

Giving Voice to Values (GVV) Virtual Workshop

6th - 7th July, 2020 | 9:00 GMT - 12:30 GMT

Concept note

The Giving Voice to Values (GVV) curriculum teaches strategies for standing up for one's beliefs and acting on one's values. While most approaches to ethics education focus on building awareness of ethical issues and applying frameworks of ethical reasoning, such as consequential, rule-based, communitarian, and care or virtue-based approaches, the GVV curriculum goes beyond *awareness* and *analysis* to teaching skills in *ethical action*. For example, students learn how to identify enabling factors that encourage speaking out and disabling factors that discourage action; how to formulate counter arguments and identify levers of influence based on reasons and rationalizations commonly used to justify unethical behavior; and how to tap into self-knowledge and one's personal or professional sense of purpose to motivate speaking up and taking action. The curriculum is centered on values conflict cases in which a protagonist has already concluded what he or she believes is right, desires to take action, but isn't certain how to effectively proceed. Students are tasked with writing scripts for how the protagonists can speak up and be heard. To whom should they speak? When? Where? What should they say in order to be persuasive? How might the antagonist or other characters in the case respond? Giving Voice to Values provides an opportunity for students to rehearse and refine action plans for addressing values conflicts they experience and observe.

Originally developed for MBA programs in the United States, GVV is the brainchild of American business professor Mary Gentile. Launched in partnership with the Aspen Institute and the Yale School of Management, the curriculum is now hosted by the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. At Ashesi, GVV cases have been developed to connect with the African and youth contexts so that students can consider strategies for speaking up in realistic scenarios they can easily imagine or may have even witnessed or experienced already. Further, the cultural dimension of what can be said and to whom are derived in part from local norms. If

the goal is to counter the status quo, then culturally relevant arguments and styles of communication must be considered. Acting out scripts to these realistic values conflict situations helps give students skills they can put into practice right away, building confidence and motivation for ethical action while in university and in the future. This two-day hands-on train-the-trainer workshop will build participants' capacity to teach skills in ethical action.

Facilitators

- **Rebecca Awuah**, Mathematics and Statistics Lecturer, Ashesi University
- **Ebenezer Gwumah Buckman**, Director of External Relations and Special Assistant to the President, Ashesi University
- **David Dei-Awuku**, Business Development Manager, Boost Ghana Ltd.

Outline

Day 1

Morning Session

Intro – GVV is not about teaching values!

Introduction to the concept of ethical action

A Tale of Two Stories

Enablers and Disablers for Voicing Values

Small group Tale of Two Stories

Identify personal and external enablers and disablers to voicing values

Break

Afternoon Session

Formulating Well-Reasoned Responses

Identifying common reasons and rationalizations for unethical behavior
Strategies: identifying what is at stake; reframing; offering alternatives

Day 2

Morning Session

Recap from day 1

Motivation and Courage

Using self-knowledge to align actions with personality and style

Alignment with personal and professional sense of purpose builds motivation and courage to act

Afternoon Session

Building Mental Muscle for Voicing Values

Scripting & role-playing

Peer feedback

Wrap-up & sharing of GVV resources

Registration and Fees

Please use the link to register: <https://bit.ly/GVV>. Registration closes 4th July and space is limited.

Registration fee is **\$50 per person**. This includes a certificate after completion. Also, participants will receive teaching learning resources and will formally join the Education Collaborative's *Ethics Curriculum Community of Practice* to develop resources on ethics education in Africa.