

GET STARTED GET MOVING

STEM YOUTHS CAREER GENDER EMPOWERMENT EQUITY

BEYOND BOUNDARIES



Volume 1, Dec 2024

We are delighted to present to you our first newsletter

EXPLORE



INSPIRING A BETTER FUTURE



STEM



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



GENDER EQUITY

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the Beyond Boundaries Newsletter!

Dear GESGEMO Family,

We are thrilled to bring you the very first edition of the Beyond Boundaries Newsletter, where we celebrate the bold steps taken by individuals and communities to break barriers and create a future where everyone can thrive.

At GESGEMO, our mission has always been to empower youth, promote gender equity, and ignite transformative career development. This newsletter is a platform to share inspiring stories, valuable insights, and impactful initiatives that reflect our shared journey of growth, resilience, and progress.

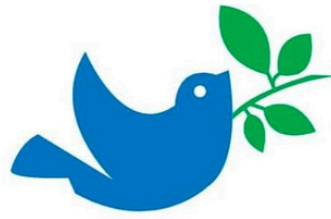
In this edition, you will find how GESGEMO is promoting career development, advocating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Empowering communities, and challenging gender norms. We aim to continue pushing the boundaries of what's possible—breaking down obstacles and opening doors to new opportunities for all.

As we move forward, we invite you to be part of this movement. Together, we can continue to expand the horizons of possibility and create a world where everyone, regardless of gender or background, has the chance to succeed.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. We look forward to continuing to push boundaries, together.

**Warm regards,
The GESGEMO Team**

Thanks for subscribing!



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CAREER DEVELOPMENT: GESGEMO Sparks Career Aspirations in 840 Students at the School of St. Jude, Arusha

In a recent career day event at the School of St. Jude in Arusha, Ms. Jenipher Tairo, a passionate advocate for career development, represented GESGEMO and shared her valuable insights with over 840 students. The event focused on career exploration within the field of Agriculture, where Ms. Tairo provided an eye-opening perspective on the many opportunities beyond traditional farming. Ms. Tairo's presentation highlighted the diverse career options available in agriculture, ranging from research and technology to policy and management. She emphasized that agriculture is not just about working in the fields, but also about innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. This insight was particularly impactful for students who may have thought that their career options were limited.

One student, expressing her enthusiasm after the event, shared:

"I am interested in engineering, and I was happy to know that agriculture is not only about going to the field and that there are other options that can accommodate my interests!"

Ms. Tairo also provided key advice to the students on staying focused, believing in themselves, and following their dreams. She reminded them of the importance of career guidance in shaping their future. By exploring their interests, values, and personalities, students can better understand their unique strengths and challenges. This self-discovery process, she explained, is crucial for making informed decisions about their career paths.



The event reinforced the significance of career guidance in today's competitive job market. It helps students understand the vast array of career possibilities and reduces the risk of making decisions based on misconceptions. Career guidance also plays a pivotal role in identifying skill gaps and suggesting educational or training opportunities to bridge them. As the job market continues to evolve, career transitions are becoming more common, and proper guidance can help students navigate these changes with confidence.

In line with the event's theme, "The Expert Was Once a Beginner," Ms. Tairo encouraged students to remain persistent and patient in their pursuit of their career goals, reminding them that every expert started somewhere and that their dreams are achievable.

Mr. Elibariki, the Head of Department for Careers, Clubs, and Mentoring at St. Jude, expressed gratitude for Ms. Tairo's visit, stating, "Thank you for coming, we feel honored to have you talking to our students."

We commend the School of St. Jude for their continued commitment to preparing their students for real-world experiences. The school's efforts in providing career guidance and mentorship are invaluable in helping students discover their passions and embark on fulfilling career paths.

At GESGEMO, we are proud to support such initiatives and look forward to continuing our partnership with schools like St. Jude to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders.

GESGEMO Empowers Students at Charlotte Secondary School with Seminar on Academic Excellence

As part of its ongoing mission to guide students toward careers that align with their strengths and passions, GESGEMO was invited to share its expertise with students at Charlotte Secondary School. The workshop aimed to equip students with tools and strategies to excel in their upcoming national exams and set them on the path to success. Topics covered include effective study habits, time management, stress management, exam techniques, and the importance of setting SMART goals.

Workshop overview

Jenipher Tairo, CEO of GESGEMO, emphasized the importance of such seminars in motivating students to reach their full potential. “We empower young individuals to recognize their inherent potential, overcome challenges, and ignite their aspirations to become catalysts for positive societal change. Sometimes, students lack motivation and might not give their best. Seminars like these are crucial in rekindling their spirits, motivating them to follow their dreams, and encouraging hard work,” said Tairo.

