

The 1st Annual East African Students' Debate Competition on Girl Child Education. 2018.

A look at a few Statistics.

Different East African countries have quite staggering statistics as regards Girl Child Education, and this can be deep related to the levels of school enrollment in primary to the completion in Secondary education. **Tanzania** has a Net Attendance rate (UIS 2013) as 77.4% of which Girls have 80.1% and Boys 74.7%, to the best part as regards Survival rate to last grade of primary (UIS 2009) shoots still to 81% in total with Girls surviving at 87% and Boys at 76%. However much the drop out is there , it isn't at a much bigger magnitude as regards below.

Sadly of all the big numbers of survivors to the last grade of primary level, only a small portion of 25% of students proceed to Lower Secondary levels (Net attendance, (MICS/DHS 2007-2011) with Girls mostly affected to a lower 24% and Boys to 26%. What could be the challenge between transitions from Primary level to even just Lower Secondary level? Those and many are worth intriguing facts to dig.

However, much as **Kenya** has a 93% Literacy rate with Female (MICS) literacy rate of year old 15-24 being 94% the Net attendance rate (MICS/DHS 2007-2011) goes to a low of 75% for females and 72% for boys with a total of 73.5% as still above the Net attendance rate for Lower Secondary (MICS/DHS 2007-2011) further goes down to a low 42% for females and 40% for boys and 41% generally.

Burundi comes in at a much worrying snap shot as regards education, with a promisingly higher general attendance rate (MICS/DHS 2005) putting it at 70.5% completion rate for Primary level (UIS 2010) is just 51% generally, and Net attendance rate into Lower Secondary (MICS>DHS 2011) going to as low as just 7.2%.

Rwanda's high Net attendance into \primary (MICS/DHS 2007-2011), 87.6% generally, with Girls 89% and Boys 86%, general completion rate for the same level still fall to a low of 37% (UIS 2010), the challenge further continues into the Lower Secondary attendance rate (MICS/DHS 2007-2011) becomes to a low of 16% for Girls with Boys at 15% and generally 15% for all.

According to the Statistical Abstract 2014 of the **Uganda** Ministry of Education and Sports, the Net Enrollment Ratio NER 97% of the Total population of the primary Going age in Uganda, 98% are female and 96% are Male. This indicates that girls accessing Primary Education are slightly higher than boys therefore attainment of gender parity between the male and female pupils as for every 100 pupils in primary, 50 were girls.

- But then, of the total HIV and AIDS cases in primary enrollment which reaches to 0.4% of the total enrollment, Girls make 51.44% of this, which alone starts their education curve to descend.
- Overall still, boys are more engaged in Co-curricular activities than girls with an average participation of 6.6% compared to 6.3% of the girls.

The project.

The **Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for action. SDG 4, Target .1** ‘By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete **Free, Equitable and Quality** Primary and Secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.’

The Uganda National Strategic Plan on Girl Child Education 2015- 2019 specifically calls for; Strategic Intervention No. 4.5 Calls for a specific focus on male involvement in supporting Girls’ Education. Strategic Objective No.5 and its subsequent Guiding principles calls for Capacity Utilization and enhancement of key actors in Girls’ Education particularly involving men to continuously support girls to Enroll, Remain, Complete and benefit from the education system.

Activities proposed include organizing male role models at community levels; organizing father protect Daughter campaigns; Increase sensitization of communities on the value of Girls’ Education and more so **Including Boys in gender responsive actions at the school level.**

Its against this that we have come up with the ***1st Annual East African Students’ Debate competition on Girl Child Education 2018***, targeting sensitization and involvement of pupils in the primary section of learning from within East Africa and beyond.

The Debate:

A debate is a formal argument where groups or individuals present opposing views about particular issues according to a set of rules.

In the honor of the many benefits of a pupil’s participation in debates ,here comes another opportunity to engage in efforts for supporting the Girl Child Education, therefore the pupils will not only gain skills like public speaking, cognitive and language abilities, research and debating, will also learn about the Crucial Global issue of concern which is **Girl Child Education.**

Competition Objectives.

