THE BEAUTY OF BIOCHEMISTRY (tBOB), 2016

REPORT FOR THE BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY BY MR. EHIOSUN KEVIN

Education particularly in science and technology remains a veritable tool for individual and national development. This has made nations across the world acknowledge it as a "sine qua non" for eradicating poverty and enhancing economic development.

Biochemistry, a life science, stands at the centre of science and technology. It has contributed greatly towards the quality of human life. In addition, the course is a gateway to noble professions like Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Agriculture, among others.

However, in Nigeria, Biochemistry have been seen by many as a "consolation" course for those who either applied for courses in the aforementioned noble professions but weren't admitted or those admitted but couldn't meet up. This had caused inferiority complex among those undergoing biochemistry study and confusion among those seeking Biochemistry as a choice course. More so, Biochemistry had been dubbed a boring, abstract and difficult course among students.

Hence, The Beauty of Biochemistry (tBOB) was developed as a sustainable outreach programme to allay and correct such notions and mindset among students and make the learning of Biochemistry more attractive and desirable. The outreach supported by outreach grant from Biochemical Society, started in January, 2016 in Akure, the capital city of Ondo State, Nigeria.

The first phase of the programme covered students from two (2) Secondary Schools namely; Aquinas College, Akure (Figure 1) and Olufunmilayo College, Akure, (Figure 2) and Students of Biochemistry Department of The Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) (Figure 3). Activities at the various venues included;

- Scientific seminar
- Career guide
- Discussion, Questions/Answers
- One-on-one chat with facilitators
- Media presentation on Biochemistry
- Posters display

Figure 1: tBOB at Aquinas College, Akure

Figure 2: tBOB at Olufunmilayo College, Akure

Figure 3: tBOB at Federal University of Technology, Akure

During the outreach programme the following were achieved via the activities carried out;

- Biochemistry was made more attractive and desirable to students
- Students were enlightened about the importance and relevance of Biochemistry to other fundamental courses
- Students and Teachers horizon were broaden on the trends in Biochemistry
- Students were educated about the career prospects in studying Biochemistry. This was consolidated by handling to the School Coordinators copies of "BIOCHEMISTRY: THE CARERE GUIDE" (provided by Biochemical Society) to be made available to the students.
- Prospective students were intimated on the necessary qualifications for studying Biochemistry.
- First year undergraduate students were educated on what to expect and areas to specialize in.
- Biochemical Society was introduced to the students as an organisation to join to make Biochemistry interesting with support, information, journals, among other benefits

Figure 4: Students viewing one of the posters on display

Figure 5: Teachers and Students at the event

Figure 6: Students taking notes at the event

Figure 7: A cross section during media presentation

Figure 8: A Presentation by Dr. Salawu S.O

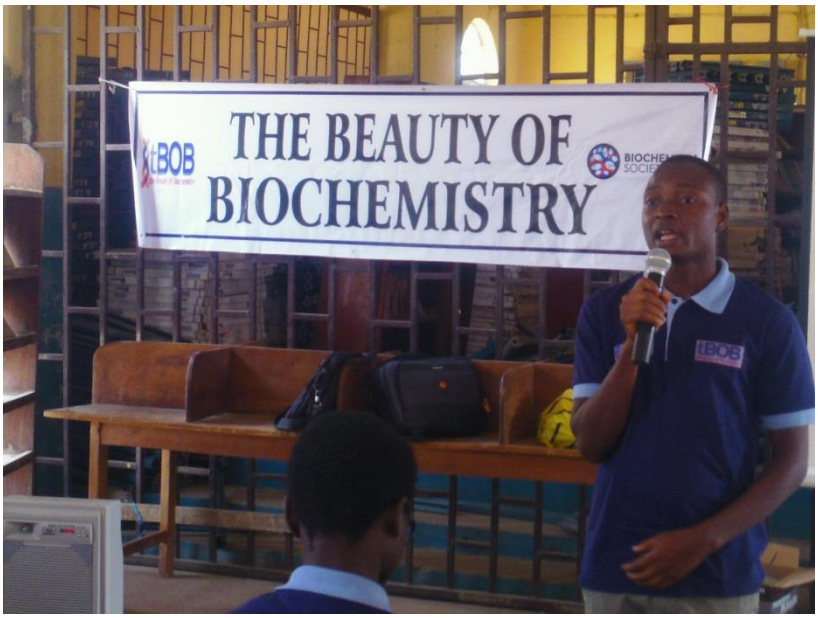

Figure 9: Biochemical Seminar Segment

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, giving the event an average of 80%. Majority of respondents said the event was “fun”, “interesting”, “educational”, “inspiring” and “we want you back”. No negative comment was received. The programme was indeed successful.

Figure 10: A Teacher giving a positive comment

Acknowledgement

Thanks to The Biochemical Society for a Science Outreach Grant, tBOB team members, Staff and students of Aquinas College, Akure and Olufunmilayo College, Akure. Our thanks also go to the Executives of Nigerian Society of Biochemistry Students, FUTA Chapter

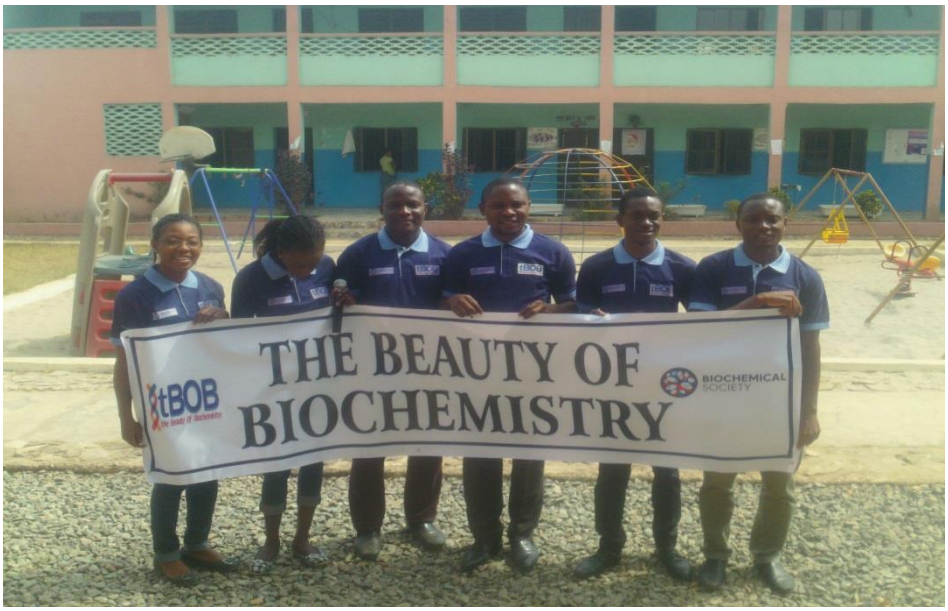

Figure 11: tBOB Team

Figure 12: Career Guide segment

Figure 13: Question/Answers segment

Figure 14: General Discussion segment