Rachel Mkwizu who is volunteering at GESGEMO added that “students were very curious, and asked many questions, this showed that seminars like these are very crucial as they help students to excel academically and shed light on their career paths”

Principal’s feedback

The seminar was met with positive feedback from both students and faculty at Charlotte Secondary School. The Head of School expressed appreciation for the session, stating, “The seminar was incredibly valuable for our students. They gained a deeper understanding of setting their goals and effectively managing their time. The interactive sessions were particularly engaging and helped reinforce key concepts. We believe the exam techniques shared will be directly applicable to the upcoming national exams. Thank you for sharing your expertise and contributing to our students’ success.”

The good news is that the results of these students are out and the students have performed incredibly well!



Empowering Steps: GESGEMO Visits Ruvuma Village – Education and the Power of Setting Goals

In Ruvuma village, located in the Morogoro region of Tanzania, the educational journey for many children faces significant barriers. A preliminary study conducted by GESGEMO revealed that the transition from primary to secondary education, and further to university, is alarmingly low. The lack of motivation and absence of role models for children were key challenges identified in the community.

In response, GESGEMO visited the village to engage with both parents and children, particularly those of school age, through an outreach program focused on two key areas: the transformative power of education and the importance of setting and pursuing goals.

Planting the Seeds of Education

The outreach program aimed to highlight the life-changing potential of education. Through interactive sessions, the youth in Ruvuma explored the many opportunities that education can provide. They learned how gaining knowledge and skills not only shapes their individual futures but also enables them to contribute meaningfully to their communities. The program also included a session with parents, emphasizing the importance of supporting and following up on their children's educational journeys. Encouraging parents to take an active role in their children's learning is crucial to ensuring long-term educational success.

Goal Setting: Charting a Course for Success

Another major focus of the program was goal setting. During engaging workshops, the youth were guided in identifying their passions and aspirations. They learned how to break down larger goals into smaller, achievable steps, giving them a sense of control and purpose over their futures. By empowering them to set clear, attainable goals, GESGEMO helped instill a sense of agency that would serve as the foundation for their academic and personal growth.



Building a Brighter Future

The program provided a glimpse into a brighter, more hopeful future for the children of Ruvuma. Through conversations about education and goal setting, the youths were inspired to believe in their potential and pursue their dreams with determination. The outreach not only motivated the children but also encouraged a greater sense of community support for their educational endeavors.

Way Forward: Overcoming Challenges Together

While the outreach was a success, it also brought to light the numerous challenges these children face in completing their education. Poverty was a major barrier, with many families unable to afford the basic necessities like books, clothing, and school supplies. The lack of motivation was also evident, as many children saw no role models who had excelled in education, leading them to view schooling as unimportant. However, through the program, GESGEMO was able to inspire and encourage both the children and their parents, helping them realize that education is the key to unlocking their potential and a brighter future.

GESGEMO is committed to continuing these outreach programs, aiming to reach more children in similar communities and provide them with the support and resources they need to succeed. By addressing both the motivational and material challenges faced by these youth, GESGEMO hopes to inspire them to dream big, work hard, and strive for a better future.

The impact of these initiatives is clear: by empowering young people with the knowledge, tools, and encouragement to succeed, we are contributing to the creation of a more just, equitable, and hopeful future for all.



A Brighter Future Through STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers offer solutions to global challenges such as poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10). In Tanzania, however, the gender gap in STEM fields is still wide. In response, the HEET project at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), launched a STEM outreach program in Manyara Region aimed at encouraging young girls to explore STEM as a career path. GESGEMO CEO, Ms. Tairo was among the facilitators.

Reaching Over 11,000 Students

The outreach reached 11,000 students across 15 schools, including 6,598 girls. Through interactive sessions and talks from successful female role models in STEM, the program inspired students to view STEM as a gateway to solving local and global challenges, rather than just abstract concepts.

Role Models and Overcoming Barriers

Female lecturers shared their personal stories of overcoming obstacles in male-dominated fields, offering tangible examples of success. These role models encouraged girls to believe in their potential and pursue their dreams in STEM. However, challenges like low student confidence, inadequate teacher training, and misconceptions about STEM remain barriers that need to be addressed.

Moving Forward

To empower more girls in STEM, we need to promote STEM education, provide mentorship, support teacher capacity building, and advocate for policies that promote gender equality in STEM fields. GESGEMO is committed to continuing this work, helping to create a generation of confident, capable female leaders in STEM.

Join us in empowering the next generation of STEM leaders.



Empowering Young Girls at Morogoro Secondary School: Self belief & Safe Menstruation

Building Confidence and Awareness

Get Started Get Moving Organization (GESGEMO) recently embarked on an inspiring outreach initiative at Morogoro Secondary School, targeting female students from Form One to Three. The two-pronged approach aimed to empower the students by building self-belief and raising awareness about safe menstruation practices.

Fostering Self-Belief

Through engaging and interactive sessions, GESGEMO encouraged the students to recognize their own potential and develop the confidence to pursue their dreams. This sense of self-belief is crucial in overcoming life's challenges and setting personal goals, empowering the young women to shape their futures with confidence.



