



THE EMMANUEL IVORGBA CENTER

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YOUTH CAMP ON NATIONAL ETHICS AND VALUES SUMMARY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Emmanuel Ivorgba Center (TEIC), in its ongoing commitment to fostering positive societal development, recognized a critical need to address the foundational principles that underpin national progress. In partnership with the Centre for Faith and Community Development (CFCD), an organization dedicated to instilling ethical frameworks within communities, TEIC conceptualized and executed a focused 2-day Youth Camp, from March 14-15, 2025 at Novel Suites, Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State. The overarching goal of this initiative was to proactively engage the nation's youth, a demographic poised to inherit and shape Nigeria's future, in meaningful dialogues surrounding national ethics and values. Held at the conducive environment of Novel Suites in Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State, the camp aimed to equip these young leaders with a deeper understanding of ethical principles and their practical application in building a more robust and principled Nigeria.

The choice of Jos, Plateau State, as the venue was deliberate, aiming to provide a neutral and accessible location for participants from various regions, fostering a cross-cultural exchange of ideas and experiences. The camp's focus on ethics and values was driven by the understanding that these are not abstract concepts, but the very bedrock upon which a stable, prosperous, and just society is built. In a nation grappling with complex socio-economic and political challenges, instilling a strong ethical compass in its future leaders is paramount to navigating these hurdles and forging a brighter path forward. The participation of 35 young men and women, aged 20-35 years, from diverse backgrounds was crucial to ensuring a rich tapestry of perspectives and experiences, facilitating robust discussions and collaborative problem-solving. This demographic represents a crucial segment of the population, possessing the energy, idealism, and potential to drive significant positive change.



Keynote Speakers and Special Guests included:

- a. Mr. Gogin Yohanna Philibus, Deputy Director, Administration and Finance at the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Plateau State Office, who represented the State Director
- b. Prince Charles Dickson, PhD, Team Lead, The Tattaunawa Roundtable Initiative, Nigeria Peacebuilding Expert, Peace Insight
- c. Aagii Nasanjargal, Indiana University, USA
- d. Pastor Michael Ekerete Ekpo, Member, National Planning Committee for National Rebranding and Ethics
- e. Associate Prof. Joseph Maren, Rector, College of Peace and Reconciliation Studies, Jos
- f. Mr. Jacob Choji Pwakim, Executive Director, YIAVHA
- g. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, PhD, Founder and President, The Emmanuel Ivorgba Center

2. CAMP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The 2-Day Youth Camp on National Ethics and Values was meticulously designed with a set of clear objectives:

- **To Raise Awareness:** To significantly enhance participants' understanding of the fundamental ethical principles and core values that are essential for national development and cohesion in Nigeria. This involved delving into concepts such as integrity, accountability, respect, patriotism, justice, and responsibility.
- **To Foster Critical Thinking:** To encourage participants to critically analyze the current state of national ethics and values, identifying prevailing challenges and their root causes. This included examining societal influences, systemic issues, and individual contributions to ethical erosion.
- **To Promote Dialogue and Collaboration:** To create a safe and inclusive space for open dialogue, enabling participants from diverse backgrounds to share their perspectives, experiences, and concerns regarding ethics and values in Nigeria. The aim was to foster understanding and build a sense of shared responsibility.
- **To Inspire Action and Leadership:** To motivate participants to become agents of change within their communities by internalizing ethical principles and committing to their practical application. This involved exploring how young people can actively promote ethical conduct in their personal lives, professional endeavors, and civic engagement.
- **To Equip with Practical Tools:** To provide participants with practical strategies and tools for ethical decision-making, conflict resolution, and promoting positive values in their spheres of influence. This aimed to move beyond theoretical discussions to actionable insights.
- **To Build a Network:** To facilitate the creation of a network of young ethically-minded individuals who can collaborate, support each other, and champion ethical practices beyond the camp.

The expected outcomes of achieving these objectives included participants returning to their communities with:

- An elevated appreciation for the significance of national ethics and values.

- A clearer understanding of the ethical challenges facing Nigeria and potential solutions.
- Enhanced critical thinking skills to analyze ethical dilemmas.
- A strengthened sense of national identity and collective responsibility.
- A commitment to personal ethical conduct and the promotion of ethical practices within their spheres of influence.
- A network of like-minded peers for continued engagement and advocacy.



3. CAMP STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The 2-day camp was structured to provide a dynamic and engaging learning experience, blending informative presentations, interactive workshops, group discussions, and motivational sessions. The program was designed to progressively build upon foundational concepts, leading participants towards actionable insights and commitments.

