

Programme 80: How do you know if your child is learning?

Researched, produced, edited and presented by Catherine Augustino in Juba Arabic language for broadcast on local radio stations

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BILLBOARD:

Welcome to our school program, that's talk about girl's education in South Sudan. In our program today we are asking how do you know if your child is learning?

BBC: I take them school and I confirm they enter their classes, call teachers if I didn't go with them also I will monitor during their departure I will see if they didn't reach home I will go myself to school to check and bring them home.

But How can that help?

BBC: It's good to know and come to school look after them if your child reached school performing well or not in education so parents should come anytime to monitor their children progress.

All these and more will come in fifteen minutes:

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Cue 1: (STUDIO recording):

Those days when I was a school girl my mother could visit my school every day to see how am performing in the class, my behaviour in the school and others that helped me to do well in school and achieve my goal of being a role mode to school girls but some parents in Juba here could provide books, uniform, pen/pencil, school bag, school shoe and others to her child which is good to us parents but how do you know if your child is learning?

(Field recording): am here at Jebel nyoka in Juba, I came to meet this the girl who drop school and got marriage called Kiden and this is the girl was not receiving support from her father when she was in school, now in front of me we are now sitting with Kiden in her home, please tell us your story?

A1: I was having a big problem, I was registering myself alone, go to school alone, even I picked my report card alone, my father was not visiting my school, and if you ask him which class was I,

he doesn't know since I started my primary one till the day I drop school, he was not visiting or checking with teachers how am doing, checking my books or my result, and this what pains me more again if he comes home he doesn't like me will send me out from home then I will stay with neighbor for a month or two weeks away from home, that's why I decided to get marriage because he is disturbing me a lot.

Q2: When you were in school were there parents who are visiting them?

A2: Yes, they were coming to school, it always pains me more and make me to close myself inside the class because they are happy and am in pain, if their parents went then I will come out, then I will say if I have a father like this it would have been better but am staying fatherless.

Q3: What is the different between you and those whom their parents are coming to see them?

A3: We have big difference because am seeing them happy, but am in pain and not happy, and they are lucky to have a father but let me just stay.

Q4: Now you have children, what will you do different than your father?

A4: I will do good to my children, wash for them take them to school, visit them in school, I will not do what my father dose because I want my children to be successful and help peoplein future.

Q5: What have learnt from your father lesson?

A5: What my father did was not good, mother, father look after your children education well, as a parent if you are called in school go and listen what is in the school my father has wrong perception about education but all parents should not take as a good thing and it will not take us ahead.

Yes, I want to go back to school, it was a mistake and I will not do it again, so that I will help my community and my family in future.

Music Sting:

(Field Recording): am here in hai game in Juba to meet parents Hellen and Lemi, Lemi is a father who takes his children to school and they are inside the class but Hellen is not doing that, but first Hellen why are you not monitoring your children to school?

A1: Am working in the market selling greens, with the greens I have to wake up early to get the greens to get something for them, if I monitor them to school it look like am wasting my time yet am the mother and the father at the same time, am always thinking let them go while am looking for something for their living.

Q2: Lemi, tell me how you're doing with your children?

A2: Every morning I will take their breakfast then I take them school and I confirm they enter their classes, call teachers if I didn't go with them also I will monitor during their departure I will see if they didn't reach home I will go myself to school to check and bring them home.

Q3: Why are you doing that?

A3: Because I was also left alone to the extend I drop school in primary seven I didn't reach senior, secondly I want to know if my child is in school or not also when my child is back I will check their books if they are learning so that it will not be lost for the money I paid as school fees, or lost for the child to drop school.

Q4: Hellen, how will you know they reach school and learning?

A4: In the school they monitor those children like; this one is in that class, my thoughts are only on their living, to know whether they are in school, doing what is their teachers to do that then after they will come home.

Q5: Lemi, why are you doing that yet you heard Hellen is saying it's teachers to do it?

A5: Those children are many than teachers, also as a father I want to monitor my children because they are my children I have to bring them close to me.

She can continue ask teachers with her work but still she has to go and asked class master whether her children are in school learning or what, so that if your child is lying or telling the true.

Q6: Do you have any story of a child who was not monitor gets spoiled?

A6: Yes, it was my nephew, children go to school every day but my nephew don't reach school at the end he drops school.

Q7: Hellen, tell me your children result?

A7: My child is repeating the class.

Lemi,

A7: My children did well, they are not repeating classes.

Q8: What do you have to tell Hellen?

A8: I will tell Hellen to monitor her children after they are back from school, check their books at home with the date am sure she is not monitoring their books because those children can lie to confirm if the children are in school learning or not so that her children will bring good result.

Q9: What do you learn from Lemi?

A9: From Lemi, I got good idea, I have to monitor my children in school there after they enter classes I will come and do my work and when they are back home I have to check their books, so that they understand what they are doing.

Music Sting:

(Field Recording): It's morning and breakfast here at St Thomas primary school in Gudele two in Juba I came to meet head mistress Aisha, St Thomas is one of the schools that's monitor children if they are absence from the school, now we are sitting under classroom veranda and with head mistress, so tell me if a child didn't come to school what are you doing?

A1: if a child misses school, during our registration we registered parents contact we call parents why that child is absence maybe the child is sick or didn't reached. The first day we will not follow, but the second day we follow the to their homes, if the phone is off.

Q2: How do you want parents to monitor their children education?

A2: In our school here we called all parents to come and sign their result, also a parents should take with class teacher to see the performance, weakness or achievement of their children, in second term we do the same.

Q3: Am also one of the parents, what do you want us parents to do?

A3: If I call for a meeting all parents should appear, if there are registration parents should come and register their children don't a child to come to school alone.

Q4: Now children in school, do you accept parents to come her daily and monitor?

A4: It's there in our school rule, we want parents to come, if there is complain or anything so that we teachers will know, sometime a child may fall sick we call parents we will call parents if the phone is off we assign one teacher top follow with the pupil home, it's a collective responsibility, they should not leave children to teachers a lone they have to talk to their children, should monitor his/her children in school.

Q5: As a teacher, how do you feel when you call parent and didn't turn up?

A5: I feel bad if I call parent and didn't turn up, let them come and see how their children doing in the school, or their behavior, a parent that monitor children they do well in school, and stop playing.

Q6: I spoke to a girl who drop school because she was not been monitored, what do you have to say to parents?

A6: Monitoring children is not bad, it's good to know whether your child reached school or didn't, it gives an answer why your child is not performing well in education so parents should come anytime to monitor their children progress.

Conclusion

Closing ((FILED RECORDING))

This has brought us to the end of our program today, and in this program, we have been finding out how do you know if your child is learning?

When children don't perform well in school parents starts blaming teachers or children but some issues have been raised that parents don't care about the progress of their children in the school they don't visit or call school which affect girl's performance then drop school just like Kiden, we loved to see our children success like me who is also monitoring my child by phone calls and visit and this is to know her progress in school just like Lemi who goes school every day and weekly to monitor his children progress.

Some parents like Hellen think it's teacher's responsibility to monitor, but teacher Aisha of St Thomas P/S said it's a collective responsibility and it helps parents to know the performance of children in school so that children will have a better future.

As a parent what do you think you should do to monitor your children progress?

Remember this is your program, we want to listen from you about your education and how you are doing in your schools. Stay tuned this radio station will receive your calls very soon.

That's all we have today I'm Catherine Augustino