

The Big Question “why do girls drop out from upper primary schools”?
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BBC Media Action

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Language**

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Opening Billboard (with music bed):

(Studio)

In “our school” program today, we are asking why are girls dropping out from upper primary schools?

Clip..... no one cared for paying me to school, I dropped while in primary seven during the first term, I was chased because of school fee and then I came and stay at home for good.

Are other schools doing something to minimize girls from dropping?

Clip..... Our school appointed two school mothers who meets these girls every Friday to encourage them with words that help them to stay focused in school and complete their education.

All that and many more will come to you in 15 minutes stay tuned my

(Billboard music ends naturally at 1:07 with music flourish)

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Cue 1 (studio recording)

Hello, my name is DN.)

According to the Government of South Sudan National Education Statistic Summary 2015; many girls drop out between primary 4 and 8

In our today’s program we are asking why girls are dropping out from upper primary school.

I took to the streets of Yambio to ask some ladies why they dropped out of school and this is what they have to say.

Voxpops

I dropped from school although my brother paid me well in the school but when my brother realized that I was loving a certain boy and my virginity got lost he stopped paying me and asked the guy to pay me. The guy disappeared till today. Ever since that time I stopped going to school because no one could pay again.

I dropped from school because no one cared to pay my school fees, there condition was bad and we were many girls and boys and the boys were given the chance then I decided to stop going to school and I got pregnant and delivered as you can see one of my children.

I studied and reached primary four and later school fee became a problem in the village so I decided to relocate to the town and when I came not long after I got pregnant and stopped going to school and no one could pay me again. Now I can't go to school because I have responsibility to care for this child of mine, I am doing some business to care for him and myself.

After hearing from different ladies let's also go and listen to a lady who also dropped completely and is staying at home now.

(Field Recording)

I have come to meet Tereza a lady who dropped from school while in primary seven, as we sit to talk; her two little children are around us playing who she takes care of.

Q 1: Explain to us why you dropped from school now that you're at home?

A 1: I dropped from school because no one cared for paying me to school, I dropped while in primary seven during the first term, I was chased because of school fee and then I came and stay at home for good. After spending time at home I got a man who made me pregnant, he deceived me he would pay me back to school after delivery which never worked out, he told me if I was interested in education my parents would have paid me, he told me to forget about school.

Q 2: How did you feel-leaving school when you were chased because of school fee?

A 2: I was badly troubled in mind and spirit because I could see my classmates going to school every day while I was just at home and market.

Q 3: You fetched firewood, why was education important for you?

A 3: While in school our teachers used to tell us if we study we would become big people in future like working as government officials or even doctor and I struggled to make sure I study and complete my education, but I fell short of that because I lost my mother while I was very young and my father was paralyzed.

Q 4: What was that ambition that you had to achieve after completing your education as a girl?

A 4: I loved science subjects so much and I thought of becoming a nurse after completing my education so that I can work and help my people and my community because the world of today women are highly considered.

Q 5: Are there problems you face at home now that you're not in school?

A 5: At here I am the care taker of my children including those of my brother, they are eight in number, I provide them food and even things like soap, sometimes when I wake up early in the morning I gets stressed up because of think about what these children would eat that very day.

Q 6: You paid yourself till primary seven but why did you stop doing so?

A 6: When I reached in primary seven the school fees was increased and it became difficult for me to get money like seventy five pounds.

Q 7: Was there anything you think your brother would have done to help you learn?

A 7: I wanted them to pay my school so that I study and even now if any of them would come out and ask me to go back to school I would take the opportunity with upper hand because my heart still yearns for education.

Q 8: How do you feel seeing your friend with who you study continuing with education now that you are at home?

A 8: My classmates have completed senior four this year and soon I will begin to see some of them working and others joining high institution. I need to encourage our parents and guardians to care for girls because in future they will help you after completing their education.

Recap (Studio)

Lack of financial care from parents can make a girl drop from school just like this girl who have spoken to us, early marriage, peer pressure and worries of life may lead a girl to stop going to school and their future could be in jeopardy.

Station Ident.....

(Studio)

But do schools and parents recognize this fact of the dropout of school girls, if so what are they doing?

(Field Recording)

I have come to g Young Men Christian Association primary school and it is one of the few schools I have visited in Yambio where girls dropout out of school every year. Pupils are getting to their classes after having breakfast. With me is Emilio a father and madam Lina of YMCA primary school.

