

## **RAISING GLOBAL CITIZENS**

OUR LADY GIRLS' SCHOOL- GHANA

A global citizen is someone who sees him/herself as being part of an emerging world community and whose actions contribute to the building of this community's values, beliefs and practices. In other words he/she is aware of international issues of concern and has a sense of the role he/she has to play to make the world a better place.

Global citizenship education is a civic learning that involves students' active participation in projects that address global/international issues of social, economic, political and environmental concerns. In this space they would be outraged by issues of social injustice, political instability and economic upheavals which are so prevalent in our world today and be moved to act in order to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place.

Therefore as we embark on this road to raise global citizens through our education here in Ghana we hope to sensitize our students on global issues, stimulate their interest and to enable them debate on them at the school and national level and to help them come up with some action plans to enable them participate and make what they are learning a reality here in their environment.

To achieve this we have initiated a Model United Nations (MUN) Club in our school to help our students learn about diplomacy and international issues. It is a young, enthusiastic and vibrant club made up of about fifty Junior High School students. They are very interested in what is happening around the globe. They are already aware of global issues such as immigrants, climate change, poverty, environmental degradation, human trafficking, conflict and war among others.

Among these they have debated on the causes and effects of poverty and also on environmental degradation. On the latter they have come up with a small action plan of picking litter around the compound every day and to plant trees in the school compound to begin with before moving to caring for the environment in our community around the school.

We hope to get in touch with the United Nations office in the capital Accra and forge links with them and to see if there is a programme for students in order to strengthen our club.

It is our hope that this will enable our students to acquire skills and right attitudes that will help them to be agents of social change in our society and the world at large.

(Photographs were captured during the debate in the school hall).