

Programme 65 "How are schoolgirls dealing with sexual harassment from teachers?"

Radio programme script

Researched, produced, edited and presented by Abraham Machuor Lum, in the Dinka language, for broadcast on local radio stations in 2017

Hello and welcome to Our School. In today's program we are asking "How are school girls dealing with sexual harassment from teachers?"

Clip 1

I told the teacher that I do not want to make love with you because I see you as my brother and you are responsible for me here in school, but he did not listen to what I told him, so what I did is I reported him to head girl and school madam.

What happens next when girl report such teachers to school authorities?

Clip 2

If we find out that teacher has broken that law, we have to dismiss him immediately from the school this is the only solution we can do to that particular teacher.

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That is all coming up in the next fifteen minutes.

(BB music pads out...)

Welcome to this program, "Ajuer Sukul Da" ("Our School") that talk about girl's education in South Sudan. *My name is Abraham Machuor Lum.*

(Studio recording): In our previous program, we talked about the fact that there is a teacher code of conduct that prevent teachers from asking girls for love affair. Still some teachers violate such law. In this program, we want to find out how girls deal or protect themselves from such teachers.

(Field link): I am now in one of the schools and I got some girls are playing together during their break time and with me is **Poibet** and **Martha**. First **Poibet**, tell us your experience, did any teacher tried to love you?

A 1: Poibet: It happened to me several times, in my former school some teachers have interest to make loves with school girls so some girls who are not strong enough accept such teachers but for myself, I stand firm and rejected those teachers. I told the teacher that I do not want to make love with you because I see you as my brother and you are responsible for me here in school, but he did not listen to what I told him, so what I did is I reported him to head girl and school madam.

Q 5: Poibet, tell us, when teacher told you about his love, what did you tell him?

A 5: Poibet: I told him that I do not want you to have love relationship with you, I also reported to head girl then head girl with school madam and other teachers talk to him but he refused to listen to them. So from there I was confused and I was about to leave that school.

Q 6: After the report was given to head girl, what happen next?

A 6: Poibet: He pretended that he has stopped but when he meet me he keep repeating it and that give me a lot of worries, I went back again and reported him but he told me that he will leave school because of me If I to accept him, I told him it's up to him. I told my parents that teaching from this school is not good, I just lying to them because of that teacher.

Q 7: You reported the matter to the head girl and school madam, why don't you report it to your parents?

A 7: Poibet: My parent may say I am lying to them also, I do not know whether it may cause fighting that is why I kept silent to tell the parents that is why I tried to tell parents in different way of leaving that school.

Q 8: After you told your parents that teaching is not good in school, what did they do?

A 8: Poibet: My parents told me that if the teaching is not good then I should look for another school which is good so that is why I came to this school.

Q 9: Ok after you came to this school, have you ever get such disturbances or how do you feel now?

A 9: Poibet: I am very happy now in this school because our teachers talk to me like my father/mother or brother, they treat me as I am related to them, also there is no teacher talking love relationship to me here, I am happy because our teachers did not see us or turn us as their wives.

Q 2: Martha, tell us did any teacher tell you that he loves you?

A 2: Martha: That thing did not happen to me and I do not want it to happen to me because I do not expect my teacher to love me so I do not want to hear and I am not expecting to talk to me about love but for now I did not hear anything.

Q 3: Why do you think having a love relationship with your school teacher is bad?

A 3: Martha: It is bad for a teacher to make a school girl as his lover/wife because it will make a school girl to drop out from school if the girl makes love with a teacher. It's bad because when you accept a teacher to love you, what will happen is that you can do well in the school because you will be thinking about that teacher in the class.

Q 4: Is it because you do not want to drop from school that is why you refused a teacher or is it because you do not want a teacher to have love with you?

A 4: Martha: First thing, I do not want my teacher to make love with me when he is the one teaching me. Second to it, I want to continue and finish my school.

Q 10: Martha, you are in the school, how will you protect yourself when a teacher approaches you with love affairs?

A 10: Martha: If I tell a teacher that I have rejected your love, if he listens then I have protected myself from my own words but if I just keep silent, it will not help me, also I can share my problems with other people so that they can help me find solutions to my problems. In addition, I can report anything to our head girl to help me because she is our representative; she can support me with the head teacher even if there is no female teacher.

Q 11: There is a law that prohibits teachers from making love with school girls, did you hear about it?

A 11: Martha: Last time our female teachers talked to us about it, they told us it's dangerous to make a love relationship with teachers, so we are aware about it.

Q 12: Poibet, you refused to accept love from a teacher, is it because he is not a handsome man or what was the reason?

A 12: Poibet: All people created by God are all good, the reason why I refused him was to continue with my school and if he loves me, he must wait until I finish my school and marry me after completion of school. Also he was my teacher, he cannot love me so all these things made me to refuse him.

Q 13: After the teacher refused to accept advice from school madam and you also refused to accept his request, did the teacher see you as an enemy?

A 13: Poibet: Yes he was not happy to me, even he said to me that I am heartless girl and I am not a good girl, but I told him fine, let it be that I am a heartless girl or bad girl because there are bad people living on this world.

