

Kengele Children's Network (KCN) September 2010 Report



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A Partnership between Be Kids and Child Peace and the Children of Korogocho

Introduction:

The month of September was generally packed with the children's preparations for the debate activity scheduled for the 13th of November 2010. The debate aims at bringing together the children of Korogocho and their counterparts from a middle class community in Buruburu with an objective of influencing more scholarships for the Korogocho children.

It is in the same month that the children were resuming to school after the August holidays. This ushers in the third term of the academic calendar in Kenya. It is a crucial term since most of the children do a test that determines their progress to the next class.

Activities:

4th September: Village Caucuses.

Being the last Saturday of the school holidays, each village held a meeting with their respective facilitators, to evaluate the August activities and review some of the academic goals set by the children during the academic review.

The children were reminded on the 5Ws and H:

- Why am I going back to school?
- What do I want to improve on and achieve by the end of this term?
- Where am I in my academic performance? Where do I want to be by the end of the term?
- Who should I consult on specific subjects of my weakness?
- When do I know am on/ not on the track?
- How do I keep my self disciplined to my plan?

The facilitators emphasised on the importance for the children to have a clear plan with very specific objectives in order to be competitive and achieve impressive results especially on the following determinant term.

Some of the practical tools the children were encouraged to develop and use included:

- Personal study time table
- Study partner/ group
- Revision test papers

During this week the facilitators also shared the schedule of activities within Kengele noting that the activities would only be during the weekends. One of the significant changes was the cluster arrangement of the different villages to form only two clusters for easy coordination and inter village activities.

This meant; villages in cluster A include: Ngomongo, Ngunyumu, Grogon A, Grogon B and Gitathuru. Those in Cluster B: Nyayo, Kisumu Ndogo, Korogocho A, Korogocho B and High Ridge.

The Children were however encouraged to continue using the study centre in Kisumu Ndogo even if one is not from the same village.

11th and 18th September: Inter village debates.

Both inter village debates were held in two different venues for the two clusters separately; one in Grogon A and the other in Kisumu Ndogo.

The main aim of the debates is to prepare the Kengele children for the forth coming debate between them and their counterparts at the shepherd's junior and the nearby schools on the 13th of November.

The objective of this activity at this stage is to prepare the children in the following ways:

- Their confidence in expressing themselves before their peers
- Improve their grammar and flow of thought
- Their skills in involving the audience
- Their audibility

Topics/ motions to be discussed:

- ❖ Between a boy and a girl, who suffers most from adolescent sex between a girl and a boy?
- ❖ Money is more important than education



Observation during the debate:

On the adolescent motion the following was observed:

- *The children were pretty much confident especially on the second debate and had many points on the effects of adolescent sex*
- *Many more also got an opportunity to learn risky factors that may lead to adolescent sex*
- *Some children were not confident enough to debate the topic*

This topic was brought forward for discussion due to the following reasons:

- To enable the children discuss the consequences of adolescent sex
- To let the children know that both parties do suffer from such irresponsible acts
- To promote an open discussion about adolescent sex amongst themselves and clear out facts from myths

Wealth and education

This topic was to help the children debate and come out clearly with what they preferred and would value more, between money and education. It was interesting to listen to the children, noting their economic and social background.

The following was observed during the discussion:

- *Some children go to school with the mentality that education leads to richness*
- *Some if given enough wealth/ money, they would stop going to school since they will have achieved what education may lead to*
- *Others were going to school so as to get the skills on how they would take care of their wealth sometimes later in life*

By the end of the two days activities the facilitators and the children assigned different responsibilities in coordinating the debate, noted the following:

- The children needed to work on their audibility when addressing crowd so that they can be heard clearly
- The level of confidence was impressive but it was necessary that the children worked on their fluency when communicating
- The children could come with their own argumentative points to keep the debate going

25th September 2010: Team Building exercises

Every last Saturday of the month, all the Kengele children and their facilitators meet at one venue for joint activities and team building among them.

During this day, the children interact and share the different activities and issues of concern in their villages and share among them the past and forth coming activities within the Kengele program.

The children engaged in different creative and educative exercises guided by the different facilitators. Such activities include games, songs, concentration exercises, IQ challenges and other interactive games.

Some of the games on this day were:

❖ Master the number:

In random the children were given different numbers and asked to remember that number as their identity and be able to express themselves once the number was called.



Objectives of this game were:

- Improve on the listening skills
- Help the children build their confidence in expressing themselves especially when its their turn to do so
- Nurturing the discipline to follow instruction despite your age
- To let the children know that one needs to try again and again despite of failing

❖ Unfold the Circle

In groups of seven, they were asked to form a circle and ensure that their right hand held the left hand of another person but not the one next to them. Then the challenge was to form a circle out of the crooked way of holding the hands without detaching your hands from the one you are holding.



The objectives of this exercise were:

- To emphasise on the importance of communication to achieve results
- The need to follow instructions
- The importance of trying the “impossibility” and overcoming the challenges
- The discipline of working as a team

Later on this day, the children embarked on debate with the two clusters choosing their representatives from which a team to represent Kengele for the debates were chosen.
