

Children's Platform

What I like about school

What makes me happy at school

Loyce Adongo, Sambwa Primary School, Serere district
We are given time to participate in games and sports. Teachers encourage us to participate in sports as they have made some people become rich. I see myself becoming a great netball player.



Catherine Esther Nanyunja, Ndejje View Primary School, Namasuba
I enjoy all the activities done at school. I like participating in every school activity like writing articles, MDD, playing netball and reading storybooks, among others. I listen to my teachers' and matrons' pieces of advice to help me excel in education.



Bridget Nakamoga, Kigumba Primary School, Luweero
Being active and answering questions correctly in class makes me happy. I feel good when I learn new skills or when I stop other children from fighting or quarrelling.



Mark Lubowa, Passover Junior School
Playing and learning new things at school makes me happy.



Yonason Okiru, East Kololo Primary School
When I share eatables with my friends at school, it makes me happy.



Irungi, Bright Star Apen and Primary School, Holma
Playing with other pupils at school makes me happy.
by Noah Jagwe Naigino



Jordan Warumite, Standard Junior School
Understanding what my teachers teach me makes me happy.

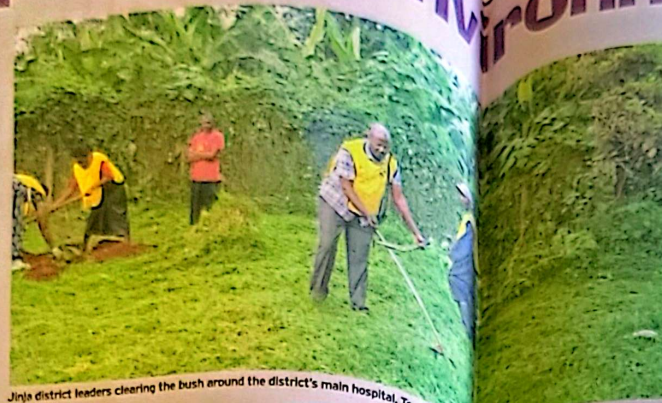
Keeping the environment clean

By Billy Rwehungeyo

Children, do you know what the environment is? In the simplest form, the environment refers to all things, living and non-living around us. Some of the basic things in our environment that affect our lives include water and food. Where do we get water from? We get water from rivers and lakes. Where do we get food to eat from? We get food from soil, and water, for food like fish. If we pollute our water sources, we will not get clean water and fish. So we need to take good care of our environment.

Five basic needs of human beings from the environment are oxygen, water, food, shelter and warmth.

Below, children from various schools share their stories about the environment.



Jinja district leaders clearing the bush around the district's main hospital. To stay healthy, we need a clean environment.

Plant trees, flowers

Maria Parvin Negeva P7, Good Times Kawasala

There are various ways of keeping the environment clean; planting trees and flowers is very important. It keeps the beauty of the environment.

Charcoal burners should be stopped from destroying forests and polluting the air. Therefore let us join together and preserve the environment.



Always pick all rubbish

Gift Joselyn, Primary Seven, Good Times Primary School Kawasala

We can keep our environment by picking rubbish and dumping it in the proper place. Sweeping the compound and washing clothes. People can also keep a clean environment by draining stagnant water.

Water sources should be fenced to avoid intruders who may cause contamination.

Stop cutting trees

Patience Nakayiza, Primary Seven, Good Times Primary School, Kawasala
Environment are the things surrounding man. We can keep a clean environment by sweeping the compound, scrubbing latrines and bathrooms as well as burning rubbish.

Deforestation is one of the problems Uganda must tackle.



Ensure good hygiene

Lith Diana Mach primary five, 14, Ndejje View Primary School, Namasuba
We can keep our environment clean by mopping classes, houses and cleaning latrines. We should also help the young children and sick people to use latrines properly. Lastly, We should stop people from defecating and urinating near water sources.