Q 14: When teacher told that he loves you, did you tell him that there is law that does not allow teacher to love you?

A 14: Poibet: I told him that I should not accept his love because there is law that do not allow him to love me as school girl, but he said to me “this law is just to pool you girls, and the law is not true” so when I analysed his statement, I found out that this teacher is lying and try to confuse me. But I remembered what my parents told me, they told me that education is the key to life, so I should not abandon school and go for marriage, so right now I am hoping that I will finish my school because my parents are serious and they are behind me and my school.

Q 15: What about you Martha?

A 15: Martha: I want to finish my school because here, I did not see teachers making loves with girls, so I see it as something important that will give me freedom to complete my school, I want to tell to other girls that, do not accept any love relationships with teachers that teaches you because it’s bad and it will spoil your school.

Recap

Girls are dealing with teachers who ask them for love by simply rejecting them or turning them down and when they persist, they refer the case to school authorities like head girl, senior woman teacher and up to head teacher. So what happens next?

Do school authorities intervene in dealing with such teachers?

Station ID

(Field recording) I am in Panhial primary school I can see children both boys and girls are for break time, with me is the senior teacher of this school Mr. **Bul Deng**, Tell us are your teachers respecting their learners/girls here in this school in term of love relationship?

A 1: We are all trained teachers and we know how we should behave in the school, since when we came to this school there is nothing bad happened, our aim is to educate girls.

Q 2: Teacher is from the community so if that teacher loves school girl, will he not be allow to marriage that girl?

A 2: If you are a teacher and you know rules, you cannot love school girl because if you do that, it mean you want to spoil her education so you must leave that girl until she completed her school and then go to her parents and marriage her after finishing school, this is the procedures to follow.

Q 3: What did you tell to your girls to protect themselves in case some teachers approach them with loves affairs?

A 3: What we do is, if any new teacher comes to our school, we have to introduce to him our school rules and regulation so that he is aware, on the side of the girls, we discus with them and tell them the dangers of teacher-learner relationship, we tell them to reject any love request from any teacher. So now, the girls are aware if any teacher try to approach them, the girl will not accept and if any teacher try to love girl in this school, that teacher can be dismissed from the school.

Q 4: What are ways the girls can report their problems?

A 4: We have female teachers and we assigned them to meet with girls and discuss their issues, they also discuss ways how girls can protect themselves and not every teacher who use to talk with girls its only female teachers who talk with them because if girls talk with female teachers, they will not fear. Girls do not tell their problems/secrets to anybody but their tell their problems to somebody that cannot spread it to other people so that problem is solve secretly and by doing that, the girls will not drop out from school.

Q 5: As the leader of this school, have you ever heard any report/complain about teachers making love with school girls?

A 5: There is nothing like that happened in this school among the teachers and school girls, among female and male teachers and among school boys and school girls, there is no any report of that kind. The reason why there are no issues of loves is that teachers have understood and followed rules and regulations strictly, because when you are called as teacher, you have to protect your dignity well, so for our school girls, school teachers are all protecting themselves so that law will not touch them.

Q 6: Teacher can tell school girl, I love you, so the school girl will be confused whether to accept or reject, so in that case, what steps can that girl take to avoid this teacher?

A 6: That is why we selected female teachers to teach, so if any teacher tell girl about love, the girl will whisper it to female teacher that this teacher is trying to confuse and disturb me. If the case reach or reported to female teacher, we can call that particular teacher and warn him seriously so that he should not repeat that thing again to school girl.

Q 7: You said you have rules and regulations that do not allow teachers to have love affairs with girls, if any teacher break that law, what do you do to him.

A 7: If we find out that teacher has broken that law, we have to dismiss him immediately from the school this is the only solution we can do to that particular teacher.

Q 8: Why did you come up with this strong rule, by dismissing teacher who love pupil?

An 8: why we came up with this rule is because if any teacher spoil school girl, the name of the school will be spoiled because parents will not trust school anymore and the will take away their children from the school because they will say, there is no law that protect their children in the school. But if you dismiss the teacher who made mistakes, the community will have confident and they will allow their children to learn in the school, so that is why I always tell teachers to protect themselves well so that this law is not applied to them.

Station ID.

Conclusion:

And this has brought us to the end of our program of today, we have been finding out how school girls deal with teachers that ask them for love.

Girls like **Poibet** use to reported the case to the senior woman teacher or head girl and school authorities later dealt with the matter.

On the other side, senior teacher Mr. **Bul Deng** said they have in several occasions told girls not to accept teacher's that ask them for love. Moreover, if the teacher is not listening, girls should inform the senior woman teacher about it and the school authorities will take further steps by dismissing that particular teacher from school and in this way girls will have chance to learn freely.

As a girl out there, have you ever been asked by a teacher for a love affair, how did you deal with it?

Interactive call:

Join us again next time. BBC Media Action brings the program of 'Our School' to you. My name is **Abraham Machuor Lum**, and thanks for listening

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