

Improvement of school environment to combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) challenges to Stop Adolescent Girls' School Dropouts in Uganda



Girls share their views on Menstrual Hygiene Management challenges with GBN partners ? Lwawuna Primary school ? Mubende District Uganda

Girls drop out of Schools due to the menstruation... ? ! -

Many developing countries like Uganda have a major problem that the dropout rate of school children is still high due to various reasons, for example, students living in poverty cannot afford school fees and materials in addition to long distances from home to school. Surprisingly monthly menstruation is the major reason for school girls' dropouts.

GBN had implemented the project called "Reusable Sanitary Pads for School Girls" in 2015 and realized that many school going adolescent girls cannot afford to buy sanitary pads and many girls have ended up seeking for other alternatives like using old clothes which cannot sustain them for the whole day and such alternatives are often not clean which can cause girls in danger of infection.

Others with no options end up missing school during their menstruation periods which affects their performance at school. In addition to this, most school girls have experienced their blood leaking during school hours and fellow pupils especially boys laugh and bully them, this makes them feel uncomfortable and some ends up missing school while others dropping out of school due to menstrual related hygiene management.

Therefore, GBN had implemented the pilot project to provide reusable sanitary pads with school girls and conducted the survey to assess the impact of this pilot project. In consequence, we have found the positive impact of improvement of school girls' attendance and performance. In addition, some girls dropping out of schools returned to schools after providing reusable pads.

Girls' absenteeism due to menstrual related hygiene management reasons affects their performance in schools. On average a girl misses school 4-5 days in a month and in a term 12-15 days in a term.

- GBN's Next Project -

Based on the result of assessment conducted in 2015, it is identified that lack of proper knowledge of menstruation, sanitary hygiene and sex education and low gender awareness are the major problem.

For the purpose of preventing adolescent girls from dropping out of schools, GBN is planning for a collaboration with [SORAK Development Agency](#) located in Mubende, Uganda to implement a project called "Reusable pad making, sex education and menstrual hygiene management, and gender awareness" as well as the impact assessment.

We hope findings from this new project will help us to improve more valuable and effective activities which we will be able to carry out in the future and disseminate to wider geographical areas in order to support vulnerable girls to complete their education. It will contribute to enhancement of women empowerment. Therefore, we really appreciate your understanding and support to stop Ugandan school girls' dropouts due to menstrual related hygiene

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