Promoting Safe Menstruation Practices

The initiative also addressed an important and often overlooked issue for young women: safe menstruation. GESGEMO provided accurate information to dispel myths and raise awareness about menstrual health, empowering the students to manage their menstrual cycles with knowledge and confidence.

A Lasting Impact

This visit underscores the importance of investing in young women. By promoting self-belief and providing essential health education, GESGEMO is helping to shape a generation of informed, confident, and empowered young women ready to achieve their full potential. The impact of this initiative will extend far beyond the classroom, inspiring these students to take charge of their futures.



Rural Tanzania: Addressing Gender-Based Violence and the Fight for Change

Tackling Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a widespread issue in rural Tanzania, with devastating effects on individuals, families, and entire communities. Women and children are disproportionately affected by various forms of GBV, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. Contributing factors include patriarchal societal norms, where men hold significant power, and cultural practices that normalize harmful behaviors toward women and children.

GESGEMO's Partnership for Change

In response to this urgent issue, Get Started Get Moving Organization (GESGEMO) partnered with the Lutheran Church Morogoro Diocese through their "Girls with a Purpose" project. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about GBV in Msowero village, reaching over 116 individuals.



Community Engagement and Awareness

Through community discussions, villagers acknowledged the prevalence of GBV, including domestic violence and sexual assault. They were educated on the severe consequences of GBV, such as the spread of diseases, death, and the deepening poverty it causes. The session also provided information on available support systems, including a free GBV hotline and a shelter for victims offered by the church.



Overcoming Barriers to Reporting

The villagers shared that fear of retaliation from perpetrators, especially those with power, often prevents them from reporting GBV incidents. Additionally, many lacked awareness of the support systems and reporting channels available to them.

Creating a Safer Future for All

To foster a safer environment, the community was encouraged to speak out against GBV, support survivors, and work together to change harmful cultural norms. This initiative marks a critical step towards ending GBV in rural Tanzania, but many communities remain unreached. GESGEMO is committed to continuing its efforts to raise awareness, provide resources, and support collective action against gender-based violence, working towards a more just and equitable society.



About Get Started Get Moving Organization (GESGEMO)

As a young girl from a humble background, Jenipher Tairo felt a deep desire to inspire and motivate other youths to reach their dreams. This vision sparked the idea for Get Started Get Moving (GESGEM) in 2008 when she was just in Standard Six. Driven by a passion to bring positive change to her family and community, Jenipher saw many young girls in her area facing early marriages, unplanned pregnancies, and engagement in illegal activities. The community's economic struggles also weighed heavily on her heart, fueling her determination to make a difference.

Jenipher's journey took a defining turn when she was selected as a peer educator in her primary school. This role opened her eyes to the possibility of change, inspiring her to envision a future where young girls could pursue education, graduate, and contribute positively to society, and where young boys would stay away from harmful behaviors like drug abuse. She wanted to see her peers working hard to achieve their goals and change their lives for the better.

The idea of GESGEM evolved as Jenipher began speaking to students across various streets, schools, and churches. Between 2010 and 2013, she became actively involved in student clubs such as AIDS/PCCB, Malihai, Roots and Shoots, and the UN Club, where she mentored her peers and spread her message of hope and empowerment. Her leadership roles at school allowed her to interact with other youths, motivating them to strive for success.

As she advanced in her education (2013-2015), Jenipher continued her outreach efforts, using her holidays to visit schools and encourage students. When she joined Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in 2017, Jenipher shared her vision with fellow students Paul Kiseni, Matiko Godwin, Zakia Seif, and Rose Nanyaro, who became the founding members of GESGEMO. Together, they worked tirelessly to bring Jenipher's dream to life.

In 2022, GESGEMO was officially registered as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in the United Republic of Tanzania. Today, GESGEMO is dedicated to mentoring, building capacity, and empowering youths to become agents of change in their communities. The organization achieves this through mentorship programs, workshops, outreach initiatives, capacity-building seminars, dialogues, and, where possible, financial support. The core areas of focus include career development, youth empowerment, STEM education, and gender equity.

Jenipher's journey from a young girl with a dream to the founder of a thriving organization is a testament to the power of determination, passion, and the desire to create meaningful change in society. Through GESGEMO, she continues to inspire and uplift young people, empowering them to pursue their aspirations and make a positive impact on their communities.



HOW GESGEMO IS TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

At GESGEMO, we are committed to our vision of cultivating transformational leaders who drive positive change within their communities. Through our mission, we empower young individuals to unlock their potential, overcome challenges, and pursue their aspirations. By offering mentorship, career development programs, STEM education initiatives, and promoting gender equity, we actively nurture youth to become catalysts for societal transformation.

Our activities, including workshops, outreach programs, and capacity-building seminars, are designed to equip young people with the tools, confidence, and knowledge needed to lead with impact and create lasting change.

Join us in our mission to empower the next generation of leaders. Together, we can create a future where every young person has the opportunity to succeed and transform their community.

Get involved today! Visit our website and see how you can support our initiatives
www.getstartedgetmoving.or.tz

