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### MENTORSHIP DAY AT M.O.W SPORTS CLUB

Every seminar is a new opportunity to for me learn something new, to engage with new people and to grow as an individual and this one did not disappoint. I am not afraid to be involved and learn something new regardless of how many seminars I have attended before.

I was able to sharpen on my customer service skills at the registration table where I got to engage with different people and address their issues efficiently.

I learnt that failure is not a bad thing from Ernest Ochieng, a student at Harvard University who was the guest speaker. He emphasized the importance of failing and learning from ones mistakes. I was able to draw strength from this as I have failed at many things myself the most recent one being



Figure 1: Christie and Ernest speaking to the students

rejected for a scholarship opportunity to the International School of Kenya. He shared that despite being rejected to Stanford University, he got admitted to Harvard University which is an equally if not a greater school. Ernest shared about his achievements in the past year he has been in Harvard such as being nominated as a finalist for the Freshman Dean's Award. He proves time and time again that one should make a positive impact on one's society regardless of where they are.

To give up or to continue trying until one succeeds? I was faced with this dilemma during one of the experiential training games. We were not winning at all and our team work was dead and at a point of no recovery. I chose to keep pushing my team and encouraging them and we ended up having very promising problem solvers as we were close to completing the puzzle. I found out that despite the theory behind team work, not everyone will be willing contribute and that some often need a little push and I should not be afraid to be the one who steps up to rally the team together.

I was able to benchmark with some of my peers such as Boniface Omina, Ernest Ochieng, Eric Fairweather and Eric Kimonyi. They constantly encourage me to broaden my horizon and to keep aiming for the best



as there is no limit. I was able to draw inspiration from them and learn from experiences they shared over tea and lunch. We were able to deal with challenges we face such as uncertainty in choosing one career path. We came to a rather unsettling conclusion that there is too much in the world that we can do to not do everything.



Figure 3: Christie Weche and Boniface Omina

Due to tardiness on our part, I had to cut my group discussion session short and merge it with the monitoring and evaluation with Rosemary Wambui. It was exciting to say the least, to coordinate people and have them happy to participate in the discussions and give presentations. This was something that was new to me and I was glad to be able to handle it without any embarrassing occurrences. Safe to say, I have noted a great improvement in my confidence and my communication skills.

The impact of what we do at AKAD is a classic tale written in people's hearts that will only bloom into success stories in all aspects of their lives. The question of the value of mentorship never is answered with a negative as it is evident as I see big things like my peers Josphat Lowoi and Sean Karanja graduating from ALA or simple things such as someone making a critical analysis of a situation. It is my wish that each of the people that attended the mentorship day leaves with something that changes their way of thinking because I am certain for a fact that I have. I am grateful for Standard Media who made my job as the Procurement Officer simpler and AKAD Africa for the opportunities of a lifetime.

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