Practise afforestation

Alanna Bakysa primary five, Namirembe Parents' Primary School, Kampala

People should practise afforestation and reafforestation to protect animals, people and plants. There should be no more bush burning, carrying out farming in forests and swamps. The government should punish lawbreakers to protect our environment from being degraded.



Prevent soil erosion

Andrew Mukooli, Primary Seven, 11, Kazinga Parents' Primary School, Bweyogerere
There are many reasons why we should do whatever it takes to preserve the environment. Firstly, we should prevent soil erosion by planting trees. We should slash bushes around our homes to get rid of dangerous animals that may harm us. Keeping our bodies clean also protects our environment.



Improper disposal of wastes

Elizabeth Gune, Primary Seven, 12, Kazinga Parents' Primary School, Bweyogerere

Environment refers to man and his surroundings. These surroundings include plants, animals, land and water bodies. It is from our environment that we expect to get food and live healthy. Unfortunately, we do not protect it; we should stop activities that expose our environment to danger such as bush burning, improper disposing of wastes and burying plastic materials and cutting down trees without replacing them. Let's also avoid burying or throwing polythene bags in gardens. Dispose your faeces in pit latrines or toilet or else there will be outbreak of fatal diseases.



Polythene is dangerous

Latavia Nambi Primary seven, 13, Ndejje Primary School, Namasuba

We can keep our environment clean by not littering polythene bags because they lead to land degradation. I advise schools to participate in cleaning the environment on a daily basis.



Stop Poor farming methods

Paula Washaki, Primary Seven, 12, Kazinga Parents' Primary School, Bweyogerere

Poor farming methods like the use of dangerous chemicals in gardens, cultivating in swamps and deforestation lead to environmental destruction. If these activities are stopped, there will be few cases of diseases outbreak, famine and loss of aquatic life. The Government should emphasise the teaching of environmental conservation in the school curriculum. This will help children grow up with values and knowledge of preserving the environment.

Slash the compound

Geraldine Namuganyu, Primary Seven, 11, Kazinga Parents' Primary School, Bweyogerere

We can protect our environment by slashing the grass in our compounds and draining stagnant water to prevent the spread of malaria. Other ways are; digging up toilets and pit latrines in our homes for proper disposal of human waste and prevention of diarrhoeal diseases.



Your rights

Do you enjoy your rights as children?

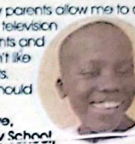
I enjoy my right to acquire informal education while at home. My parents and siblings treat me well and I respect them. Although I have a right to freedom of speech, I always speak with care. One day, I stole something and my mother beat me. I thought she was abusing my rights, but she later said sorry to me. This is when I learnt that stealing is bad.



Paul Musimanta, Primary Five, Namirembe Parents' Primary School, Kampala

My rights are not violated because I have a right to worship to God every Sunday.
Norah Brungi, Primary six, Fobbeto Nursery and Primary School, Holma

I enjoy my rights because my parents allow me to do what I want. I enjoy watching television and praying. I enjoy these rights and benefit a lot from them. I don't like people who deny us our rights. Those who violate our rights should be punished.



Georgina Tendo, Primary Five, Namirembe Parents' Primary School, Kampala

Children should enjoy all rights. Some teachers, parents and relatives violate children's rights. I thank God that my teachers and parents do not violate mine. I enjoy all my rights both at home and at school.
Prince Musasizi Primary Five, Namirembe Parents' Primary School, Kampala

Defilement, caring and denying children basic needs is one way of abusing their rights. That's why I always do the things which please my parents to protect my rights.
Marla Nanyanzi Primary Five, Namirembe Parents' Primary School, Kampala



Our rights are violated by kidnappers because they kidnap some children to get money. That is bad to us because it makes us live in fear.
Emmanuella James, Primary Seven, Ndejje View Primary School, Namasuba

Next week's topics are:
What subject do you find so hard and what do you plan to do about it?
If you were the environment minister, what would you want to be remembered for?
Send your articles on those topics to nie@newvision.co.ug with your photos.