

GYEITI Strengthens Transparency Awareness Through Secondary School Engagement Programme



Reaching the Next Generation of Transparency Advocates

As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and public understanding of Guyana's extractive sector, the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) Secretariat recently completed a series of school engagement sessions across regions 3 and 4.

The initiative forms part of activities outlined in the [GYEITI 2025/2026 Work Plan](#) and contributes directly to the implementation of EITI Requirement 7.1 on Public Debate by expanding awareness of natural resource governance among young people and encouraging informed discussions on the management of Guyana's extractive resources.

Between May and June 2026, the Secretariat visited nine secondary schools across the West Coast Demerara, East Coast Demerara, and East Bank Demerara communities, engaging a total of **269 students and 25 teachers**.

The schools visited were:

1. Uitvlugt Secondary School
2. Leonora Secondary School
3. Annandale Secondary School
4. Hope Secondary School
5. Friendship Secondary School
6. Covent Garden Secondary School

7. Golden Grove Secondary School
8. Bygeval Secondary School
9. Cummings Lodge Secondary School

Understanding Transparency and Accountability



The sessions introduced students to the work of GYEITI and the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), while highlighting the importance of transparency and accountability in the management of natural resources.

Students participated in discussions on a range of topics, including:

- What is GYEITI?
- The role of EITI in promoting transparency
- Transparency and accountability
- Corruption and its impacts
- The Resource Curse
- Dutch Disease
- Natural resource governance
- The relationship between extractive resources and national development

The presentations demonstrated how responsible management of natural resources can influence economic growth, sustainable development, and the well-being of future generations.

Bringing GYEITI Reports to the Classroom

To support the discussions, the Secretariat utilised a variety of dissemination materials, including the **GYEITI Data Dissemination Bulletin for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023**, informational brochures, and other outreach resources developed from GYEITI reporting.

These materials helped students better understand key findings from GYEITI Reports and provided practical examples of how information disclosed through the EITI process contributes to transparency, accountability, and informed public debate.

Students were also encouraged to visit the [GYEITI website](#) and follow the [GYEITI Facebook page](#) in their free time to access reports, educational resources, and updates on transparency initiatives within Guyana's extractive sector. The objective was to promote continued learning beyond the classroom and foster greater youth engagement in issues related to natural resource governance.

Students Demonstrate Strong Interest and Engagement



One of the most encouraging outcomes of the programme was the level of participation displayed by students during the question-and-answer segments.

Although no formal assessment was conducted, students demonstrated an understanding of concepts and terminology that had only been introduced during the presentations. Their questions reflected genuine curiosity about transparency, accountability, governance, and the management of extractive sector revenues.

Among the questions raised were:

1. What companies are involved in EITI?
2. What sectors benefit from revenue allocations?
3. What happens if companies fail to submit required information?

4. How does EITI ensure that information disclosed is accurate?
5. How will EITI Clubs benefit students and schools?
6. Is there a cost to becoming a member of an EITI Club?
7. Are there opportunities for students to become involved with GYEITI in the future?
8. What happens if incorrect information is included in an EITI Report?
9. What are the consequences if Guyana fails EITI Validation?
10. Why are Guyana's EITI Reports produced with a time lag?

The quality of these questions highlighted the students' enthusiasm and demonstrated the effectiveness of the outreach sessions in stimulating discussion and critical thinking.

Establishing EITI Clubs in Schools



A key objective of the initiative is the establishment of EITI Clubs within participating schools.

These clubs are envisioned as platforms through which students can continue learning about transparency, accountability, civic participation, and natural resource governance long after the presentations have concluded.

Several head teachers expressed support for the initiative, while many students indicated their interest in becoming founding members of the clubs.

The long-term goal is to successfully establish and refine the EITI Club model within participating schools before expanding the initiative to other secondary schools across Guyana.

Supporting GYEITI's Work Plan and Public Debate Objectives

This initiative represents an important step in GYEITI's broader efforts to expand public awareness of the extractive sector and encourage informed citizen engagement.

By introducing students to the findings of GYEITI Reports, facilitating discussion on governance issues, and promoting access to publicly available information, the programme contributes directly to EITI Requirement 7.1 on Public Debate and supports activities outlined in the GYEITI Work Plan.

The initiative also lays the foundation for long-term youth engagement in transparency and accountability issues through the planned establishment of EITI Clubs nationwide.

Looking Ahead

The Secretariat will continue to work closely with head teachers and designated school focal points to advance the establishment of EITI Clubs within participating schools.

While approval for the initiative has been granted by the Ministry of Education, each school has its own administrative processes and procedures. These are being carefully considered as implementation progresses.

GYEITI remains committed to ensuring that young people are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to understand and participate in discussions about the management of Guyana's natural resources.

Acknowledgements

The GYEITI Secretariat extends its sincere appreciation to:

- The Honourable Sonia Parag, Minister of Education
- Mr. Saddam Hussain, Chief Education Officer
- The Head Teachers and staff of participating schools
- The teachers and students who actively participated
- All stakeholders who contributed to the success of the initiative

Their support and collaboration were instrumental in making this programme possible.

As Guyana's extractive sector continues to evolve, initiatives such as these help build a generation of informed citizens who understand the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsible natural resource management.

About GYEITI

The Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) promotes the open and accountable management of Guyana's natural resources through public reporting, stakeholder engagement, and implementation of the EITI Standard.

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