

Worldreader launches reading project

By Juliet Akyaa Safo

A GLOBAL non-profit organisation, Worldreader, has launched a reading project dubbed: "Inspire Us", aimed at encouraging women to access information through reading short stories that talk about their positive contributions to development.

The project also seeks to make tremendous impact in the lives of both women and children and change misrepresentations of women through the collection of stories using digital technology and e-readers.

At the launch of the project in Accra on Tuesday, February 19, the Regional Director of Worldreader West Africa, Mrs Ethel Sakitey, said the project was being funded by the Halen Gurley Brown Trust, through its Pussycut Foundation based in New York, USA.

Contest

Mrs Sakitey said a contest, opened to all writers irrespective of their qualifications, would be organised under the project,



A global non-profit organisation, Worldreader, has launched the "Inspire Us" project aimed at encouraging women to access reading materials that project positive contributions of women in the country and West Africa.



• Mrs Ethel Sakitey (4th left), the Regional Director of Worldreader West Africa, with some speakers and participants

adding that the winner of the contest would receive \$2,000 and a publishing package from Worldreader, while nine other writers would each receive \$100 and a publishing package from Worldreader.

She said the project was focused on reaching out to over 30,000 women aged 14 to 24.

"We want to document stories that tell the stories of heroines in Ghana and across West Africa. We have a lot of book collections from Europe, what about projecting stories from here?" she questioned.

Importance of reading

Delivering the keynote address, an affiliate researcher at the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, Dr Joanna Boampong, said progress had been made over the years towards the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

She said literature had the ability to reinforce positive representation of women, thus having access to information through reading was one surest way of empowering women, adding that, "It is, therefore, important for writers and players in the content creation industry to share stories that articulate storylines in which women are protagonists,

change agents and leaders of the future."

Commendation

A former Second Lady of Ghana, Mrs Mati Amissah-Arthur, who launched the project, said the project had come in handy, describing reading as the basics of everything.

She commended Worldreader for initiative, saying the project would not only inspire women but reduce misrepresentation of women.

The Queenmother of Adabraka, Naa Kor Aadzioyi I, who was present at the launch, expressed her delight for the initiative, adding that the move would greatly encourage reading among young people.