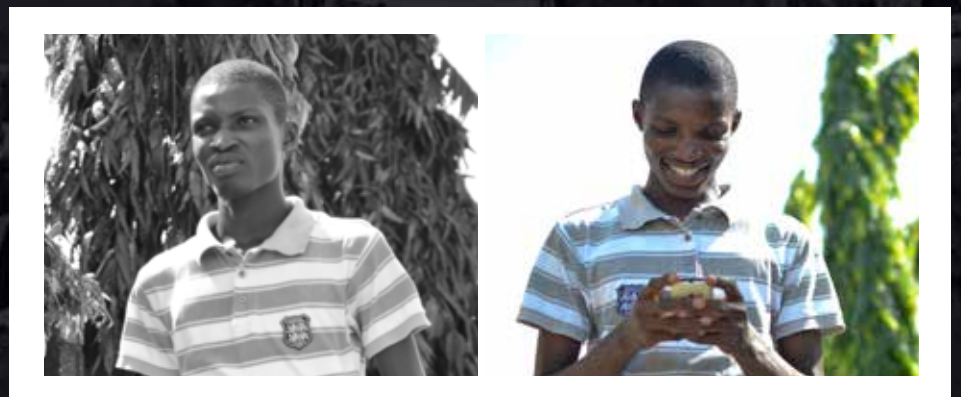
# OBINNA ORIAKU

In 2012, another friend who had gone through the Ajegunle.org training in 2011 encouraged him to try again. This time he was picked.

“It was one of the happiest days of my life when I was picked. I had tried in vain for five years to go to the university. I knew it would be now a new beginning for me.”

Obinna was fascinated with Microsoft Office Packages and how he could use them to improve his classroom experience with the pupils in the school where he taught. Other skills he picked at the program which he now finds really useful is how to work with a team, how to write a business plan and also interpersonal relations. “I find that I am no longer so angry all the time.” He says. “Now people can offend me and I can let it pass.” Hope really does a lot for the mind of any deprived young man or woman.

“Education is a passion for me. I want to be one of the renowned educators in this country someday.” He says. After his training, Obinna got a much better teaching job with a reputable school because of his newly acquired ICT skills, and is now studying at a College of Education on a part time basis. “One day I would be a professor of education management, maybe even the minister of education and I will do everything to improve IT education in Nigeria.” He says with a smile. “Ajegunle.org training has set me again on the path of my dreams.”





