

GOOD SCHOOL

Putting Our
Hands Together
To Create A
Good School

Newsletter

What's inside?

In our introductory issue we talked about how to create a Good School using the *Good School Toolkit* and learned lessons from schools using it. We also explained some of the activities of the Peer Learning Network and invited you to join.

This time round we would like to discuss corporal punishment and its consequences for teachers, students and your entire school. This newsletter will also give you an insight into the activities the Network has done over the past four months.

Are you ready to create a school without corporal punishment? More than 500 schools across Uganda are trying!



The Peer Learning Network engages children, teachers, organizations and other individuals using the Good School Toolkit in different activities to share their ideas. They have followed our Good Schools Formula:

Good Teachers + Good Learning Environment +
Good Administration =



Corporal punishment. What is it? How does it affect students, teachers and your entire school?

Views on corporal punishment

The Committee on the rights of a child, defines 'corporal' or 'physical' punishment as any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light.

Corporal punishment is a bad act which causes injuries and harm to our bodies.

Pupil from Busega Primary school

Corporal punishment is going beyond discipline to abuse a child's rights physically, emotionally and mentally.

Roland Mwesigwa- University student

Corporal punishment is the caning of children and giving them hard tasks in the form of punishments, it is common in homes and at school.

Head teacher, Busega Primary School.

'Corporal punishment is so common it has become invisible'

Using corporal punishment does not define how tough you are or how much respect you can get as a person. Rather it will create fear between you and the people around you. So let us task ourselves, what other alternatives we can use?



Consequences of corporal punishment

For Students

- Hurts the child's body
- Hurts children's hearts
- Children do not trust adults
- Creates an environment where it is difficult to learn
- Children feel humiliated
- Children may bully each other

For Teachers

- Learners lose respect
- Learners experience fear in the classroom
- May face legal action due to prohibition of corporal punishment

For the School

- Increased drop-out levels
- Reduced learning outcomes
- Reduced school enrollment
- Creates an environment of fear



Fact File

Wall of Fame



"Corporal punishment is the wrong way to discipline a child. The aim is not to substitute it with psychological abuse but to discipline without using violence." UNICEF

We followed up various committee leaders doing excellent work to prevent violence in their schools and it was challenging to come up with a single winner, Hacma however is one of the most outstanding:

- She chairs the Good School Committee in her school.
- She chaired the International Day of the Girl Child at Hotel Africana in Uganda
- She also represented Uganda in New York for the 57th Commission on the Status of Women.

98% of children say they have experienced Corporal Punishment. One out of three children say they experience it every week.

The Ministry of Education and Sports issued Circulars in 2001 and 2006 to prohibit Corporal Punishment in all schools and colleges in Uganda.



Celebrity Corner

Mrs Olwoch is a retired nurse currently living in Kakoge, Lira district. She has devoted the better part of her life to extending a helping hand to children who have experienced violence.

Helen is housing seven children, most of whom are orphans and victims of child neglect. Five other children already grew out of her home. Four of them are already married women and the other is a high rank policeman in Gulu district.

She also sought support from church to put up a better house for a widow and her children after heavy rains destroyed her hut and her in-laws denied her help.

Mrs. Helen Olwoch: second runner up Community Hero 2012/2013 from Lira district



Teachers in Luwero for a training on how best they can make their schools violence-free

What Peer Learning Network schools using the Good School Toolkit are doing to address corporal punishment.

- Children form courts to handle cases of indiscipline referred to them by teachers
- Formation of school committees that take leadership of the project through, creating awareness, mobilization and planning to create a Good School.

Learn more alternatives to corporal punishment in our next issue.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Raising Voices launched the Good School Toolkit in 1000 schools in Kyenjojo, Arua, Alebtong, Lira and Mubende.

Raising Voices conducted a children's meeting for Kampala schools



Children creating awareness through music dance and drama



Next Issue

In our next issue, we will be learning about alternatives to corporal punishment and imagining how we can create schools without it.

If you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to write to us on goodschools@raisingvoices.org or P.O.Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda

Mutoni Julian Peer Learning Network Coordinator.

