

# ADEBORO SEUN'S JOURNAL

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I come from the part of Nigeria where the life expectancy age is 45 years. In my village, most children barely finish high school not to talk having a university degree. Many factors are responsible for this among which wastes take 35% of it. Instead us going to school, we prefer doing the job of a waste collector both in the village and in the city. My village has a deposit of about 30,000 tonnes of waste with an additional 6,000 tonnes of waste which are brought in from the cities monthly. About 25% of our land is filled with waste. This has not only contributed to our level of illiteracy but it has caused so many diseases in my community which can explain why we have a life expectancy age of 45 years.

My desire to bring change to my village sparked my interest in a University education. Due to the low per capita income of my village which is about \$500 per year, my university education is being financed by my extended family members.

I was introduced to Geebiz by one of my lecturers who just got a transfer to our university from another school where the students are actively involved in the business contest. He introduced it to me when I was engaging him in a discussion on how I can bring change to my village at home. The day I was introduced to this business contest for me is a day which I will never forget because I saw it as one of the opportunities to bring the change I desire to my community.

My experience back home made me proposed the idea of a proper waste management to my group members. Though my group leader suggested another business idea, the group members and he accepted my idea when they saw it.

My group comprises seven other participant in which two are from Colombia, USA, one from Rwanda, New Zealand and Nigeria. On the first day of the competition when I met my group members, I quickly suggested that we create a Facebook page for communication purposes because I thought it would make communication easier. My group members accepted this and I immediately created the page. My group leader (Makeham) is who I will call the best among equals because he never rejects any suggestion from you. He will give you the confidence you need in order to do a good job. I have added to my leadership skills from the way he coordinated the group throughout the competition.

During the course of this contest, it was as if I was in New Zealand, USA, Colombia and Rwanda together because the experience was awesome and fascinating.

During the contest, I had to travel from my village to the nearest city in order to get internet because we were on holiday in school. The nearest city was about 150KMs from my village. Internet facility which is scarce and expensive coupled with long distance I had to travel to get it made me spent about 45% of the allowance I am to use for getting textbooks, feeding and my upkeep when I resume another semester in school on the contest. During one of my journeys to the city to get internet, the bus I boarded was attacked by armed robbers and all valuables with me and other passengers were collected making me and other passengers stranded for up to 10 hours because there was nobody around to help us. This added to the financial burden which I was experiencing. I didn't allow this to affect my commitment to the contest even though my parents advised me to withdraw from the contest in order to prevent another attack.

Before the contest, my skills in Microsoft word, Microsoft excel and internet surfing were nothing to write home about. But now, I can confidently say that I am far better at using the packages and internet surfing than before contest. To me, this alone has offset my allowance I spent on the contest.

I can never say thank you to the organizers of this competition because thank you is not enough. You don't know what you have impacted in me by providing me with this invaluable opportunity to bring change to my community. On a personal note, I want to say well done to the director of Global Business Enterprise and ANZ Company. Well done for doing this because you are actually making the world a better place.

Considering what I have learnt in this contest and the exposure I have had, I intend increasing the number of participants in my school next year because the awareness is low here.

As it is now, I have started making effort in making sure that my state government look into the waste issues my community is facing so as to turn the waste into wealth. I have already established a contact with a lecturer in my school who is another faculty. This lecturer also works in the ministry of environment of Lagos state.