

Title: I Finally Took the Covid Vaccine and this Was What Happened

Link: <https://medium.com/@achobaojonugwa/i-finally-took-the-covid-vaccine-and-this-was-what-happened-996f42932ecd>

Number 16! Number 17!! Number 18!!!

These were the first words I heard as I stepped into Ikosi Primary Health Centre for my covid vaccine collection.

It's 6:00 am Friday morning, I have my bath, get dressed, and set out to Ikosi PHC to receive the Moderna vaccine. I mean, it's only fair to myself to take the vaccine as a safety measure as Sanwo Olu recently announced that Lagos state was struggling to curtail the third wave of the virus.

In a news report published by vanguard, Lagos State reported a total of 4300 positive Covid-19 cases in July 2021 with only 352 in isolation centres. The scary part was despite the surge in the number of covid cases, only 1% of Lagos State residents had received two doses of the vaccine.

Going back to my experience, as I arrived at the vaccine collection centre at almost 7 am, the first thing I noticed was the crowd also waiting to get vaccinated. When I tried to inquire about the process, I was told by a staff of Ikosi PHC that I was late as all the numbers had been shared and I would have to return the following day to get vaccinated.

Saturday morning...

Repeating the same routine, only this time, I wake up by 5:30 am and made my way to the centre before 6:30 am. Luckily for me, I was number 47. But after close observation, I discovered that people who came after 8 am had numbers. It was only then I realised that with a small token, you could secure a spot regardless of when you arrived. 'I mean it's Nigeria, anything is possible'

Finally, I was able to get my first vaccine jab at about 10 am. As expected, I reacted to the vaccine. I experienced chills, my temperature was slightly high and pain at the injection spot.

I was given a month's interval to receive my second covid shot. During this period, I continued to keep as safe as I could.

You know, Nigeria is a funny place and Lagos is a crazy place. As the number of covid cases continued to increase in the city, so was the number of owambes on the rise. At a point, it

seemed like Lagosians were in a competition of `so you think you can scare us' with Coronavirus.

According to the World Bank, the Covid-19 pandemic coupled with the collapse in Oil Prices was expected to plunge the Nigerian economy into a severe economic recession the worst since the 1980s.

To be fair, so many things scared me when the virus was first announced in the country. You see, Nigeria is the most populous African country with the largest economy but also one of the countries with the worst infrastructure that has crippled our healthcare sector amongst others

A statement made by Melinda Gates made rounds in the early Covid Phase where she presumed the situation in Ecuador, where dead bodies were littered on the streets was going to happen in most African countries due to our poor health care system.

Although that didn't happen, the virus sure exposed the extent of which how terrible our healthcare system is. Hospitals experienced oxygen shortages, limited bed spaces in isolation centres and covid test costs more than the country's minimum wage.

One month later and I am due for my second covid jab...

As expected, I arrived early enough at the same centre where I received the first shot. After learning from previous experience, I tried my best to get there on time but with all my effort I was number 66.

This time around, I noticed there was a bit of a scuffle as people refused to be cheated like previous times. At around 11 am, I was done and fully vaccinated and like my first experience, I reacted to the second shot which lasted for 48hrs.

Without a doubt, it is evident that the Lagos State government is trying its best to make sure everyone gets vaccinated. A site has been created for pre-vaccine registration and an adverse risk communication channel has been set up to manage and monitor effects after vaccine collection and to even educate residents.

However, it is important to note that being vaccinated does not mean caution should be thrown into the wind. The vaccine is a powerful tool to curbing the spread of covid-19 but it is important to continue to adhere to other public health and social measures.

If you are struggling to find a covid vaccine centre in Lagos, [click here](#) to find a list of all the centres giving the vaccine.

Title: Meet 24-Year-Old Ololade Koleosho From Ibadan Who Is Ruling The Nigerian Beauty Industry

With a booming business and strong social media presence, it is fascinating to know that 24-year-old Koleosho Ariat Ololade popularly known by her brand name ML_Pro emits so much humility and grace that you definitely cannot ignore.

Based in Ibadan and steadily dominating the beauty industry in Nigeria, Ololade an orphan, is a self-taught makeup artist and a graduate of Philosophy from the University of Ibadan who recently completed her National Youth Service Corps.

“Yes, I’m a self-taught makeup artist. Thanks to YouTube and that’s basically by watching videos and reading one or two tips which has helped me in several areas of my makeup journey. Most importantly, I had to keep updating what I have in my head, learning doesn’t stop. You learn every day; I ensure I don’t go a day without learning a new thing or two. I then add and subtract from the basic knowledge I have about makeup already.”

Her story is one I would describe as God stirring you towards a purposeful direction without you realising; for Ololade, she learnt makeup as a joke during her first year in the University which she never planned to take up as a business path, until the entrepreneurial spirit in her made it into a viable venture.

Ololade describes herself as a very expressive individual who is shy but keen about saving and doesn’t forget to point out that surviving in the beauty industry has not been all rosy especially starting while in school which meant juggling between schoolwork and meeting up with clients.

In all this process, Ololade doesn’t fail to show her human side as she acknowledges that she ended up disappointing some of her clients due to the fact that she was running a one-man business with no teammate.

Even with all the hassle at the initial stage of her business, there was no doubt that she was surrounded by God’s unending grace as she received her breakthrough even while in school. It came as a joke to Ololade when she was contacted to do popular Nigerian actress Toyin Abraham’s makeup; not ending there, she became the official makeup artist for the wives of Alaafin of Oyo ever since then, her social media presence, traffic and demand in the industry has skyrocketed.

