

Name of Activity: Intergenerational Dialogue	
Date: June 09, 2017	Location: Nebbi Town Secondary School
Staff member in-charge: Edwin Muramuzi	Total Number of participants: <i>92 People</i> (15 male, 77 Female) including 90 (all female) new participants
Introduction: The dialogue was facilitated a panel of three school girls with support from Officer in-charge Edwin. The dialogue was attended by a few teachers, girls who had completed the Social Skills Training and some of their guardians/parents.	
Key highlights/ Content of activity	
<p><u>Program</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Arrival of participants Group discussions Understanding MEMPROW/Dialogues Group presentations Plenary discussion Closure <p>As parents were arriving, girls were allocated to three groups where they discussed some of the challenges they face in their communities or homes that would hinder them from achieving their dreams. After the group discussions, the three groups presented to parents and they submitted the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being mistreated by parents • Being forced to do work beyond their abilities • Being insulted or use of abusive language at home and nicknaming • Corporal punishments • Sexual harassment especially by boda-boda riders and rich men • Defilement • Being denied the right to go to school • Being forced to get married • Parents who spend most of their resources on alcohol <p>Parents were given time to react to what the girls had submitted and the following comments/questions generated the discussion:</p> <p><i>Question: Do girls report when defilement happens?</i></p> <p>Defilement was defined as a sexual encounter that involves an adult and a minor. In addition, one of the parents submitted that defilement may not be a one off action as many people would think; in a case where a girl continuously engages with an adult in a sexual activities whether the two are married or not then all the encounters would be equivalent to defilement.</p> <p>The following barriers to reporting sexual violence were highlighted: Sometimes, a child may be confused if they experienced positive physical pleasure, arousal, or emotional intimacy from the abuse. This confusion can make it difficult for the child to speak up; People who abuse children may offer a combination of gifts or treats and threats about what will happen if the child says 'no' or tells someone.</p>	

***Comment:* When children in school are given corporal punishments, they should appreciate them because they are being groomed to behave in a way that is appropriate; they should do the punishments very fast and rush back to class so that they do not waste their study time.**

In reaction to the comment, Edwin asked participants to describe one teacher (either from primary or secondary schools) whom they would look for or meet and feel happy. Teachers described include those who were always guiding learners in their weak areas, offering career guidance and counseling, encouraging/motivating learners to stay in school, always available in case any assistance was needed, helped whenever one failed and offered corrective punishment for one to always be conscious of bad habits like late coming to school and dodging lessons. Parents were challenged to reflect on how they would want to be remembered in the lives of their children. Good parents should always be available for their children, know their children's potential, encourage them to pursue their studies, give them time and encourage them to revise their notes, take time to understand their challenges, be exemplary to them among other virtues.

***Question:* What should parents do in case they are unable to pay school fees for their girl and some man offers to pay school fees with intention to marry the girl in future?**

Generally, there were mixed reactions to this question with some parents suggesting that it would be okay to let a man who has the potential pay school fees whereas others were against the idea saying that a man would treat a girl as a slave and in case the girl changes her mind to marrying another man; there would be bitter conflicts. It was concluded that natural attraction should be the foundation of an intimate relationship that would lead to marriage but not parents choosing a partner for a girl or a partner first paying school fees with an intention to marry the girl. In addition, offering school fees in exchange of a girl was regarded as a form of child trafficking and therefore offensive and criminal.

***Question:* Who of the school going children (boys or girls) often come late to school and why?**

It was largely agreed that most late comers at school are girls and the reasons included; girls spend so much time making up, girls are quite slower than boys and also that girls have a number of household chores to do before they walk to school. It was further shared that in some homes, whenever children come from school, boys pick their footballs to go and play or they just change clothes to go and sit idly by the road side or just stay in the nearby Trading Centre for the evening while the girls pick jerry-cans to go and fetch water, they collect firewood and prepare dinner. Therefore, parents were encouraged to equally share roles amongst their children as part of grooming them.



Picture Left: One the parents (standing) stressing a point during the dialogue.

Picture Right: A panel of girls (standing) at the opening of the dialogue.

Immediate outputs/results:

1. Parents became aware of how they would keep and home environment safe for their children after understanding the different forms of child abuse that exist in theirs and how they impact on children. On the other hand, the girls were cautioned about some of their habits that could stop them from achieving their dreams.
2. Eleven (11) Champions were selected; they pledged to be at the forefront of supporting girls (their own first) to stay in school, be exemplary in the way they handle their children and manage conflicts in their families.

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