



Opening Remarks by Dr Adesola Adeduntan, CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Limited at the Webinar on Education- "Does Kindness have a role?" on Wednesday, 28 July 2021.

- I am delighted to welcome you all on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of First Bank of Nigeria Ltd.
- The theme of this webinar, "**Education- Does Kindness have a role?**" resonates with the core strategic pillars of our Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability which are: Education, Health and Welfare, Financial Inclusion and Responsible Lending & Procurement.
- Every year, as part of our corporate responsibility & sustainability initiatives, FirstBank undertakes projects under the SPARK (Start Performing Acts of Random Kindness) initiative and creates public awareness on the importance of people showing acts of kindness to others.
- In the words of Henry James, the renowned American author, "Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind."
- This webinar is undoubtedly one of the most important activities lined up to mark the FirstBank's Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CR&S) Week as it aims to promote the SPARK values in Education with the goal of institutionalising it.
- The discussion will feature iconic figures from the Academia: Prof. Ken Amaeshi, University of Edinburgh, UK and European University Institute Florence, Italy and Prof. Liz Grant, University of Edinburgh.
- The Honourable Commissioner of Education in Lagos State, Mrs Folashade Adefisayo is also here to grace the occasion.
- We at FirstBank are truly honoured to have these important personalities engage in such an important discourse as this!
- While we acknowledge that Education is one of the most powerful things in life that helps us to find a meaning to everything and creates the platform to break barriers, we cannot agree

less with C.S. Lewis that “Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a cleverer devil”.

- This is why kindness as a virtue and value, has to take its roots in the minds of everyone and when it is imbibed as a way of life, it permeates every core of the human existence and interactions, making learning richer.
- According to National Centre for Educational Statistics, 2019, one out of every five (20.2%) students are reportedly being bullied during a school year.
- This results in long-lasting damages in the victims such as loss of self-esteem, depression, poor performance, suicide attempts and unfortunately, a continuous cycle of bullying.
- At FirstBank, empathy is at the core of our brand promise and we care about the mental well-being of every individual.
- There is no gainsaying that a mentally balanced student will perform excellently and make a wholesome community. Indeed, the role of kindness in our learning institutions cannot be emphasized!
- I therefore urge all parents, teachers and caregivers to teach the values of kindness and empathy to their children/wards thereby helping the young ones to see the outward impact of their actions in developing a just and sustainable world for everyone.
- We have a role to teach them this value by the very acts of kindness that we demonstrate.
- At FirstBank, we will continue to demonstrate our passion for Education and an unwavering commitment to ensuring quality standards of learning in our institutions.
- If we will all assume the role of kindness, the world will become a better place to live in starting from our own immediate circle.
- Once again, I welcome all participants to this webinar and enjoin you to actively participate so that together we can have an enriching time.
- Thank you and do have a great time!

Dr Adesola Adeduntan

Chief Executive Officer