

SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

**AT CHAPEL SECONDARY SCHOOL,
TANKER ROAD, ILORIN, KWARA STATE,
NGERIA**

On 27th Jan, 2022

Sponsored by the



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SUMMARY

Dr Daodu Oluwafemi was awarded an outreach grant of £1000 by the Biochemical Society to run an outreach tagged “the world of microbes, where am I” to pupils in the age range 11-18 in Kwara State, Nigeria.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness of young people in the subject of microbes, how they spread, infect host cell and interact with human and animals to cause disease. The outreach is also to educate students on the use of antibiotics in treatment and encourage students to pursue a career in the biosciences.

The event took place on the 27th January, 2022 at Chapel Secondary school, Tanke, Ilorin Kwara State involving over 205 High school students. The dining hall of the school was used for the outreach. Interactive session, engaging videos and hands-on practicals was done. The outreach was entrenched within career talk in biosciences. The program was voluntarily supported by undergraduate students, microbiologist, virologists and veterinarians.

Feedback after the event indicates that the students found the experience enlightening and engaging. The teachers of the school were also pleased with the overall quality and content of materials shared. We advocate that more of this enlightening outreach be supported by the society as it is very obvious to reach many more students in Nigeria in preparing them for future.

KEYMILESTONES

SECURING SPEAKERS

Dr Daodu is a lecturer of the faculty of veterinary medicine, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. Leveraging on this, we were able to secure 6 professionals and 3 undergraduate students. The range of professions presented include:

- Microbiologists
- Virologist
- Pathologist
- Veterinarians

REGISTERING PARTICIPANTS

A letter was sent to the school for permission to host the programme and enquire about the best time to come based on the school calendar. Subsequently, the School approved 2 hours to host the event. The reason alluded was to prevent school from shutting down during the programme and a compulsory need for the school management to also organize career talks for students in commercial and art classes (to avoid sentiment). In all, a total of 205 science-based students attended physically, on line participants were hosted on Zoom website. Hence, students of other institutions had the opportunity of participating online.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The venue used was the dining hall in the school which was spacious and well arranged, allowing student's participation from all corners. Experiments were planned by Gbeja Esther in conjunction with Dr. Daodu and the microbiologists present. Banners were designed and printed by a graphics designer. Videos to illustrate the concepts were also made by an animation expert. Six volunteers were involved in planning this event. Overall, it was well organized and this reflected on the day.

HAPPENINGS ON EVENT DAY

The event preparation began early on morning of 27th January with arrangement of the venue, sound system, refreshment. The students were split into 10 groups. The event began with a brief introduction of the Biochemical society. Afterwards, a 15 minutes interactive session was hosted by one of the speaker on the prospects in sciences. Then, a short video demonstrating how microbes spread was played and discussed by students and one of the volunteers. A practical to demonstrate how microbes multiply was done by the students in each group led by the project coordinator supported by the volunteers. A second interactive session was handled by one of the speakers to demonstrate the prospects and career paths in the biosciences. Thereafter, another video illustrating drug use and antibiotics resistance was projected. The video was discussed by the students and the facilitator to gauge its understanding. Finally students and the last speaker discussed on the career paths in the medicine and veterinary medicine. To cap the event, Biochemical Society inscribed T-Shirts were given to some active students as gifts. As the event rounded up, refreshments were given to students and teachers.











Cross section of the students during the Biochemical Society Outreach at Chape Secondary School, Tanke, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.



A cross section of the organizers of the Biochemical Scientific Outreach 2022 in Nigeria