- To have/create a team of self-motivated young ambassadors of Girl Child Education in the Region and Beyond.
- To create a platform where young minds are given an opportunity to shape the future of Education in the region and how they can champion the cause to which they all value and contribute to: That’s Girl Child Education.
- To set up a continuous trend of joint mobilization and commitment of young people towards working together to have all Girls In School in East Africa.

Expected Outcomes.

- Having a dedicated team of at least 63 young people from all over East Africa plus invited Guest Countries ready to champion any cause aimed at having men and Boys champion having Girls in School.
- To set a precedent to have country preliminary competitions having young people from the participating countries participate and compete to select the best ones to represent the countries in the regional competitions.
- Together as gathering young people make joint commitments in their capacities towards having personal goals aimed at measuring individual contributions towards supporting Girls’ Enrollment, Retention, and Completion of Education.

A Special Issue.

On a special note, all children matter and hence we are including in the **Special Needs children, the deaf, the orphans, and Refugee Children**. These are to compete on the same page as the other students, there needs to be a clear action undertaken to make people appreciate that disability is not inability and the deaf and refugee children can actively and effectively compete with other students in a debate competition.

It is also going to help bring them out of the blanket of the special needs students of thinking that they have to be confined in their villages alone or circles, they need to learn how to actively and on the same level compete for the wide equal opportunities just like the others, and besides, Girls' Education also includes the special needs students.

Although, they are to be given more sophisticated care and concern especially much help in the preparations, trainings and also special point bonuses at the competitions because of them being special needs students and being the fact that, many of them have low content absorbing abilities, so a more concentrated help prior and during the competitions, brings about the **Equity & Equality In Education** that GISI stands for.

The target participants:

(The Host country)

The project targets to have 20 teams/schools from Uganda taking part in the preliminary two-day debate sessions that will see a selection of the best school representing Uganda in the East Africa debate competitions. This will also include a minimum of at least 2 pure refugee teams being part of the sessions.

Two (2) schools for deaf students from Kampala will also have preliminary sessions to select one special needs students team to compete with the others from the participating countries.

Note: The preliminary sessions for the first competitions will take place only in the host country due to resource restraints and the subsequent years will see such sessions being held in all the participating countries so as to select the best debater.

(The other participating countries)

Each participating country will be represented by one team/school and one special needs student's team. The selection of country representing participants will be with the coordination of the different partners in the specific countries.

Since the preliminary sessions are also aimed at preparing the students to actively understand the concept of the debates and these students will now have them, a team of the Debate competition organizing committee will make courtesy visits to the different school teams in these countries as they do the trainings to both the participants and the judges from those countries. (the proposed timeline for these trainings is currently available).

The Methodology.

Students will be given a set of Motions based on the different themes that are in line with the East African Education and development sector for the different competition rounds, the first motions will be given to schools 4 months before the competitions plus the materials to create bigger space for research and practice, only motions for the Semi and Final rounds will be given to the students just a day before the competitions.

All the schools that confirm participation in the project will be given full information materials about Education globally, regional and National, materials on Educational research and statistics, special material on the education of **Girl Child**, debate guidelines, timeline, competition fixtures and other information but all redesigned and aligned to suit the Primary level pupils of public schools in Uganda.

Competition Timeline:

Pre-competition activities: 6th//June/2018

Preliminary Competitions for the host Country Day 1: 7th/June/2018

Preliminary Competitions for the host Country Day 2: 8th/June/2018

Regional competitions: 9th/June/2018

Post Competition Activities: 10-12th/June/2018 (details are discussed below)

Cerebration of winners and Award of Presents and Gifts: **National Cerebrations of the Day of the African Child. 16th /June/2018.**

Prizes:

First School/Team: Primary Debating Perpetual Trophy, Debaters' **Gold** Medals. Gifts and Certificates.

Second School/Team: Debaters' **Silver** Medals. Gifts and Certificates.

Third Team/School: Debaters' **Bronze** Medals. Gifts and Certificates.

All participants: Certificates and Gifts.

Special Recognition.

