

TUPEPEE 2 CAMPO

TERTIARY AND BEYOND





Transitions are a big part of the human experience. Everyone you know, regardless of who they are or where they are from, is going through a different kind of transition. All these are transitions, be it school-related, age-related, moving to a new town, meeting new people, starting a relationship, or beginning a new job. Transitions are characterised by many emotions: uncertainty, excitement, ignorance, and, most times, a blend of them all. **For a young person in Kenya, the biggest transition is often the one from high school to tertiary institutions and beyond.** Many of those transitioning at this stage are now over 18 years old, which means they are now legally recognised as adults. This realisation comes with immense pressure to "be" a grownup.

Caught in this whirlwind of independence and change, we see young people making courageous choices. Unfortunately, we also see mistakes being made because many decisions are trial-and-error experiments without preparation or guidance. Finding a home that openly offers talks and advice to students transitioning into this critical phase of life is rare.

Welcome to the **#Tupepee programme** powered by Pathways Policy Institute, a **youth-centred, multisectoral collaboration** that promotes **behaviour change** through active, **participatory learning**, aiming to provide guidance and answer the many questions young people have as they take this leap into adulthood. From finances to relationships, from drug use to mental health, the program addresses the pressing topics young adults grapple with while encouraging family and community involvement to create a supportive ecosystem.

WE CANNOT ALWAYS BUILD THE FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH, BUT WE CAN BUILD OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE.
— FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Not all families in Kenya, particularly those in rural areas, have enough information on the learning opportunities available after high school, this is also combined with the unavailability of funds and as a result, this critical transition often marks the end of education for many young people.

Additionally, young people are largely unaware of the financial support opportunities provided by institutions and the government. To address this, the program aims to continue bringing together different stakeholders including tertiary institutions, community leaders, and policymakers to ensure these opportunities are accessible and well-publicized.

In total, **the program trained 100 youth across Laikipia and Nyandarua counties**, equipping them with skills and knowledge to navigate this pivotal stage of life. It was heartwarming to see students who participated in the **Tupepee2Highschool** series now successfully transitioning into tertiary education.

The transition to tertiary education marks a significant shift in a young person's life, bringing newfound independence, responsibilities, and opportunities. To ensure students are well-prepared, PPI facilitated an interactive session covering key areas such as financial literacy, career pathways, and healthy lifestyle choices.

With the evolving landscape of higher education funding in Kenya, marked by changes in the university funding model and the withdrawal of **Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) financing**—many students and parents are seeking alternative ways to fund their education. To address this, financial experts from **Equity Bank** engaged students in essential financial skills, including **budgeting, saving and financial planning**.

After conducting numerous **#Tupepee2Highschool** events, it became evident that we have been impactful in preparing our students well for high school. However, they are left to navigate life after high school alone. Recognising this gap, PPI designed the **#Tupepee2Campo** program for students from rural Laikipia and Nyandarua, to bridge the divide between high school and college entry by providing information and practical tools to navigate the complexities of adulthood.



The discussion underscored the importance of cultivating responsible financial habits early, such as creating a shopping list to manage expenses effectively. Peer pressure and the allure of acquiring the latest trends in fashion and technology were highlighted as financial pitfalls, reinforcing the need for informed decision-making. Students were also cautioned about the increasing prevalence of scams and fraudulent schemes, emphasizing that financial independence comes with the responsibility of safeguarding one's resources. The choice is yours—this message resonated throughout the session, encouraging students to make prudent financial decisions.

Representatives from institutions including **Nyandarua National Polytechnic, KMTCC Nyahururu, and Ndaragwa Training and Vocational Centre** provided insights into various academic and career options available to students. They demystified the college admission process and reassured students about the support systems in tertiary institutions, such as career guidance and financial aid.

Additionally, a student currently enrolled at KMTCC shared practical study strategies and personal experiences of excelling in college. The peer-to-peer engagement proved highly impactful, as students actively participated and sought guidance on various academic disciplines. Entering college comes with greater freedom and exploration, making it crucial for students to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

A nurse coordinator from **Nyahururu County Referral Hospital** led a candid discussion on sexual and reproductive health, providing a safe space for students to ask pressing questions. The interactive session saw participants overcome their initial hesitation, using written notes and private conversations to seek clarity on different issues.

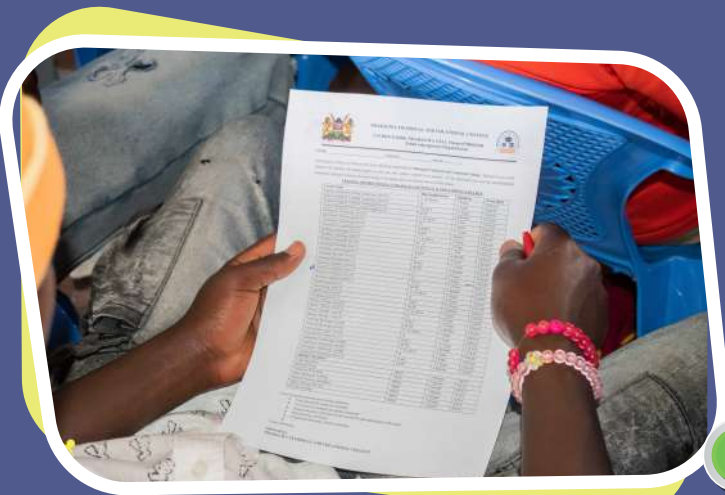


The session also tackled common misconceptions surrounding **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** institutions. The trainers emphasized that choosing a TVET path does not equate to failure; rather, it offers hands-on skills and vast employment opportunities.

This discussion encouraged students to embrace diverse career pathways with confidence and an open mind.



A key highlight was the distribution of menstrual cups to students, sparking an important conversation on menstrual health. While some girls readily embraced the hygiene products, others hesitated, underscoring the stigma that still surrounds menstruation, particularly in mixed-gender settings. This moment served as a reminder of the ongoing need to normalize open discussions on menstrual and reproductive health.



The choice is yours

The #Tupepee2Campo program addressed not just the academic and career aspects of transitioning but also life skills, emotional well-being, and personal responsibility. By encouraging collaboration among youth, families, and institutions, the program created a supportive network that ensured no young person was left behind during this critical stage of life.



To further enhance its impact, the program calls on stakeholders to partner with us to expand awareness of financial aid and career opportunities and expand our scope to deliver inclusive sessions that address the unique challenges faced by youth from diverse backgrounds, including those with disabilities.

By the end of the session, the students were better prepared to embrace this next chapter of their lives. They left with answers and the confidence to navigate their transitions. While change is inevitable, programs like Tupepee ensure that transitions don't have to be daunting.

**DO WHAT YOU CAN, WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, WHERE YOU ARE."
— THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