Q 1: do you see girls dropping out from your school?

A 1: Some of our girls dropped out last year simply because of pregnancy and many parents don't pay the school fees of their daughters and this makes some to stop coming to school, if boys tease and make fun of girls the can drop out of school There is also the issues of phones which girls possess and that makes them to be tempted.

Q 2: Emilio as a father explain to us what makes girls to drop from school in terms of home environment?

Parent: we are responsible for the drop out of our girls from school because of too much domestic chores, we don't give them time to report to school on time, secondly it is true that we don't care for our daughters the way we could care for them as their parents, many parents also give their daughters at the age of for example thirteen years to wealthy men.

Q 3: Your daughter is in upper primary, in what ways do you care for her to see that she doesn't drop from school?

Parent: when my daughter comes from school I ask her to know lessons they learnt that day and I also try to find out if she was the one who wrote the note or someone else wrote it. Secondly, I make sure that I pay her school fee as required by the school, school uniform and school shoe including proper feeding at home.

Q 4: Are there ways you help girls to ensure they don't drop out of school?

Madam: our school administration appointed two school mothers who meets these girls every Friday to encourage them with words that help them too stay focused in school and complete their education. The school mothers also makes sure they come to school pieces of clothes to help girls who by surprise experience menstruation period so that they clean themselves and stay well in the school.

Q 5: Is there any change in the rate of the dropout of the school girls as you encourage them to stay focused?

Madam: the rate is totally reducing because for example in the previous years many girls used to drop at high rate but with the program of talking to them by the school madam we have seen reduction in the dropout rate except two girls who seems to be pregnant now who might leave the school but we are encouraging them to stay till time of delivery and they come still to learn.

Q 6: As parents what would you do to make sure girls do not drop from school due to the problems at home that you mentioned?

Parent: it is my plea to fathers and mothers that I encourage parents to open their eyes and look after their girls in school, we know all the problems at home and those issues should not deter us from caring for our daughters. Try

to do something to get money and pay your daughter in school. Let us give our daughters time to study and reduce domestic labour, if your daughter don't know how to read other thing help them if you are educated so that they improve. Mothers take proper care of your daughter teaching her how you grew as a responsible woman tell them your success stories to encourage them focus on education.

Q 7: Madam Do you have anything to add on what the parent has spoken?

Madam: we need to know that the girls of these days are not like those of us who grew long time ago, they are very clever. Make sure you care for your daughter, we cannot tolerate a girl possessing telephones in the school, those coming to school with spare clothe and even mini skirt or dress will never be tolerated here in the school. Parents should teach their daughters on modest way to dress while coming to school.

Recap (Studio)

In the school I visited in Yambio, girls do drop just like YMCA, but some schools have devised action plans through the use of school mothers and senior women teachers who gather girls to speak to them about the danger of dropping out from school, they encourage girls to come every day to school and learn so that they complete their education and they become better and responsible future citizens.

Conclusion

(Studio Recording)

This has brought us to end of our today's program. And in this program we asked, why do girls drop out of upper primary schools?

Girls would continue to go to school if parents carter for their school fee, school uniforms, schools shoes and other basic school requirements. However if they are not, they end up dropping from school as we heard from Tereza.

Other schools like YMCA works to reduce the high rate of dropout through hiring school mothers and senior women teachers to talk to school girls, giving them career guidance and how to continue coming to school although there are barriers that could make them drop out of school.

MA 9/6/2016 12:57

Comment [1]: Try to adjust this interview as we discussed on phone; Checking the raw materials to see what to add based on what we discussed. (David Night)

Well I have not in the audio asked their combined efforts with parent to help reduce the rate of the drop out, so you can decide

Okay; Next time you have to think of such relevant info in other programs.

Collective efforts of both the school and parents could also help reduce the high rate girls' dropout from school.

INTERACTIVE MESSAGE with music bed:

“Remember this is your programme. We want to hear from you about how your education and what your school is doing. Stay tuned as we will begin to take your call now. Outro (studio recording)

Thanks for listening to our program; my name is David Night until next time goodbye.....

Our School is produced for you by BBC Media Action Girls' Education South Sudan with funding from the UK Department for International Development.

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