The overall best debater and the best Junior Judge will join **Girls In School Initiative Team** to:

- A first class all expenses paid annual GISI retreat in **Kigali Rwanda** in August 2018 with Modern Coast Bus.
- A Cappuccino and Agatogo Rwanda experience at Camellia Café in Kigali City Center.
- A visit around the city of Kigali.
- A free yoga Class with Aline Mazimpaka.

The judges:

The whole debate competition will have a total of about **120** sessions (which will include the Pre-debate, real time debate and the post-debate competitions) of debate and these are to be handled with a total of 40 judges. This will include 20 high school student judges (Junior Judges) and senior judges prior selected by GISI depending on their expertise in debates and public speaking including invited International judges from other East African Countries including, from Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, South Sudan and Tanzania.

The main reason for including the junior judges is simply to have a young generation trained into the GISI debating style and them being secondary school students, they are simply to be ambassadors in their respective schools where the GISI gospel of men and Boys Championing Girl Child Education as being spread.

On a further special note:

Having a regional competition increases opportunities for expanding the cause to yet more places and regions of Africa, this on a special note has seen the invitation of an Inspiring young Leader **Joseph Yealoe Yeakerzie Sahn** Founder and Executive Director **Youths Volunteering for Sustainable Development (YOVSUD)** from the West African Country of Liberia to volunteer as an overall Senior Judge for the debates between the East African Debating countries (teams), this is aimed at eliminating Bias in selection of the best students and also increasing the scope of a more focused collaboration on issues of Girl Child Education in West Africa and also set a precedent for establishing a regional debate competition which together will lead to the formal establishment of the Continent wide competition all focused on Men and Boys Championing Girl Child Education.

Volunteers:

The competitions cannot be smoothly run without the helping hands of diligent and committed volunteers, the projects target to use the support of 100 volunteers for the whole duration of the project including the debate sessions. These are targeted to be mostly from secondary schools to so much give an involvement of the students into the general concern and involvement in Girl Child Education.

Post Competition Activities.

Having a total of 63 young people from 6 East African countries and joined by 3 countries of Southern Africa, all visiting Uganda for the very first time and mostly their first engagement in supporting the Men and Boys' Championing of Girl Child Education, it becomes rather mandatory to have them get an experience of the Uganda they never heard about and also plant memories for generations to ponder on.

It is with this that we suggested the competitions to have post-Debate activities through the dates of 10th-11th before the award of certificates and presents to the best debaters and the farewell departure back to their countries to continue the new born spirit of Girl Child Education Support and Development.

Proposed activities include:

- **Around East Africa in One Day: on 10th/June/2018**

This is aimed at having the young people at first-hand experience East Africa in one day by travelling to all the East African countries (read embassies) and have a touch of what the lifestyle and experience is in the specific countries and also a chance to visit their respectful country Ambassadors/representatives and also learn more about how East Africa promotes the Education of the Girl Child at its forefront of programs and ambitions.

The experience is to involve:

- Breakfast in Rwanda
- A Moment in South Sudan
- Lunch in Kenya
- A Coffee Moment in Burundi
- Dinner in Tanzania &
- Dreams in Uganda.

- **This is Uganda: on 11th/June/2018.**

This is aimed at having the young visitors to Uganda have a first-hand experience of The Pearl of Africa and planting the Memories for generations to appreciate and experience.

Proposed activities here include:

- The Planting of Jack fruit Trees at 10 Primary Schools and their communities in Wakiso District especially those much affected by Food Security challenges especially in the Drought seasons which eventually forces students to drop out of school and also affect their performances, (why specifically Jack Fruit: its in relation to our new project called: The Fruit Food Tree Program,- details are available about this)
- A visit to the Uganda Museum, Uganda Wild Life Education Center.
- A moment with the EAC Members of Parliament for Uganda.
- A visit to the EAC Ministry in Kampala.

- **The Buganda Kingdom Experience: 12th/June/2018.**

A case study courtesy experience of how cultural institutions in Uganda are addressing the cause of development of Education of the young people especially the Girls and how the Cultural inspirational leader like the Nabagereka of Uganda stand at the forefront of having all children access Education and complete education (an example is though her Nabagereka Foundation).

