**CONCEPT ON SCHOOL DROPOUT**

**What it is – Leaving school before finishing studies at a given cycle or level.**

To address the dropout crisis requires a better understanding of why learners drop out. Causes of dropping out of school are multiple depending on many factors in the different settings where it occurs.

Factors that lead to dropping out include individual characteristics of learners, institutional characteristics of their families, schools and the communities in which they live.

According to vision 2030 Education is a crucial component of economic growth because it directly influences growth, employment opportunities and adaptation to a fast – changing global inclination. Therefore, a high dropout rate reduces the literacy rate, growth rate and pace of development.

The rate of dropouts in Uganda is 45% at primary level and 30% at secondary level.

Children of official school going age who are out of school are 14% boys and 13% girls respectively.

The school dropout rates have affected all at different levels. Among the effects are the following;

* High crime rate causing insecurity
* Low paying jobs which cannot sustain one.
* A strain on public resources because dropouts rely on government for all their needs.
* An underlying force for under development of the economy
* Jobs that require high skilled personnel are forced to employ people who may not be qualified.
* High poverty levels in the communities.
* Premature sexual activity involvement.
* Little opportunity for upward mobility.
* High – risk behaviors such as delinquency, violence, drug abuse and suicide.
* Child marriages and early pregnancies.
* Economic drop or loses for a country
* Poverty
* Financial insufficiency and lack of health insurance which can lead to difficulties in providing for their families.
* Unemployment.

**Causes of school dropout take place at four levels;**

**1. Home level:**

* Gender discrimination.
* Low socio economic status.
* Low education level of parents
* Poverty
* Culture and beliefs in different settings
* Domestic Violence
* Lack of interest by the parents
* Location of the school
* Not living with parents
* Family responsibilities
* Child labour
* Family disruptions

**2. Community level:**

* Peer pressure
* Insecurity
* Famine
* Distance covered
* High – risk behavior in the community
* Disasters
* Lack of role models in the community

**3. School level:**

* Cost of education
* Un friendly school environment
* Teacher’s absenteeism
* Coporal punishments
* Lack of meals at school
* Incidequate facilities
* Poor structures
* Language of instruction
* Harsh policies and practices in school
* Poor sanitation
* Bullying
* Discrimination

**4. Personal level:**

* Illness or poor health
* Physical / mental disabilities
* Academic difficulties
* Teacher – Pupil relatiobships
* Lack of involvement in school activities
* Poor performance
* Back ground
* Age of the child
* Pregnancy

**Curbing school dropout / solutions**

* Establishment of schools with necessary facilities.
* Implementation / enforcing laws on child labour, early marriages etc.
* Sensitization of parents and community about the value of education.
* Training learners in social skills (vocational training)
* Ensuring feeding in schools.
* Involving national and local leaders in motivating learners
* Building more schools
* Provision of free education
* Having accessible sexual and reproductive services in schools
* Providing guidance and counseling to learners.
* Advocating for carrier guidance
* Employ trained teachers.
* Having learner friendly schools (inclusive schools)
* Automatic promotion
* Motivating learners by offering scholarships for needy students.

**Impact of not dropping out of school**

* Being productive and resourceful
* One tackles life’s challenges ably
* Chances of more exposure
* A promised better future
* Good status in society
* Having citizens of integrity that are honest
* It is basis of character building
* Open carrier opportunities
* Positive contribution towards the advancement of society.
* Empowering one’s social capital
* Improved economy and more income.

**Issues to note when training a speech**

Types of speech:

1. **Ceremonial speech**: – Given on a special occasion, in most cases the speaker has personal connections to the event.
2. **Demonstrative speech**: – A speech given when explaining how to do something.
3. **Informative speech**: – The speaker gives vital information. Information is transferred from one person to another.
4. **Persuasive speech**: - The speaker makes a speech with a goal in mind to convince the audience of his / her point of view to create an impact.

***A good speech should have a clear beginning / introduction, body and conclusion.***

**Features to note in the introduction:**

**The speaker’s;**

* Knowledge about the subject and situation or occasion
* Who is the speaker?
* Who is the listener?
* Image (does he/ she hold the image for which he/ she is standing for.)
* Knowledge of his / her audience. The attention should be captured on set.

**Body of the speech**; This bears the message being passed on: The speaker makes the audience understand this message through:

* gestures ,eye contact , appearance ,tone variations , facial expressions , poise, silent causes , flow of ideas , choice of words used , researched information , statistics/data , back ground , involvement of the audience.

***NB***: Involvement of the audience; the speaker may;

* Point out something important about the audience
* Relate a recent event
* Ask them to “imagine”
* Share a personal experience
* Create questions
* Ask them by show of hands

**Delivery / Presentation:**

The following should be put into account;

* Projection
* Confidence
* Concrete references / facts
* Humor (helps to connect with the audience)
* Credibility
* Diction
* Intonation
* Naturalness
* Audience awareness
* Tonal variations that bring out the mood

**General points to note:**

**Is the speaker?**

* Motivating
* Convincing
* Entertaining
* Using the visual impact?
* Getting a feedback from the audience

***Organized by Nagudi Esther***