

Programme 42 ‘How does menstruation affect girl’s attendance at the School’ BBC Media Action

Researched, produced, edited and presented by Pasquale Aleu Goi, in Wau simple Arabic language, for broadcast on local radio stations.

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Billboard (with music bed underneath):

Cue 1

Hello and welcome to this program, “Our School” the program that talks about Girl’s Education in South Sudan. In today’s program, we are asking how menstruation does affect the attendance of School girls.

Salamkum wa marhabekum fi barnamij, “Mathresetna” di bithkelem anu talim el banat fi Junub Sudan. Fi barnamij bita alela, gaidin nasaal keif doura sharia gaid yamul tahsir anu huthur bita banat mathresa.

Clip 1: From interview 1: A2:

I feel uncomfortable because my blood will be coming out and I will want to get out of class every now and then. Also it will distract my lesson so it’s better to stay comfort at home.

So, what can be done to support such girls?

Hasa, shunu yamulu ashan isaidu banad dell?

Clip 2: From interview 2 A7:

The most important thing is being clean. If they have sanitary pads, they have to keep changing them 3 or 4 times a day. They should not just wear under wear alone and also under wears must always be dry to avoid other sicknesses and should have at least 2 to 3 pieces daily change to avoid distractions. Family and School should aware them about this provisions.

All this is coming to you shortly in full details....please keep tune.

Da kulu bejikkum hallien bell kamil.. kalik mana.

(Billboard music ends naturally with music flourish)

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Cue2

Welcome to Our School, my name is Pasquale Aleu Goi.

Girls who reach Adolescent experience bodily changes in which one of them is the monthly menstrual cycle. The cycle in one way or the other affect some school girls' attendance and today we are asking, how does menstruation affects girl's attendant at school?

I went around from School to School to hear from different School girls what happens when they are in their menstrual period?

Marhabekkum fi mathresatna, ana makum Pasquale Aleu Goi. Banat lo wesil marrhal albuluk bikun fi tigeirat fi gissim bitam maslan दौरا اشاريا. Sharia de bitahsir fi juzu min banat ashan huthur bitam fa ashan kide alela gaidin nasaal keif दौरا sharia amal tahsir fi huthur bita banat mathresa?

Ana mashet mathresa le mathresa ashan nasma min banat mukthelif shunu gait bitahsal izan wahida indu दौरا sharia?

Girl 1:

Whenever my period comes, I prefer to go home because in my School we share toilets with boys and I cannot feel comfortable as it needs enough time to clean myself that's why I do go home.

Girl 2:

I know when my menstruation comes. I tell my mother and she gives me 12 pieces of always (sanitary towel). I go to School with my always because in my School, there is water and two roomed toilet (private room)for girls.

Girl 3:

When I know my menstruation is coming, I have to miss School for 3 or 4 days because my School have no water it takes to be safe during menstruation. No clean toilets, water and moreover, when boys knows you smell they tease you.

Link:

These are older School girl's telling us how menstruation affects their attendance at the School. Now let's hear more about such effects from the life of a young girl. To protect her anonymity from colleagues, I will not give her name.

Dell banat kubar bita mathresa wa uman gaidin yigulena keif दौरا sharia gait yamul tahsir allem. Hasa nasma min bit wahida bell tafasil anu no tahsir de. Anama bigullekum isima ashan suma bitau le zumilanu.

Interview1

Field Recording

Q1:

Now I'm here in Lokoloko Primary mixed School and with me here is one of the girls..... Tell me when you experience your menstruation period, how do you feel/what happens?

A1:

When my menstruation comes, I don't feel coming to School, the dress may get dirty and I will feel ashamed and the worst thing is that Boys tease us by saying there is stains on dress and that's why I can't come to School during my period.

Q2:

You are one of the girls who don't come to School when you have your menstruation. Tell me why don't you come to School when you have your period?

A2:

Yes you can't come because mainly like in class I feel uncomfortable because my blood will be coming out and I will want to get out of class every now and then. Also it will distract my lesson so it's better to stay comfort at home. At the School I can't control it unless at home. Boys also do tease us badly that eeh see this girl's cloth is dirty with a blood. That day I never know there was something wrong otherwise I would go and clean it away. Our School we share toilets with boys. I once went home for 3 days and when the male teacher asked me I said I was sick and he took me to a female teacher for more information.

Q3:

Why do you fear to tell your male teacher too since they are all teachers?