Activities here include:

- A light Moment of Inspiration with the Nabageeka of Uganda.
- A visit to Nabagereka Primary School and leaning more about The Nabagereka Foundation and its efforts and programs around or aimed at supporting Education Development especially for Girls.

Note:

For many other like partners who may have new ideas on what Post activities can be involved in this program, please let us know so that we can have it discussed more and included into the further program development for the successful undertaking of the noble cause to have the young people experience the value of Girl Child Education and showcase the Pearl of Africa in our Uganda.

Call for partnership/sponsorship.

Ways of project partnering with GIS;

- **Publicity:** This is one of the main tasks and areas of cooperation, reaching the competition information to prospective participants; it involves taking messages to the schools and linking on as many schools as possible.
- There shall be visits to several schools in the whole of East Africa which schools are expected to participate in the competition, this will involve gathering all students and teachers on an assembly or main hall.
- The project will print competition guidelines and posters which will be pinned to different stations like schools, public offices or any other places where students and school authorities can access/find.
- Spreading the message can be in any other way dimmed possible like adverts in the media, circulation in circles, social media, at functions etc, all are welcome.

- **Sponsoring Prizes for the competition winners.**

The competition has a set of prizes for the participating students as displayed below.

- The gifts proposed can be of any kind, from scholastic materials, school fees and other personal belongings.

- **Working with GISI in the judging of the competition sessions.**

The competition projects 400 participants to take part in this and it means several teams with 3 days of intensive debates and the judging, monitoring, mentoring and supporting the participating students will need a lot support In terms of man power and expertise.

- **Working with/Involving GISI in the Organization of the Day of the African Child of June 16 2018 which is the awarding day.**

The awarding ceremony will be held on 16th June and GISI seeks partnerships/involvement with other relevant stake holders in the field for involvement and inclusion of GISI in the 2018 day commemorations.

- **Good will partnership.**

GISI is an early advocacy Organisation which needs introduction and cementation into the Girl child related advocacy and support programs. And with this competition being the first public involvement activity, having many concerned partners as Good Will partners will be an added advantage.

- **Any other ways of partnering or sponsorship of the cause/project will be greatly appreciated and welcome.**

Benefits to Sponsors and Partners.

- In all the organization and project publications like posters, students' certificates, T-shirts, gifts, scholastic materials and all other relevant and ongoing materials, **sponsors and partners'** publicity names and logos will be given a high visibility value.
- Partners and Sponsors' information materials and adverts will be clearly displayed at all functions, events like displays and exhibitions in Schools, public places Art Galleries, Award ceremonies and any other subsequent events pertaining Girls in School Initiative.
- Online platforms like Organization Websites and blogs, social media addresses, local and international radio and TV appearances of Girls in School will have clear display of Partners and Sponsors' information.
- Sponsors and partners into the competition will be fronted as the guardians for the Girls who will be supported to attain their education through the support that will be given to them by Girls In School Initiative through the earlier mentioned initiatives like the Scholastic and financial support to Less privileged urban poor and the rural girls.

The team:

1. Project Manager

(For sponsors and partners, coordination of international judges.)

Magezi Bashir:

Founder and CEO Girls In School Initiative.

Email: gisinitiative@mail2girl.com:

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2. Debate Manager:

(For local and junior judges and action debate coordination)

GISI Statistician

Olwenyi Ronald Ryan

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Tell: +256-701024788

3. Media and Publicity representative.

(For media presence and representation of the project and handling project public relations.)

Najib Sekikubo

GISI Media and Communications Specialist.

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4. Volunteers and Retreat Coordinator.

(For coordination of volunteer invitations, trainings and coordinating the annual GISI retreat.)

Sembatya Hassan

GISI Refuge Education Coordinator

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5. Logistics coordinator.

(For coordination of all project logistics in designing purchase and distribution).

Sekamwa Hussein

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6. Debaters' support trainer.

(For overall training of debaters in the GISI debating format supported by the printed Booklet)

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All info available on

www.gisinitiative.webs.com