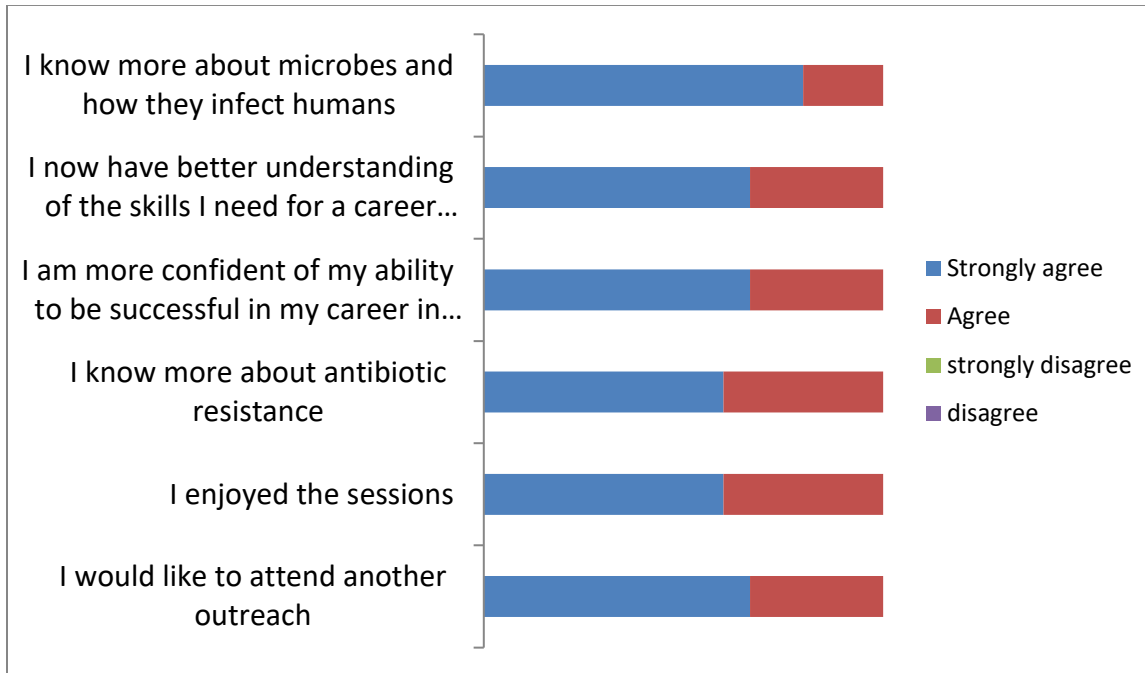


Across sectio of teachers, students and organizers of the Biochemical Scientific Outreach 2022 in Nigeria

POST EVENT EVALUATION

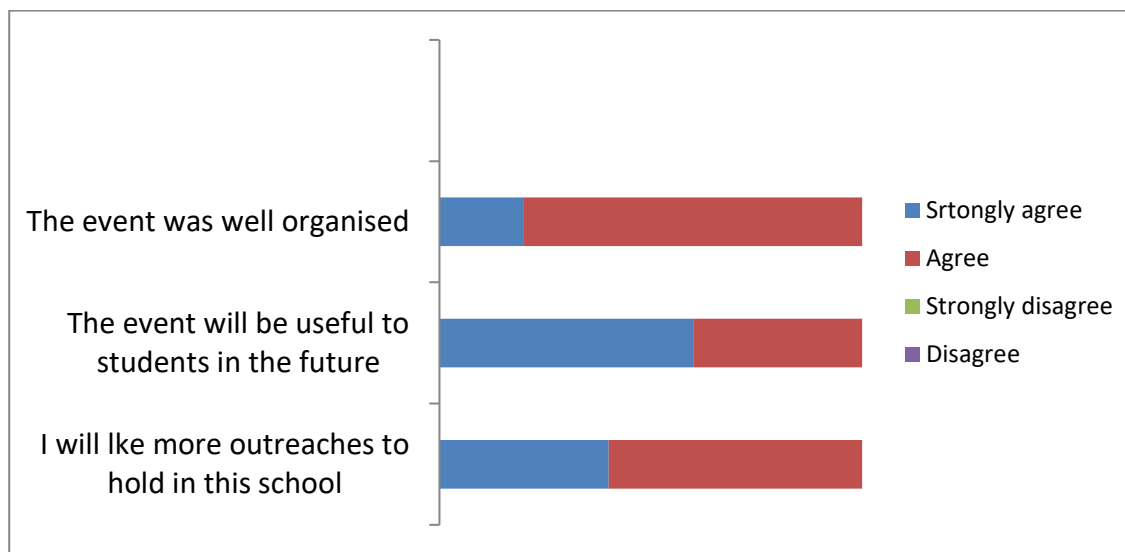
Event evaluation was done using a questionnaire distributed randomly three representatives per group. Also, questionnaires were administered to the teachers present. Below is the conclusion of the results derived

STUDENTS' EVALUATION



None of the student disagreed with the questions asked. They further commented that the outreach was educative, outstanding and enlightening. They however solicited that outreaches should be done regularly. The students saw the light and beauty of sciences and biosciences beyond medicine and were enthralled by the possibilities.

TEACHERS' EVALUATION



As with the students, none of the teachers disagreed with the questions asked. They also made comment such as “the outreach was educative, a wonderful way to ensure our students are on the right career paths, Thank you” and “The outreach was great, please come again soon”

SUCSESSES

- The students agreed that the outreach was educative, enlightening and interesting.
- The students were elated at the wide array of opportunities.
- The teachers insisted that the event was outstanding, educative and well organized.
- The teachers also desire more outreaches of this nature to hold in the school.
- Students had the opportunity of approaching facilitators for career counsel.
- The facilitators who are renowned scientist had the privilege of relating with students on a simple note and share experiences with the next generation of scientists.

LIMITATIONS

- The time allotted by the school for the event was short. Hence, we had to be faster than planned.
- The sound system for the event had some hitches despite the fact it was previously tested. However, this was later resolved during the programme
- The dining room of the school was the venue allocated for the outreach, hence some items which could have been vital for hands-on practical could not be used.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Activities should be more fun and enlightening.
- Outreach should be organized outside teaching period or during vacation
- Venue selected for outreach should afford many hands-on sections

FUTURE PLANS

- More funds should be sought to host outreaches on a regular basis.
- To host science outreaches on a monthly basis in schools all around Nigeria.
- To broadcast science outreaches using internet and other media (television, radio station etc) to increase audience