

Adolescent girls, parents trained

• To reduce dropout rate among girls

MORE than 60 adolescent girls and parents who are peer counsellors within the Kochem, Ngogu and Bogunaayili communities in the Northern Region have received training in community response and accountability strategies to reduce the school dropout rate among adolescent girls.

This is part of a series of training, support seminars and programmes being organised to empower the girls, parents and community leaders in those areas.

The programme, dubbed:

"Investing in adolescent girls strengthens our community," will also equip local leaders, including religious and traditional leaders, school administrators, and business leaders from the three communities with the requisite skills on how to handle the dropout rate among young girls.

The project is being led by Ms Danielle Taylor, the founder and

Executive Director of a non-profit organisation (NGO), Oman Baako, in collaboration with two local development organisations.

Communities' request

The communities requested that the project be carried out in those areas due to the high number of dropout rate of adolescent girls from school shortly after entering junior high school (JHS).

Speaking at the launch of the project, Ms Taylor described the impact of the neglect of their education and homes as worrying and troubling.

"It reduces their critical thinking skills, their future earning potentials and their capacity to contribute to their community's wellbeing," she lamented.

This worrying development is common in many rural communities of Northern Ghana where girls desert their communities and migrate to the capital city in search of greener pastures.

Existing social norms

She further explained that members of these communities felt "existing social norms contribute to gross gender inequity that leaves girls ill-equipped to seek and take advantage of

opportunities that will increase their physical, social, and economic security and welfare."

Ms Taylor emphasized that the "approach being used by Oman Baako is to work collaboratively with the

community members and leaders to build a more equitable community that celebrates and elevates the contributions and inherent human rights of its young girls.

"By doing so, the community is better positioned to tackle a variety of interconnected challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", she asserted.



• Ms Danielle Taylor with some of the school girls

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