

# Civic Education – SS1 First Term

## Week 6: Youth Empowerment I

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### Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Clearly explain the **concept and meaning of youth empowerment**.
  2. Identify and describe **strategies for youth empowerment**, especially through **education and organization**.
  3. State and explain the **objectives or goals of youth empowerment**.
  4. Appreciate the role of youth empowerment in national development and personal growth.
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### Introduction

Nigeria, like many African countries, has a **large population of young people**. These youths have the energy, creativity, and strength to make a country great. However, without the right **knowledge, skills, and opportunities**, they may become **frustrated, unemployed**, or even fall into **crime and violence**.

**Youth empowerment** is a way of preparing the youth to become **useful citizens**. It means giving them the tools to **stand on their own**, make good decisions, and contribute meaningfully to their families, communities, and the nation.

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## 1. Concept and Meaning of Youth Empowerment

### Definition of Youth Empowerment

**Youth Empowerment** is the process of **giving young people the knowledge, skills, values, confidence, and opportunities** they need to live productive lives, make informed decisions, and contribute meaningfully to the development of society.

Simply put, it means **helping youths to help themselves**.

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### Who is a Youth?

According to the **National Youth Policy of Nigeria**, a youth is any person between the **ages of 15 and 35 years**.

They are in a stage of life where they are full of **energy, dreams, ideas**, and the **ability to learn and grow**.

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### **Why Youth Empowerment Is Necessary**

- To **reduce poverty and unemployment** among young people.
  - To help youths **develop skills** and become **self-reliant**.
  - To encourage **good leadership** and **civic responsibility**.
  - To stop youths from being used for **violence, political thuggery**, and **criminal activities**.
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## **2. Strategies for Youth Empowerment**

A **strategy** is a **planned method** or **approach** used to achieve a goal.

To empower youths, the government, schools, families, and communities can use several **strategies**, especially:

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### **A. Education as a Strategy**

Education is the **strongest tool** of youth empowerment. It helps youths to:

- Gain **knowledge and information**.
  - Develop **skills** needed for employment or entrepreneurship.
  - Understand their **rights and responsibilities** as citizens.
  - Build **self-confidence** and make better life choices.
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### **Types of Education for Empowerment:**

1. **Formal Education** – Schooling in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions.
2. **Vocational Education** – Learning trades like carpentry, tailoring, ICT, plumbing, catering, welding, etc.
3. **Civic Education** – Learning values like honesty, integrity, patriotism, and leadership.

 **Example:** A girl who studies computer programming or fashion design can start her own business and become self-employed.

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## ✓ B. Organization as a Strategy

Organization involves **forming or joining structured groups** or bodies that support youth development.

These organizations:

- Help youths learn **leadership and teamwork**.
- Provide **training, mentorship, and financial support**.
- Serve as a platform for **networking** and sharing ideas.
- Encourage **community participation** and **responsibility**.

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### 🏢 Examples of Youth Organizations:

Organization	Purpose
NYSC (National Youth Service Corps)	Unites Nigerian youths and builds leadership & national service.
Youth Empowerment Foundation (YEF)	Trains youths in leadership, ICT, and health awareness.
Boy Scouts / Girls' Brigade	Builds discipline, community service, and moral values.
Student Unions	Encourage political awareness and leadership in schools.
N-Power Program	Government job and skills training initiative for unemployed graduates.

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## 🎯 3. Objectives of Youth Empowerment

The objectives of youth empowerment are the **specific goals** we aim to achieve when we empower the youth.

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### ✓ Major Objectives:

1. **To Promote Self-Reliance**
  - Empowered youths can earn money, meet their needs, and help others.
2. **To Reduce Poverty**
  - Skills and employment lead to income, which lifts youths out of poverty.
3. **To Encourage Civic Participation**
  - Empowered youths take part in community service, voting, and nation-building.
4. **To Promote National Development**
  - Youths are builders of the economy and leaders of tomorrow.
5. **To Reduce Youth Restiveness and Crime**

- Empowered youths stay away from drugs, violence, cultism, and political thuggery.
  - 6. **To Build Future Leaders**
    - Empowerment prepares youths to lead in politics, business, education, etc.
  - 7. **To Encourage Innovation and Creativity**
    - Youths with knowledge and tools can develop new ideas, apps, inventions, etc.
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## **Real-Life Example**

### **Case Study:**

Chinedu, a 20-year-old boy from Imo State, joined a government-sponsored program where he was trained in phone repairs. After six months, he opened a small shop. Now, he earns money, trains others, and even pays his younger brother's school fees.



This is the result of **education + opportunity = empowerment.**