

The Big Question, 'How are girls passing exams despite so many challenges?'

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in Zande Language

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Opening Billboard (with music bed):

(Field)

In "our school" today we are asking, how are girls passing exams despite so many challenges?

Clip..... my personal studies, but what helped me much was team work because we were always studying in a group after school to share with our colleagues what we know and if you don't know anything you get to know it from them.

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

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

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Cue 1 (Studio Recording)

Hello, my name is Ngbadurezere Veronic.)

Last year WES experienced a number of conflicts, that have affected children's learning, others got displaced, others ran to the refugee and IDP camps and many relocated from their former schools to newer schools, but despite these some girl were able to press on and emerged best in their exams despite so many challenges of insecurity

So, in our today's program we are asking, how are girls passing exams despite so many challenges?

(Field Recording) [link to the field interview](#)

Now I have come to Bishop Abangite College for science and technology to find out how are girls passing exams despite so many challenges. Here I will talk with the second best performed girl in South Sudan Secondary school examinations in Gbudue State in the academic year of 2016/2017 plus other three girls from senior four, I am now walking to sit down as we begin our conversation. But because it is coming to rain we are entering into a room to have our conversation.

Q1. Christine can you describe for us your school and the memories that you will live to remember about the school?

Ans1. this is my school I love it and I can never forget it in my life, it is the best school according to me in this state and I will live to remember it where ever I will go because if you want to be the best by passing your exam well this school can make you to be with the help of teachers and your own effort.

Q2. what percentages did you get?

Ans2. I did my exams well and passed all the subjects and I got 83.3 percent.

Q3. Can you tell us how you have been able to pass you senior four exams?

Ans3. my personal studies, but what helped me much was team work because we were always studying in a group after school to share with our colleagues what we know and if you don't know anything you get to know it from them

Q4. Did you face any challenge?

Ans4. I faced a lot of challenges starting from the insecurity which made me to change my school and I joined a new school which gave me hard time, the second challenge was school fees because my father died and I have only a mother and I am staying with my uncle I had a challenge of school fees in S3 from second to third term.

Q 5. You came out of a boarding school where you had time to concentrate and you came home studying and going home, how were you able to balance the domestic chores and your studies?

Ans 5.I used to be given work at home but the amount of the work was not huge and I could try by any mean to finish the work before the time of study and when my study time came I would go and study and I also used to study during the evening and early mornings.

Q 6. There conflict that happened here last year many people ran away and schools were not functioning well, how did you manage to study?

Ans 6. When there were was conflict, there were gunshots and it was difficult to set on light but I could only stay calm when the gunshots stop I could get again on my books and I struggled to study to cover the times I missed to study due to the fighting and people run away but for us we did not go anywhere with my uncle because he wanted me to keep studying when the fighting subsides a bit and I indeed studied though we were only two with him at home.

Q7. How are you feeling now after surpassing boys and emerging the second best girl in the State?

Ans7. I am very happy to get the percentage that I got and that is what I was praying for and it has happened the way I wanted and my plan is if I get anyone to support me I still want to go to school.

Q8. many people in our community think that a girl cannot compete with boys?

Ans8. nothing is impossible because boys and girls are the same the same brain that was given to the boy was the same one given to girls but it only depends on how you study because if a girl gives her time to study and to always concentrate on her books she can pass well and even more than boys.

Q9. Then what are you intending to study in future after you have passed now?

Ans 9. I need to study medicine and public health and if I fail to get those I will do surgery.

Q 10. Why have you chosen that career?

Ans 10. Since I was born and I started to go to school I had interest of working in the hospital and I started to admire people working in the hospital then I went to the hospital and asked them for all the careers there and I only love the two and decided to choose them.

Ok thank you Christine for telling us all these, now I am turning to these other 3 girls,

Q11. And you Justina are you facing the same challenges that she faced?

