

Uganda told to invest more in pupils' vocational training

MBARARA

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

The Government has been urged to invest more resources in skilling pupils under vocational education training in order to eliminate the increasing unemployment levels.

The call was made by Helen Burman, a senior teacher at Thoren Business School, Kalstad in Sweden, who suggested that children should also be taught traditional life skills from childhood for their survival.

Although there are many vocational institutions in Uganda, there are few applications to public technical and vocational colleges even with scholarships fully paid.

Burman said this can be changed as long as the child's mindset is anchored from childhood to stop looking at universities as the only destination to get jobs. This will also encourage them to study to attain vocational skills as opposed to academic certificates.

She noted that academic certificates have little relevance to the employment situation in the current job market.

Burman made the comments on Monday while addressing pupils, teachers and parents of Jumbo Junior School in Nyakayojo division, Mbarara municipality in Mbarara district.

She was leading a team of teachers from Thoren Business School.

As part of their corporate social responsibility, the school will build a girl's dormitory at Jumbo Junior School.

"We are seeing children out of school who cannot prepare food and survive on their own. But where the world is headed, it requires skills that are imparted in the young generation



Burman and a colleague building a dormitory block in Mbarara recently. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

from the young age. Since the young generations are now in schools, let us use the opportunity to build a platform to impart skills in them," she said.

The team, which was sent by the institute's director, Mattias Belin, participated in the construction of the dormitory during their visit.

They also took part in the cross-cultural learning that involved teaching girls some of the traditional roles key to the long-term learning and survival of the girl-child.

"It is very good and important that children learn different skills when they are still young. Skills such as building, plumbing and preparing

"Parents are called upon to use holiday time to impart traditional skills in their children." Asimwe

food will help them in future," Burman added.

African Muhangi, one of the

founders of Jumbo Junior School, said: "We appreciate the support from Thoren Business School targeting essential programmes. The cross-learning of each other's way of life is creating great exposure to understanding and appreciating the uniqueness of our two cultural and educational settings."

The school head-teacher, Geoffrey Asimwe, said the assistance would increase enrolment at the school, which is currently lacking enough dormitories.

"We are created differently. Parents are called upon to use holiday time to impart traditional skills in their children," he added.

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KALIRO

By Charles Okalebo

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