



Civic Education – SS1 First Term

Week 7: Youth Empowerment II

Lesson Objectives

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

1. Explain the **importance of youth empowerment** in detail.
 2. Identify and describe **empowerment skills** such as hat making and bead making.
 3. List and discuss **hindrances** or obstacles to youth empowerment.
 4. Appreciate the value of **self-reliance** and **skill acquisition** as tools for personal and national development.
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Introduction

In the last lesson, we learned what **youth empowerment** means and explored **education** and **organization** as key strategies. This week, we will build on that by examining **why empowerment is important**, the types of **practical skills** youths can learn, and the **obstacles** that may prevent them from becoming empowered.



Importance of Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment plays a **crucial role** in the social, economic, and political development of any nation. When youths are empowered with knowledge, skills, values, and opportunities, they become **capable of transforming their lives and improving their communities**.

Let's explore the importance in detail:



A. Crime Reduction

- Empowered youths are busy with productive work.
 - They are less likely to be involved in **armed robbery, cultism, drug abuse, prostitution, or cybercrime (Yahoo Yahoo)**.
 - Empowerment helps remove the “idle hands” that the saying refers to as “the devil’s workshop.”
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B. Self-Reliance

- An empowered youth does **not depend entirely** on parents, government, or others.
 - They can **provide for themselves** through the skills they have acquired.
 - Self-reliance builds **confidence, dignity, and independence**.
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C. Poverty Reduction

- Empowerment gives youths the ability to **earn income** through jobs or entrepreneurship.
 - It breaks the cycle of poverty in families and communities.
 - For example, a trained baker or shoemaker can support themselves and their siblings.
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D. National Development

- A nation full of empowered youths will have:
 - Fewer unemployed people
 - More innovation
 - A stronger economy
 - Active citizens
 - These contribute to **sustainable development** in the country.
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E. Civic and Political Participation

- Empowered youths are more likely to:
 - Vote during elections
 - Participate in community development
 - Advocate for human rights
 - Join decision-making bodies
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F. Leadership Development

- Youth empowerment builds **future leaders** with integrity and vision.
 - It equips them to lead schools, businesses, religious groups, and even the government.
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G. Promotion of Peace and Unity

- Empowered youths are more tolerant, understanding, and ready to solve problems peacefully.
 - This promotes unity and reduces ethnic or religious violence.
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Empowerment Skills (Hat Making and Bead Making)

Empowerment is not just about giving speeches or attending seminars. It involves **practical skill acquisition**. Skills are the **tools** that help young people create value and earn income.

Let's take a closer look at two common empowerment skills:

A. Hat Making (Millinery)

Definition: Hat making is the art of designing and creating **fashionable headwear** for women and men. In Nigeria, hats and headpieces are worn during:

- Weddings
 - Traditional ceremonies
 - Church services
 - Parties and celebrations
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Benefits of Hat Making:

- **Low startup cost** (materials like fabric, lace, trimmings).
 - **High demand** during festive seasons.
 - Can be done at home or in a small shop.
 - Can earn daily, weekly, or project-based income.
 - Allows for creativity and branding.
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Real-Life Example:

A young lady named Amaka learned hat making during NYSC. After her service, she opened a small shop and now supplies hats for weddings. She trains others and sells online too.

B. Bead Making

Definition: Bead making involves crafting beautiful items such as **necklaces, bracelets, earrings, belts, purses, and slippers** using beads of different shapes, sizes, and colors.

◆ Benefits of Bead Making:

- Simple to learn, even at a young age.
 - Beads are **affordable** and easy to find.
 - High profit margin; items can sell at good prices.
 - Opportunities for selling at markets, online, and social events.
 - Can be a full-time or part-time job.
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◆ Other Skills Youths Can Learn:

- Tailoring / Fashion design
 - Shoe making
 - Phone repair
 - Baking / Catering
 - Photography
 - ICT / Coding
 - Soap / Cream production
 - Hairdressing / Barbing
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3 Hindrances to Youth Empowerment

While empowerment sounds good, many youths still **struggle to access it** due to several **obstacles**.

Let's examine them:

✗ A. Lack of Access to Quality Education

- Many youths drop out of school due to poverty, poor infrastructure, or family issues.
 - Without education or literacy, many empowerment opportunities are out of reach.
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✗ B. Unemployment / Limited Job Opportunities

- Even graduates struggle to find good jobs due to oversupply and poor economy.
 - Some youths lose hope and fall into depression or crime.
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✗ C. Poor Government Policies

- Many government programs exist on paper but are not implemented properly.
 - Corruption and nepotism affect the selection of youth beneficiaries.
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✗ D. Gender Discrimination

- In some cultures, girls are discouraged from attending school or learning trades.
 - Early marriage also prevents girls from being empowered.
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✗ E. Lack of Capital / Start-Up Funds

- Many youths have skills or ideas but cannot afford tools or a business space.
 - They lack access to loans or grants.
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✗ F. Wrong Mindset / Laziness

- Some youths prefer quick money and avoid hard work (e.g., cybercrime or fraud).
 - A mindset of "overnight success" without effort is harmful.
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✗ G. Insecurity / Conflict

- Areas affected by terrorism, herdsman crisis, or kidnapping have limited youth programs.
- Fear and displacement reduce youth participation in empowerment initiatives.