Wondering how she has managed to thrive in the makeup business despite being based in Ibadan which is known for having a very affordable standard of living? Ololade reminds us how huge, supportive, and encouraging the market is over there and points to the fact she has managed to change the underpricing narrative in her own little way by making sure every payment by a client is worth every look.

“Ibadan market is favourable for me because I built a healthy fan base from scratch and I’ve made myself affordable to serious customers. Also, Ibadan is very big and quite populated hence I ensure to improve by the day to serve them better and give them reasons to pay for our services without questioning and choose us continuously.”

So far, she sees the market over there as favourable, diverse in opportunities and has encouraged other entrepreneurs to make good use of every opportunity found. Without disputing the fact that the invention of social media has helped her reach a larger audience, Ololade agrees that this has served as a major source for locating clients and vice versa.

“The love and support in Ibadan is encouraging and that’s because I started off with taking advantage of the University which I believe is a large market, then penetrate into the hearts of Ibadan people and not settle for less. The undercharging culture is what makes some entrepreneurs leave Ibadan, but I changed the perception for some of them. Also, social media has helped me locate different people from different parts of the world.”

With all the *razzmatazz* surrounding various women movements like #girlpower, #womenstandingtogether etc one thing that struck me most about her response to my questions was when she expressed a major challenge she faces. It is surprising to discover that Ololade still battles with unhealthy competition amongst some of her colleagues who have resorted to speaking ill of her to clients and as such, made her very picky as regarding her circle of friends.

In all, there is one thing we cannot rule out which is the fact that Ololade is destined to succeed; she was recently made a brand ambassador for a transport company in Ibadan, Oyo state and was chosen to represent young entrepreneurs in the beauty industry at a conference.

Not forgetting her entrepreneurial spirit and zeal, Ololade believes in having multiple streams of income which pushed her to start her own hair care line business alongside running a delivery and pickup service operating in Lagos and Ibadan.

Ololade who is an orphan is also dedicated to impacting the lives of orphans in the best positive way.

“As an orphan I go to a specific orphanage to spend time and show love to the kids with gifts yearly, from July 2018 I and my team will be meeting with them once every month to engage them in activities, build friendship and prepare them for the future and of course meet their necessary needs. I don’t think being an orphan is enough to give up and let go but to get together and accept that’s how God wants it and prove yourself worthy of living independently, responsibly with 100% trust in God only.”

Finally, Ololade who is an unapologetic devoted Christian is definitely not slowing down or leaving Ibadan anytime soon which she proves by responding to the question with ‘*for Ololade it is Ibadan to the world*’.

Title: Staying Alone as a Young Lady; so what is the Big Deal

I have always dreamt of having my own apartment, living alone, and having friends come to visit me from time to time right from my secondary days.

Going to a private university, I did not have the opportunity of exploring this option, because we had hostel rooms which were very comfortable. Each room had a kitchenette, toilet, and bathroom for its two occupants.

I mean there is so much joy in getting that freedom and privacy you have always wanted and as a young lady in my mid-twenties, I am starting to settle in with the realisation that my privacy is a lot more important to me now than ever.

Imagine getting back from work at 7pm, taking your pants off and dumping it in the living room, throwing your wig in your improvised dining area, that satisfying feeling you get when you finally take off your bra or walking about in your undies because it's your house.

I understand that staying alone comes with its own responsibilities and self-awareness but the beautiful thing about it, is that you are not liable to anyone, no curfew, no strict rules, you don't have to eat what everyone is eating just to please the family housing you, watch TV programs you are not interested in or go for church programs you never planned on attending.

So, imagine the shock on my face when I finally got a job far from home and I told my parents I would need their help in securing a place of my own. My Dad abruptly told me 'ladies do not stay alone' while my mum gently said 'girls that stay alone are seen as wayward and wouldn't find husbands to marry.'
LIKE IS THAT EVEN A REASON?

To say I was heartbroken is the least expressive way to tell you how I felt. My stay alone dreams were shattered, the future girls sleepover I planned for were cancelled, my imaginary well-furnished living room was gone.

I have heard people say ladies should not stay alone because we are fragile, we can't protect ourselves from harm or men would run away from us. But my major concern is why is there a default assumption that a woman living alone in Nigeria is loose? Is this a cultural thing or societal belief? I am yet to find out.

BREAKING THE MYTH

Some of the MYTHS formed by our society includes:

Myth 1: You will not get be attractive for marriage: In the real sense, staying alone indirectly teaches you some important lessons needed in marriage.

Firstly, you become independent and financially conscious because you are now responsible for everything in your home e.g electricity bill, water bill and house rent. You learn how to budget; you

begin to separate your wants from your needs and start to prioritise things that are necessary to you. This helps in marriage because you are no longer seen as a liability to your spouse.

Myth 2: Ladies who stay alone are seen as wayward: Staying alone helps you to become more disciplined in the sense that you are now accountable to yourself. This means that you come to a self-realisation that anything you do affects your future. A good way of handling this, is setting goals for yourself and working your way to achieving them.

Myth 3: You will not be secure: The best way to get around this is to get yourself familiar with your neighbourhood and get to know the people who stay around you. Another major point is something we have probably heard right from our childhood, which is 'never open the door to your home for any stranger to come in.' Always be sure that you know the person standing by the door before granting them access into your home.

Although the society we live in has succeeded in stereotyping young ladies who live alone, there is no doubt that staying alone helps most of us become independent, responsible, and more self-aware of our environment.

Sadly, I still do not stay alone but hopefully, I will someday. A lady can dream right?
Let me know some of the funny reasons you've been told for why young ladies should not stay alone.