Ans11. Thank you I am also facing some of those challenges and mine is even more than hers for me my parents don't allow me to join group study but they only want me to stay at home and to only do other home chores and I really don't know what I will do to come out of it because sometimes I can tell them that I am coming for group study and they accept but after going and coming back they will start to quarrel that I don't want to work but I only want to concentrate on my books then thinking of all that can stress you and you will not even study well because you will just think that the people are not supporting you with what you are doing.

Q 12. And you Joy?

Ans 12. Yeah some of the problems that she got I am also facing like doing home chores because some time they don't give me time at home for study but what I am going to do is I will try to study here at school in the library during the day when I am free and also at night if I am not tired from the work load of home.

Q13. What have you learnt from her that you are going to put in to practice?

Ans 13. What I have learnt from her is the timetable that she said she did not want to miss it, I have mine but sometimes I don't follow it but now I will try by all means to give my time to follow it as she did.

Q 14. Christine what encouragement can you give to these colleagues of yours who are facing a lot of challenges to study?

Ans 14. What I can encourage them to do is to make timetable for personal studies and to try to finish all the home chores that are given to them within a short time so that they can have time to study. If they don't have time to study during the day let them study at night and when they are here in the school let them take time during breakfast or during lunch to go to the library to make research on the topics that have been taught and those that have not been taught to know other things.

Ok thanks for your time to talk to us.

Now I am here at home with the uncle I am giving him chance so that he can introduce himself and tell us what support did they give Christine to pass her exams so well

Ans 1. Thanks my name is Faustino what I did to support her was just advising and encouraging her for school and to give the requirement like school fees, uniform and many more because she was studying first in Maridi then when conflict started she came back we continued to help her with all the insecurity that people were running up and down but I decided to stay with her indoor for her to study inside because if I was to run away with her she could not study we were only two with her here at home and she was only using torch to study when things are calm I tell her to continue going to school then when they were approaching exams she told me that they want to gather to one place for group study I allowed her to go.

Q2 why did you decide to sacrifice your life for your niece and stay with her in door during conflict?

Ans 2. I decided to stay with her because when a girl reached that level of S4 it is good to support her and not to let her drop down again that is why I saw that if I ran with her she would not be able to pass the exams which would make her to re-sit that is why I was doing all that to let her sit for her exams.

Q3. What did you do during the conflict actually?

Ans 3. What we were doing was we enter at 7pm and lock our doors and I told her that if I hear any gunshot let her not come out but to just get lowered down on the ground under the bed unless if that person comes to open her door then I will come out so that they can kill all of us with her.

Q4. How did you feel doing that sacrifice?

Ans 4. I was not feeling happy actually but since it was the condition of our Country I could only pray so that God can help her so that she pass her exams as it was my expectation for her and not just to think about the insecurity and to fear.

Q5 Now how do you feel after she has done it and passed so well?

Ans 5. I am very happy for what has happened, I cannot measure my happiness because by the will of God everything is possible I could celebrate it but because of the economic situation of our Country I am unable to do it that is why I am just encouraging her that it needs us to find a way for her to continue.

Q6. What is your next plan for her?

Ans 6. My plan is if I get someone to support her continue her studies I will be glad but if I don't get any one then I will try my best and sell some of my farm product so that she can do something a little bit.

Conclusion

Closing Recaps ((STUDIO RECORDING))

We have come to the end of our program today, in this program we have been finding out, how girls are passing their exams despite so many challenges?

We have heard from Christine how she gave her time for personal and group study and how she built confidence in herself in the examination room by taking time to breath in and out, take time to go through the questions and begun answering the simple one's first.

She said she could always follow her timetable and always revised her notes at home in the morning and evening before doing any other home tasks. Despite challenges of conflict, lack of school fees, she decided to put effort to study and pass.

Faustino the uncle of Christine said he sacrificed his life during conflict to stay in doors with his niece so that she can concentrate on her books because once a lady is at that level of senior four she needs to be supported.

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 Ngbadurezere Veronica 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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