Day 1: Laying the Foundation – Understanding Ethics and Values

- **Opening Ceremony and Welcome Address:** The camp commenced with an inspiring opening ceremony. Representatives from TEIC and CFCD officially welcomed participants, setting the tone and reiterating the camp's significance. Keynote addresses likely highlighted the urgency of the topic and the potential of the youth present to drive positive change.
- **Session 1: Defining National Ethics and Values:** This foundational session likely involved a comprehensive exploration of what constitutes national ethics and core values in the Nigerian context. It would have addressed concepts such as integrity, honesty, patriotism, justice, fairness, accountability, respect, and responsibility. Discussions likely involved defining these terms and distinguishing between ethics (moral principles governing behavior) and values (beliefs about what is important).

- **Session 2: The Erosion of Ethics and Values in Nigeria – Causes and Consequences:** This critical session likely delved into the societal challenges contributing to ethical decay. Potential topics included corruption, lack of accountability, breakdown of traditional values, influence of social media, economic pressures, and systemic governance issues. The consequences of this erosion, such as social unrest, economic stagnation, and loss of national pride, were likely discussed.
- **Workshop 1: Ethical Dilemma Resolution:** This interactive workshop would have presented participants with real-world ethical dilemmas relevant to Nigeria. Participants, working in small groups, would have been guided through a framework for analyzing ethical issues, considering different perspectives, and arriving at ethically sound decisions. This practical approach aimed to equip them with decision-making skills.
- **Panel Discussion: Voices of Experience – Ethical Leadership in Action:** A panel of esteemed individuals (perhaps community leaders, ethicists, or public servants with strong ethical standing) likely shared their personal experiences and insights on maintaining ethical integrity in challenging environments. This session aimed to provide inspiration and practical examples of ethical leadership.
- **Day 1 Reflection and Action Planning (Individual):** The day concluded with participants reflecting on the sessions and beginning to formulate individual action plans for applying ethical principles in their own lives.

Day 2: Building the Future – Values in Practice and Action

- **Recap of Day 1 and Motivation:** The second day likely began with a brief recap of the previous day's key learnings and a motivational session to energize participants for the day ahead.
- **Session 3: The Role of Youth in Promoting National Ethics and Values:** This session focused on empowering young people to be active agents of change. Discussions likely revolved around how youth can champion ethical conduct in their schools, workplaces, families, and communities. This could have included strategies for advocacy, peer influence, and community service.
- **Workshop 2: Building Ethical Communities:** Participants likely worked in groups to brainstorm and develop practical strategies for fostering ethical communities. This could have involved proposing initiatives for civic engagement, promoting volunteerism, advocating for ethical governance, or developing awareness campaigns on key values.
- **Session 4: Integrating Faith and Community in Ethical Development:** Given the partnership with the Centre for Faith and Community Development, this session likely explored the intersection of faith-based principles and community development in shaping ethical citizens. It would have highlighted how religious and community organizations can play a vital role in instilling values and promoting ethical behavior.
- **Presentation: Case Studies of Ethical Initiatives in Nigeria:** This session likely showcased successful ethical initiatives or projects implemented by individuals or organizations within Nigeria. These case studies would have served as inspiring examples of what is possible and provided practical models for participants to consider.

- **Action Planning and Commitment Session:** A culminating activity where participants solidified their individual and group action plans. This would have involved tangible commitments to specific actions they would undertake upon returning to their communities to promote national ethics and values.
- **Closing Ceremony and Certificate Presentation:** The camp concluded with a closing ceremony, where participants received certificates of attendance. Closing remarks likely emphasized the ongoing journey of ethical development and encouraged continued engagement with TEIC and CFCD.



4. PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTION

The camp design actively encouraged participant engagement through a variety of methods:

- **Interactive Workshops:** Hands-on activities, group work, and problem-solving exercises ensured active learning.
- **Open Discussions:** Facilitated discussions allowed participants to voice their opinions, share personal experiences, and learn from each other's diverse perspectives.
- **Q&A Sessions:** Ample time was allocated for participants to ask questions of speakers and facilitators, deepening their understanding.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The diverse background of participants, coupled with shared meals and informal break times, fostered organic networking and collaboration.

- **Group Activities:** Team-based exercises likely promoted collaboration and a sense of shared purpose.

The age range (20-35 years) and diverse backgrounds of the 35 participants ensured a dynamic environment. This mix likely brought together individuals from various educational backgrounds, professional fields, and geographical locations within Nigeria, enriching the discussions with a broad spectrum of viewpoints on ethics and values. The age bracket is particularly significant as it represents a demographic that is actively shaping its professional and civic lives, making them prime candidates for leadership in ethical advocacy.