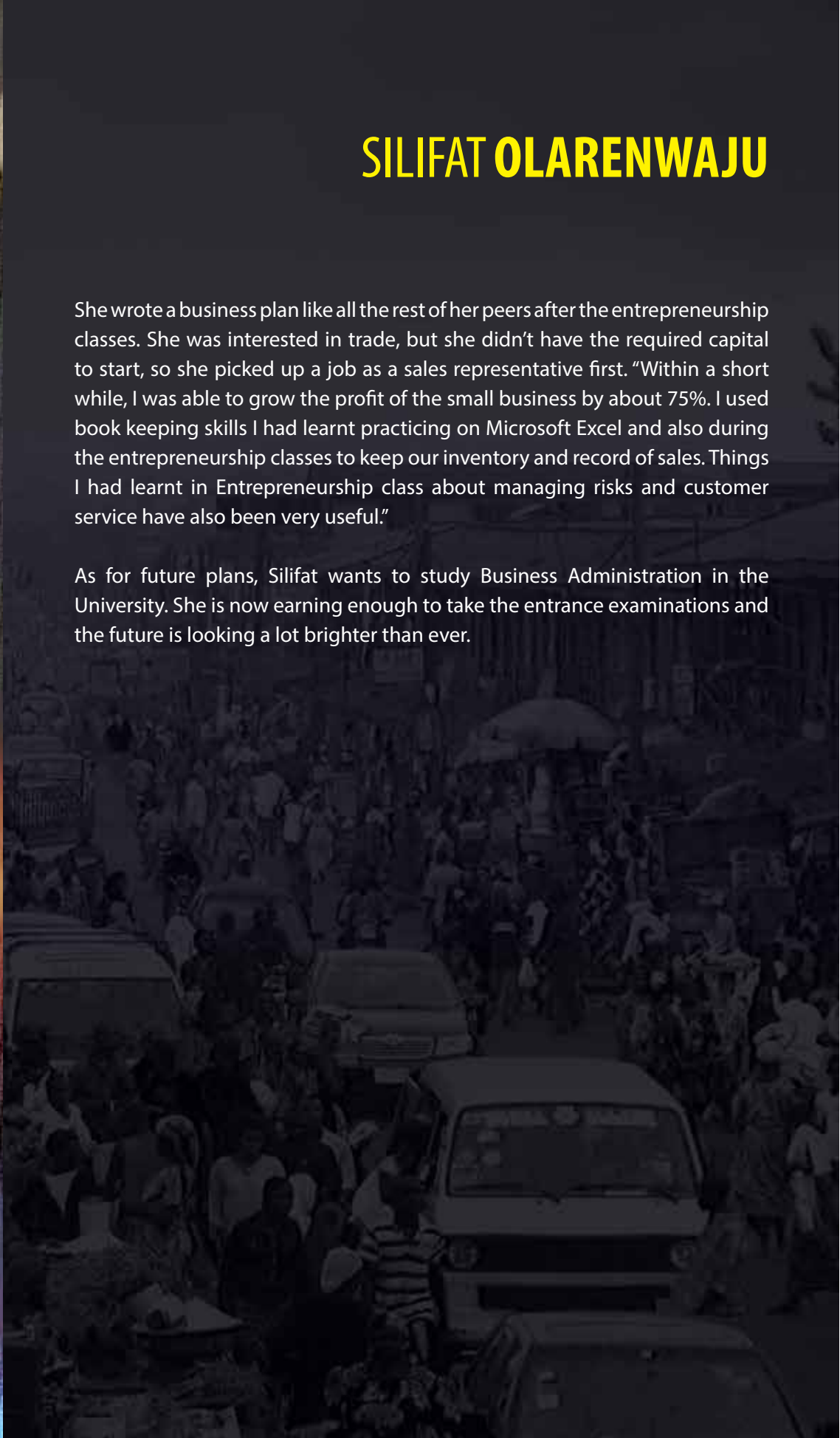
# Silifat

*Silifat is reticent and shy but she had a deep desire to help her community all the same. Through the [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org) Capacity Building Program, she found she that she could do this without necessarily changing her personality. "I just needed to believe in myself. Acquiring ICT Skills from such persons who volunteered with PIN and in highly equipped and conducive facility did a lot to boost my self-esteem. PIN did a great work on me." She said.*

# SILIFAT OLARENWAJU

She wrote a business plan like all the rest of her peers after the entrepreneurship classes. She was interested in trade, but she didn't have the required capital to start, so she picked up a job as a sales representative first. "Within a short while, I was able to grow the profit of the small business by about 75%. I used book keeping skills I had learnt practicing on Microsoft Excel and also during the entrepreneurship classes to keep our inventory and record of sales. Things I had learnt in Entrepreneurship class about managing risks and customer service have also been very useful."

As for future plans, Silifat wants to study Business Administration in the University. She is now earning enough to take the entrance examinations and the future is looking a lot brighter than ever.



A close-up portrait of a young Black woman with short, dark hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue sweater with a red and white argyle pattern on the shoulder. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of green foliage.

Ruth

*Kemi Ruth heard about Ajegunle.org from a friend who is an alumnus of the program. She obtained the form straight away. Before this, she had been assisting her mother with petty trade and did not know the first thing about computers, had never been privileged to use one.*

## RUTH KEMI OYEDELE

“The interview was a harrowing experience. I thought the questions were never going to end and I did not think I was doing well. When one of my interviewers said to me; “Ruth you’ve not really say anything that will make me pick you,” I started crying. I thought I was disqualified.”

Some days after that, she received a message that she had been selected. Her joy knew no bounds. Kemi Ruth learnt easily and quickly how to use Microsoft Office Packages, How to use the Internet but found the design packages a little difficult. She also enjoyed the entrepreneurship and life-skills training. Her business plan was focused on catering services.

“I advertise my services online and through social media. I meet people and they order my services.” She says excitedly. “I believe that has made a huge difference in my business and set me apart from the regular.”

Looking into the future, Kemi Ruth wants to go to a catering school. For now I am reading online, researching and learning all I can about business. She believes the seven weeks of training has been the most significant period of her life so far.





*Tobi*

*Oluwatobi Taiwo got to know about Paradigm Initiative Nigeria through a friend. She joined the 2014A class. She immersed herself completely in the entrepreneurship classes. "I enjoyed the ICT classes, but I always wanted to do business. My mum always said no to the idea of me running a business of my own, that I was too young.*



# OLUWATOBI TAIWO

But the Ajegunle.org capacity building program gave me exactly what I needed, I learnt how to write a business idea, how to brand and market my business and more. By the time the training was over, I felt 'old' enough to start."

"A month after the Program I started working on my business idea. I called it Tobique Liquid Soap." Tobique multipurpose liquid soap is designed for washing dishes, kitchen surfaces, zincs and tubs. What inspired her to start the business is a desire to independent of her parents and be able to provide for herself. "I feel like I should do something to support myself and not bother them with every little thing."

She started the business with just N5000.00. In two days of putting my product in the market I made back my initial capital of N5 000.00. "Just two days!" she said excitedly. Tobie's face is aglow when she talks about her business and how much she now is now empowered. "I am able to support myself and live my dreams, all thanks to the PIN program." She says.



A close-up portrait of a young Black woman with her hair styled in braids. She is wearing large, ornate star-shaped earrings and a leopard print top. She has a warm, smiling expression.

# Deborah

*She saw the flier advertising the Capacity Building Program one fateful Sunday at a meeting for young people. The very next day, she found her way to the office. She had an in depth conversation with the program officer. "After picking up my form, Mr. Tosin said to me; 'I believe in you and I know you will go far.' That really impacted me. I knew I could not afford to fail him. I was going to put everything I had into the training. This was 8th October 2012."*

## DEBORAH DANIA

“Mr Tosin kept encouraging me to seize every opportunity. I make a delicious drink from ‘zobo’ leaves by just adding fruits and a bit of ginger. I started to sell my drinks to my friends after the classes and soon some members of staff began to patronize me. When we were told we would write a business plan, my zobo drink was automatically my business plan.”

Debbie now volunteers with the Ajegunle.org Capacity Building Program, it comes naturally to her to instruct others in how use Microsoft Packages to keep records for their business or encourage youth to make the most of their time. Her drink is packaged as DEBBIES EXOTIC ZOBO and it is made with fruits and it is sugar-free. Young Deborah makes and sells a natural drink with health benefits.

In five years, she sees herself as being a graduate in business administration and a mentor to young girls in business. “PIN has given me a lot and I desire to give back.” She says.

