

Debate Corner | This Week's Motion...

Clean water is more important than electricity

BY BEATRICE NAKIBUUKA

Clean water is safe water that people can drink, cook with, and use for washing without getting diseases. Electricity is power used to provide light and run machines, televisions, refrigerators, and many other things. Both clean water and electricity are important in our daily lives.

Affirmative

- Human beings cannot live without water. People can stay for some time without electricity, but they cannot survive without water. We use water for drinking every day. Without clean water, people can die from thirst and diseases.
- In many villages in Uganda, people still live without electricity, but they continue surviving because they have water for drinking and cooking.
- Clean water prevents diseases. Dirty water causes dangerous diseases like cholera, typhoid, and diarrhoea. Many children miss school because of diseases caused by unsafe water.
- Water is needed for cooking and hygiene. Families need water to prepare food, wash clothes, bathe, clean homes, and wash hands after visiting toilets. Even if a family has electricity, they still cannot cook food without water.
- Farmers depend on water. Uganda is an agricultural country. Farmers need water for crops and animals. Without water, crops dry up and animals die. Food is more important for survival than television or



electric appliances.

- Many hospitals can still work without electricity for some time. Hospitals can use generators, solar power, lanterns, or candles during power cuts. But without clean water, doctors cannot wash patients, clean equipment, or give patients safe drinking water.
- Water is a basic human need. Electricity improves life, but water makes life possible.

Negative

- Electricity supports hospitals. Hospitals use electricity to operate machines, keep medicines in refrigerators, and perform surgeries. Without electricity, many patients can die.
- Many towns and cities use electric pumps to supply water to homes, schools, and hospitals. Without electricity, it becomes difficult to distribute

clean water.

- Electricity improves education. Children use electricity to read at night, power computers, and use the internet for research. Schools with electricity can teach science and technology better than schools without power.
- Electricity creates jobs and development. Factories, banks, salons, and businesses need electricity to operate. Electricity helps countries develop and reduce poverty. Without electricity, many Ugandans would lose jobs.
- Electricity improves communication. Phones, radios, televisions, and the internet all need electricity. These help people receive news, education, and emergency information.
- Electricity improves security. Street lights and security lights help reduce crime and

accidents at night.

Rebuttals

For affirmative side

The opposition may say electricity brings development. We agree, but development cannot happen when people are dying from lack of safe water.

They may also say electricity pumps water. But before pumping water, the water itself must exist and be clean for people to use.

For negative side

They say farmers need water. But farmers also use electricity for irrigation, milk cooling, and processing agricultural products.

The proposition says electricity is only for luxury. This is not true because electricity powers industries, hospitals, and communication systems that save lives.

Science Experiment

Colour balloon