5. KEY TAKEAWAYS AND LEARNINGS

The camp provided participants with invaluable insights and actionable takeaways:

- **Reaffirmation of Core Values:** Participants gained a renewed appreciation for the enduring relevance of core ethical principles (integrity, accountability, respect, etc.) as the foundation for a progressive Nigeria.
- **Understanding of Systemic Issues:** A deeper understanding of the complex socio-economic and political factors contributing to ethical challenges in Nigeria was achieved.
- **Empowerment of Youth Agency:** Participants recognized their crucial role as agents of change and understood that ethical transformation begins at the individual level.

- **Practical Tools for Ethical Decision-Making:** Participants were equipped with frameworks and strategies to navigate ethical dilemmas in their daily lives and professional settings.
- **The Power of Collaboration:** The diverse interactions fostered an understanding of how collaboration and collective action are essential for driving ethical change across communities.
- **Importance of Faith and Community:** The role of faith-based institutions and community engagement in promoting ethical development was highlighted as a crucial element for sustainable change.
- **Commitment to Action:** Participants left with concrete action plans, demonstrating a commitment to applying their learnings and becoming champions of ethical conduct.

6. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

While the camp was successful, certain challenges and limitations may have been encountered:

- **Time Constraint:** A 2-day camp, while intensive, might only scratch the surface of such a profound and complex topic. Deeper dives into specific ethical challenges or sustained engagement might require longer durations or follow-up activities.
- **Diversity of Backgrounds:** While a strength, ensuring that all diverse perspectives were adequately heard and addressed within the limited time could have been a challenge.
- **Measuring Long-Term Impact:** The immediate impact of the camp is evident in participant engagement and stated commitments. However, measuring the long-term behavioral and societal impact requires ongoing follow-up and evaluation.
- **Resource Constraints:** As with many nonprofit initiatives, there might have been limitations in terms of budget, staffing, or logistical resources, which could influence the scale and scope of activities.
- **Reaching a Wider Audience:** While 35 participants is a good number for meaningful interaction, the sheer size of Nigeria's youth population means that only a fraction could be reached directly.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

Based on the insights gained from this camp, TEIC and CFCD could consider the following recommendations for future endeavors:

- **Follow-up Engagement:** Implement a structured follow-up mechanism to support participants in executing their action plans. This could include online forums, mentorship programs, or periodic check-ins.
- **Regional Expansion:** Replicate the camp in different regions of Nigeria to reach a wider and more geographically diverse audience.
- **Advanced Modules:** Develop more advanced sessions or workshops for participants who wish to delve deeper into specific areas of ethics, leadership, or advocacy.
- **Train-the-Trainer Programs:** Equip some of the engaged participants with the skills to conduct similar ethics and values workshops in their own communities, amplifying the camp's impact.

- **Integration with Existing Programs:** Integrate ethics and values discussions into TEIC's and CFCD's ongoing programmatic activities to ensure continuous reinforcement.
- **Partnership Expansion:** Seek further partnerships with educational institutions, religious organizations, and other civil society actors to broaden the reach and impact of ethics education.
- **Evaluation and Impact Measurement:** Develop robust methods for tracking the long-term impact of the camp, including measuring behavioral change and community-level outcomes. This might involve surveys, interviews, and case studies of participants' post-camp activities.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Secure sustained funding to support ongoing initiatives in ethics and values education for youth.

8. CONCLUSION

The 2-Day Youth Camp on National Ethics and Values, a collaborative effort between The Emmanuel Ivorgba Center and the Centre for Faith and Community Development, served as a timely and impactful intervention. By bringing together 35 diverse young men and women in Jos, Plateau State, the camp successfully initiated critical conversations about the indispensable role of ethics and values in shaping Nigeria's future. The engagement, insightful discussions, and commitment to action demonstrated by the participants underscore the potential for youth-led initiatives to foster positive societal transformation. The insights gained from this camp provide a strong foundation for future endeavors aimed at cultivating a more ethically grounded and value-driven Nigeria. The partnership between TEIC and CFCD has proven to be a powerful vehicle for this crucial work, and the lessons learned will undoubtedly inform and enhance future engagement with Nigeria's vibrant youth. The camp has not only raised awareness but has also ignited a spark of commitment within these young individuals, positioning them as future custodians of Nigeria's ethical integrity and developmental trajectory.