Debate Corner — This Week's Motion...



Communities should punish people who litter the environment

BY BEATRICE NAKIBUUKA

Littering means throwing rubbish such as plastic bottles, papers, or food remains on the ground instead of putting them in a dustbin.

Some people argue that littering harms our environment and can lead to disease, flooding, and dirty communities. While education is important, communities should also have rules and punishments to discourage littering. When everyone takes responsibility, we can keep our environment clean and safe for all.

Affirmative side

- Littering makes our environment dirty. When people throw rubbish everywhere, the community becomes untidy. Dirty surroundings attract flies and other insects that can spread diseases. If communities punish those who litter, people will learn to keep their surroundings clean.
- It can cause flooding. When rubbish such as plastic bottles and polythene bags are thrown into drainage channels, they block the water. When heavy rain falls, the water cannot flow properly and this causes flooding. Punishing those who litter can help stop this problem.
- Punishment teaches responsibility. If people know they can be punished for littering, they will think twice before throwing rubbish on the ground. This helps everyone learn to care for the environment.
- A clean environment benefits everyone. When communities are clean, people live healthier and happier lives. Visitors also enjoy clean towns and villages. Punishing littering helps protect our shared environment.

Negative side

- People should be educated instead of punished. Some people litter because they do not know the dangers it causes. Instead of punishing them, communities should teach them about keeping the environment clean.
- There may not be enough dustbins. In some places, people throw rubbish on the ground because there are no rubbish bins nearby. Punishing them without providing bins may not be fair.
- Punishment can create fear instead of cooperation. If communities only focus on punishment, people may feel afraid instead of learning the importance of caring for the environment.
- Children and poor people may be punished unfairly. Sometimes young children or people who collect waste for a living may accidentally litter. Punishing them may not solve the real problem.

Rebuttal

The opposing side says people should only be educated instead of punished. However, education alone is sometimes not enough. Many people already know that littering is wrong but still do it. A small punishment can remind people to follow the rules.

They also say there may not be enough dustbins. While that may be true in some places, it does not mean people should throw rubbish anywhere. People can carry their waste until they find a proper place to dispose of it.

Finally, they argue that punishment creates fear. But fair rules and small penalties can actually encourage people to take responsibility and protect the environment.

Science Experiment

MAKE TASTY JUICE

Requirements

- Oranges
- Jug
- Knife
- Sugar

Procedure

- Wash all the oranges with clean water.
- Cut all oranges into halves.
- Have a jug and ensure it is clean.
- Press and squeeze all pieces of oranges to pour the juice into the jug.
- Put a little sugar in the juice to make it a little sweet.
- You can add little water to dilute.
- Finally, you can enjoy your natural juice.

BY STANLEY MBUGUAH