A3:

I do feel ashamed to tell a male teacher that I have menstruation even a female teacher; I do go together with one of my friends. Slowly I realized not to be afraid from female teachers because they were girls too like me when they were in the School and she experienced the same but men don't have menstruation.

Q4:

How menstruation does affects your education?

A4:

I can't focus on what the teacher is teaching. I request going out every now and then. It affect my relationship with the teacher because the teacher will be annoyed thinking I'm joking but I can't tell him I have menstruation. When I go home and come back, I find that many notes were written. I could be writing, writing and writing until my fingers even become tired. We experience such as Girls, Boys saying you girl you are dirty and smelling go away from here this gives me emotional issues and I just go home.

Q5:

How do you really know your period is coming?

A5:

You will know it by the day. Like if today is date 1 or date 19 then it will come in the next date 19 of the following month. This is something the owner always gets to know in mind.

Q6:

Since you do spent 3 days at home during your menstruation, what do you do at home?

A6:

I just stay at home, take shower and cook the broth if my mother is away. When my 3 days elapse, then I come back to School.

Q7:

The first day you experienced menstruation, how did you felt?

A7:

My abdomen was really paining. I told my mother and she told me to wait her in the bathroom and she came with always and towels and other things from the market and she told me not to fear because this is the stage she even passed through. She then said I'm now growing up and I shouldn't be afraid.

Q8:

Is there anything you think is missing here in your School and what is it?

A8:

Yes, yes. We have a hand pump here but its broken, no water for one to clean self, this blood need regular wash. No Soap and always in our School. We didn't talk about it but we want School head teacher to be told.

Q9:

You wanted the head teacher to be told by whom, did you mean by me?

A9:

No it's us we the pupils have to demand that we wanted always, soaps and other services we require.

Q10:

Finally, after we have talk about menstruation, do you still think going home is the only solution?

A10:

The needs that I have mentioned here, if they are brought here then I will not go home again. I will be using them and stay in the School.

Interview 1 recap

Many older School girls who experience menstruation always misses School when they are about to have their menstruation date. This is an issue related to what they lack in their School like no water, separate toilets for boys and girls and moreover being uncomfortable in the class and boys teasing them as this girl told us.

And what can be done to support these girls with menstruation?

Banat kubar bita mathresa ketir minnum albijim दौरا sharia bell ketir gaidin yegib mathresa izan uman irif zaman दौरا bitam jaa'ai. De daiman ashan ehtiajat al-uman maindum fi mathresa bitam maslan moia mafi, hamamat ferig ben aulat wa banat mafi wa akkab haja fi दौरا uman bikun mutheigiin fil fesil wa tahrish men zumilanu ze ma bidde galena.

Wa shunu yamulu ashan isaidu banat dell al indum दौरا sharia?

Station ID

IDENT with music sting:

You're listening to 'Our School'. Looking at how education can help your community.

Interview 2:**(Field Recording)**

after speaking to a School girl, now I'm entering the office of this School to meet the Head Teacher Mr. Fidele, he is here with Doctor Nancy. They will tell us how menstruation affects girl's attendance. At the walls of the head teacher's office are many charts one written, "Child rights and Child protection" and other, "Peace and progress" now we start with Doctor Nancy,

Q1:

What is menstruation?

A1:

Menstruation is the changes in the body from 8 years to 13 years that goes to maturity. This is based on the structure of the body. Some begin from 14 to 18 years or 16 years and simply it's the changes of the monthly cycle of the blood.

Q2:

Doctor, a girl told me they tell teacher that they are sick during menstruation. Is it a disease?

A2:

Menstruation is not a disease. It's a normal routine of the female's cycle that starts from 8, 13 up to 48 years old. It's a normal routine in a normal female human that blood comes out from the body but because of the signs and symptoms they experience so they think they are sick but not.

Q3:

Head Teacher here in your School if the girl have menstruation what do they tell you?

A3:

No girl has ever come to my office and told me that they have menstruation

but I do recognize what they want to tell me through their psychology and I do refer them to the female teacher.

Q4:

Why do you think girls don't tell you they have menstruation?

A4:

They look at me like an elder that can't be talked about menstruation. There will be feelings of fear and shame is also associated from these things, they even sometimes just go home without taking any permission.

Q5:

What effects does menstruation have on girls?

A5:

When a girl is absent from the School because of menstruation, in her days of missed lessons, it has lots of effects like when they have to spend 3 days or more away, the more they stay at home the more they lose the teaching/ notes.

