

Providing affordable access to quality school meals: The birth of poisera waste for meals school feeding program.

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Abstract:

Poor nutrition during childhood affects a child's optimal growth, cognitive development and ability to learn effectively. Children in low income communities are not able to afford quality meals in school. The meals sold by local food vendors in schools also seem to be of low quality. Unfortunately, the National School Feeding Programme only caters for children in lower primary and leaves out children in upper primary and those in low cost private schools. This is a case study of 71 children during a year period of the Teach for Nigeria program. About 60% of the children came to school with no breakfast. Out of this number, less than 20% barely brought money to buy meals in school while others who were able to buy meals still not able to meet a third of their daily requirements. Due to hunger and poor nutrition, most of these children struggled to concentrate and learn in class, took ill and missed school often and had poor academic outcomes.

Conclusion: There is a need to provide affordable access to healthy, nutritious and safe meals in schools to boost children's nutritional status, improve their health and learning outcomes. The way forward is to invest private-public partnerships for better school health and nutrition and for healthier children. This is what Poisera Nutrition Waste For School Meals Programme is established to solve by creating affordable access through the exchange of recyclable waste and reduced price for nutritious school meals.



Biography:

Folashade Babatunde works as a consulting dietitian at poisera nutrition where she provides nutrition support and helps children as well as adults to build healthy relationship with food, improve their health and boost learning and productivity. Her years of work experience span across the



nutrition, dietetics and education sectors. She is an advocate of quality school nutrition and she is presently working on a social enterprise solution that will provide affordable access to school meals using recyclable waste. During her professional career, folashade has also worked with international organizations to facilitate training on nutrition education, school gardening and active play for children and also nutrition seminars in corporate organisations. She is an alumna of teach for nigeria and a current incubatee of the orange corners Incubation Programme, an initiative of the Kingdom of Netherlands, which provides business support for her social enterprise solution.

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