

Send children to school with love

There is a growing phenomenon of school being a prison of sorts where parents, especially of teenage children, dump or keep them away because children are a burden to them.

The dynamics are threefold: One angle is where both parents are 'a tied up working class', who hardly find time to spend with their children even during holidays. They become burdened and look forward to taking children back to school where missing their parents is reasonably justified at least from their lenses.

The second angle, which is closely related to the first, regards to discipline and management. I remember a parent applauding a head teacher in one of the schools. He said: "I really thank you Sir. I don't know how you manage more than 1,000 boys. I have only three boys, but during these three weeks holiday. I almost ran mad".

It is generally acceptable that teenagers are very difficult to handle. It is even worse when they were not groomed and nurtured with the right values and principles. Parents who are 'absent'



difficult to cope with their teenage children. They are thus always looking forward to dumping such children at schools hoping for some miracles to transform them.

Lastly, it is the socio-economic angle of financial maintenance of the children during holidays. A parent called me this week. She took three children for lunch and spent Shs100,000.

Even if they had chosen to make the lunch at home, the cost,

have been much less. Some parents find school as the cheapest social institutions for their children's growth and development.

No matter the considerations, parents must make a deliberate effort to make children feel loved, adored and a source of happiness. Parents should not consider their children as a burden to them. I hope you sent your children back to school with love.

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