Q6:

Okay doctor what effects do you think menstruation have on School girls?

A6:

The effect is that they will not focus to the teacher teaching or explaining. Their focus is always lost/ far and distracted. Also will lose many teachings while away. When she is with boys in the class she feels uncomfortable because boys will tease her in case she experience cycle in class.

Q7:

Doctor what can a girl with menstruation period be doing?

A7:

The most important thing is being clean. If they have sanitary pads, they have to keep changing them 3 or 4 times a day. They should not just wear under wear alone and also under wears must always be dry to avoid other sicknesses and should have at least 2 to 3 pieces daily change to avoid distractions. Family and School should aware them about this provisions.

Q8:

Head Teacher your School girl told me what they lacks here, what plans do you have here to support girls with menstruation?

A8:

Before we had two cartons of Soaps here in the School, for toilets we have for male and female separate and for pupils boys and girls separated. For the water, I repaired this hand pump more than three times. Our main problem is the community is not cooperating with us and that's why there is a problem about menstruation.

Q9:

Since you don't have services you mentioned, does that means it's the reason that makes girls to go home during menstruation?

A9:

It depends on what situation the girl is through but at the moment if a girl feels at home is better when they have menstruation then its find until everything is okay here in the School because now our services are limited but until our services are good like good separate toilets and good clean water then everything will be done here.

Q10:

Doctor as you have heard from the head teacher that there are no good services in his School here, so what do you think the School should have here to enable girls continue with their education rather than going home 3 / 4 days of the period?

A10:

For emergency purposes, the School should at least have two beds around here because they sometimes don't know when their period is coming especially during mornings and when it just comes like that, they can't be comfortable. They will be on bed for like 30 mins or one hour after they have pain killers. They will use always and keep relaxed until when they feel like they can now be in the class they will remove their always; they will probably attend class until the departure time. This will at least keep them in the School instead of going home.

Programme Conclusion: Program recap

With that we have come to the end of our today's program. Today we have been talking about how menstruation affects older School girls.

Be de, nahnu waselna fi nehayiat bita barnamij alela. Alela, nahnu kalamna anu keif दौरا sharia bamul tahsir fog banat al-baloko.

Menstruation is the normal changes in the body of young girls and women. It however affects the school attendance of other girls due to lack of sanitary pads, teasing by some boys as we have heard from the Girl before.

Thaban दौरا sharia de tigeirat aaahdi fog banat wa nasawin lekin de shi bamul tahsir fog huthur bita banat mathresa izan uman maindum ze always wa izan aulat bagirum zema nahnu semitna min bit gebli shuwea.

However, teachers are trying their best with parents to ensure they collect funds for water in the School by repairing the broken hand pump and to renovate the toilets and other things to enable girls with menstruation benefit from it.

Minrogba del, muthrisin wa walit umuur gaidin ijaasibu be aya theriga shan yelgo dam isiinu donki yejib moia, isiinu hamamat wa hajat tannin ashan banat al-boloko al indum दौरا sharia istifit min hajat del.

The doctor said parents and schools should understand that girls who start experiencing menstruation need to have their needs near them like having sanitary towels in the School store, water, rest rooms to avoid them from going home and this will let girls stay in School and focus on their studies.

Dictora gal walit umuur wa mithrisin lazim uman yaarif innu banat al indum दौरا sharia mutajiin ehtiajatun gerrib allem ze fi makzan bita mathresa lazim ikun fiu always, moiya, odda kas ashan banat igeiru nafusum fiu ashan wahit mayagot yemshi bettum lekin wahit ikun gait fi mathresa wa irekis fi giraya bitau.

Interactive Message with music bed underneath

Remember this is your programme. We want to hear from you about education and what Schools are doing. Keep tuned, short this radio will take your phone calls.

Tizekir de barnamij bitak. Derin nasma minnak anu talim wa shunu mathresa gaid yamulu. Kalik mana, izaa de baad shuwea bishil mukalimat bitakum.

Sign out note

Thank you for listening, with you was me Pasquale Aleu Goi.

Shukran lekum alestimaha, ana kunta makum Pasquale Aleu Goi.

End note

Our School is produced by BBC Media Action, as part of Girls Education South Sudan, with funding from the UK, Department for International Development.

Mathresatna, de jabo lekum ma BBC Media Action. Juzu min talim el banaad fi Junub Sudan wa daam min UK, masla tenmia el dolia.

+++The END +++