



Success cards boost confidence - research

Success cards are a step in the right direction, if you want to help a candidate pass their examinations.

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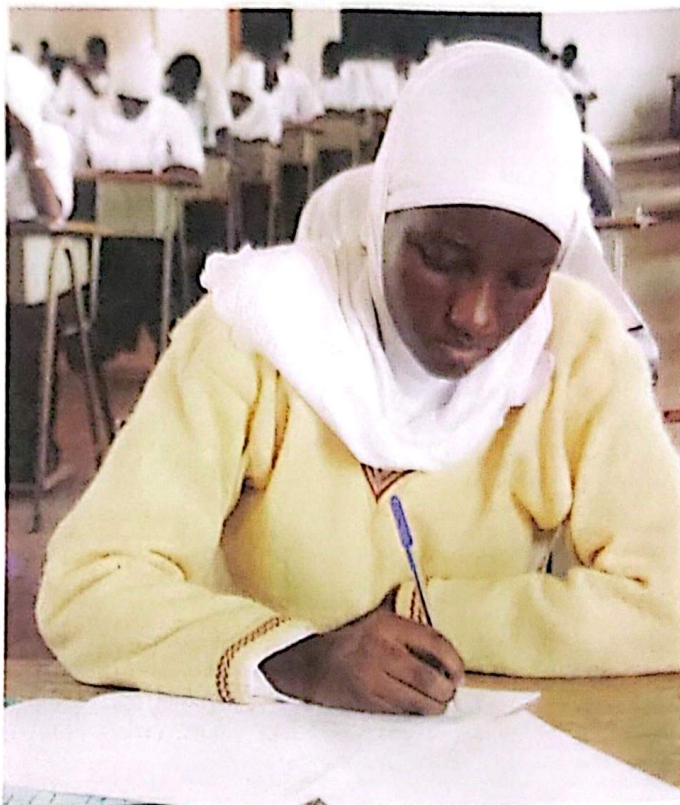
We are in the examination period. On October 16, Senior Four candidates started their Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) exams. On November 2, Primary Seven candidates will begin their PLE.

If you have been keen, you must have noticed success cards being sold at every turn of the street, in bookshops or better still, have bought one already.

However, to students and more specifically, candidates, success cards mean much more than just alarm bells that exams have started.

A *Daily Monitor* research has shown that candidates usually perform better when they receive success cards from their immediate family. Seven out of 10 random candidates, who were asked from whom they expected success cards, said their parents and guardians.

For example, Christopher Lukwago a Primary Seven candidate at Right Care Primary School, said; "I may not care about the rest of the people, but I would be disappointed



Some candidates say they are demoralised when they do not receive success cards. FILE FOTO

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AMOUNT FOR CHEAPEST SUCCESS CARD IN SHILLINGS

if people like; my parents, sisters, brothers and really close friends did not give me a success card."

He is not alone.

In Primary Seven, Faith Catherine Apio, now a Senior Six candidate at Lubiri Secondary School, got very few cards compared with her friends and felt so bad!

"I thought, maybe people do not care about me, worse still, I did not get a card from my mum. In fact, I did not even perform that well, because I did my papers demoralised and thinking - 'my mum did not wish me success,'" she says.

In Senior Four, Apio received a success card from her mother and performed better. As Senior Six exams approach, Apio is glad her mother's card is the one she received first.

"And that makes me feel I have to read more," Apio adds.

Another Senior Six candidate, George Kalyango, also explains that to him, success

cards give encouragement and instill a belief that one can make it because they have encouraging words.

"It is also a sign of love when for example; your parents give it to you. It shows that they have interest and belief in you," he says.

"Nevertheless, I would not be disappointed if no one gave me a success card. The most important thing is to be contented that I have read my books, and that will be enough without any word of encouragement from a success card," Kalyango adds.

However, Claudia Naggayi, a Primary Seven pupil at Bridges Primary School, Namasuba, says she would not lose sleep over a mere card.

"I have not received any success cards. I do not expect any, and I am fine with that. In fact, I would rather have people give me money, than giving me success cards that I will throw away in a few months. But if I receive any, I will accept it," she says.

Increasing morale

Francis Zziwa Kiyaga, an educationist, says cards are a block on which students can build their success in the sense of morale-boosting, and portrayal of concern towards them from the awarding party.

"However, this is only part of a process

that should be ongoing from the time a child starts school. Relatives, friends and especially parents should always encourage, and building confidence by affirming their children. But in the sense of our current candidates, a success card is a step in the right direction," he says.

Changing trends

A few years ago, candidates were content with the number of cards they received. Those in boarding school usually decorated their walls and beds with their cards. Most prided in seeing their names appear several times on mailing list.

"I treasured and actually kept all my P7 cards in a special box for memories," Sarah Kirabo, a Senior Five student at St. Mark's College, Namagoma says.

In Senior Four however, it was more about quality for Kirabo and her peers.

"We would hid the paper ones and display the framed, more expensive ones which usually last longer," she says. This trend has somewhat diminished the position of success cards.

Prices

Success cards range from Shs500 to Shs20,000. These, however, differ from one selling point to another. Frames with success messages and other gifts range from Shs3,000 to Shs40,000.



**CHARLES SSEKALAALA
TEACHER, LUBIRI
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Success cards give candidates encouragement, boosts their reading capabilities to gain confidence and to perform well. Sometimes, there is a way those who haven't received success cards feel bad about themselves.



**SARAH KISAAKYE,
TEACHER, RIGHT
CARE PRIMARY
SCHOOL ZANA.**

I think the main emphasis should be on preparing the candidates for their exams. Even if one got a success card, but they are not prepared, it's all in vain.



**SSEWANKAMBO
MOSES, TEACHER
LUBIRI SECONDARY
SCHOOL.**

Success cards are one way of inspiring children to brace themselves for the coming exams.