

PPAG/UNFPA Sista's Club gets results

Aminu Mufida, a 15-year-old primary six (6) pupil had very little interest in formal education and handled her academic work with the least seriousness. As narrated by her mother, Madam Ayisha, her daughter, Mufida found a new excuse each day to skip school. The few days that she made it to school, she would never complete the homework given to her from school. Mufida preferred to watch telenovelas on TV or play with her friends with no attention to books. As a result, she performed very poorly whenever she took an exam in school. In addition to her lack of interest in school activities, she had a very negative attitude toward her parents and was unwilling to carry out any house chores.

Mufida was introduced to the UNFPA/PPAG Sista's club, by her friend who is a member of the club. The Sista's club is a safe space created for adolescent girls to learn and share knowledge on their SRH and general well-being. As narrated by Mufida's mother, there were clear observable changes in her attitude after she participated in a few sessions of the Sista's club.

Sessions on self-esteem and body language, communication skills, personal values, decision making, goal setting, and planning for the future discussed during meetings were beginning to have an impact on her young life and this could be seen in her drastic transformation and change in attitude.



Photo: Mufida’s academic scripts shared by her mum with the Sista’s club facilitators

First, her dislike for home chores changed and she began to do them even before instructions were issued. The transformation also impacted her love for the school and academic performance and this is the part that excited her family the most.

One morning, her mother visited the Sista’s club facilitator while holding her daughter’s examination papers in excitement. She testified that, interactions with other girls in the club and the topics discussed had challenged her and given her hopes for a brighter future. Through these activities, she realized the power of education and decided to take her academic work seriously.

Young Mufida remains an active member of the Sista’s club in her community and remains committed to her academic work, serving as a good example to her peers in the school and community. She continues to receive guidance from her parents and the facilitators of the Sista’s club to continue to excel in her academics which eventually leads her to the brighter future she hopes for.