

TUNZA CHILDREN CENTRE APRIL 2010 REPORT

The girls are going through a season of preteens and teenage and most of them are going through a time where they require to be helped to know what is going on in their lives. Many of them are struggling with issues of sexuality and during one of the sessions of question and answer they asked the very questions on issues of sex. It seems like some of them are already sexually active and Mama Tunza is not able to contain them because many of them attend day school. We had a report where condoms were found in the farm bordering the home and the owner says it seems the older children are the ones who have been using them.

Therefore due to lack of better and strong family backgrounds and many being orphans this has made them to be even more vulnerable to anyone who seems to care a little. This is a consequence of having no one to model from, from the family context. Thus, this is the reason we exist and avail ourselves for counseling sessions. They also need a lot of career guidance and goals setting because many of them are at the point of identity crisis where they do not know who they are and what they want with their future. This is an observation from the kind of questions they have been asking of late at the sessions.

Similarly, the boys are encountering a transition phase; mostly from childhood to teenage, thus several behavior changes are expected from them. However, we are trying our level best, through the sessions, to ensure that we offer to them the ultimate principles of life they can apply and live for even in their future lives after school. For instance, when we were winding up on the series of purity, Collins shown them various Christian movies and allowed them to adopt a lifestyle they would like to emulate and live for.

This was a reflective exercise which would wisely bring out their true characters and passions of life. Some of the movies included: Jay Z exposed - a documentary on the hip hop music which some have been addicted to listening without getting to comprehend the message behind the music and the motive of the artist, thus we allowed them to get to a point of choosing what kind of music they would like to listen and watch that which would not distract them from academic excellence and their goals of life.

Moreover, they also watched other movies like: 'The Preacher's kid' and 'I can do bad all by myself' which taught them on the need to be mindful of each other considering the setting of the centre and avoid selfish attitudes which might cultivate disunity and careless

mentality. It also helped to learn the need to have a role model or mentor in life, like we are currently doing to them at the moment. We are establishing a program that would help us to walk together with the secondary school students to ensure that they excel spiritually, socially and mentally/intellectually. They are in their first year and therefore we are hoping for positive results other than what it has been by the previous kids. Currently, the boys are tackling on career choice and guidance whilst the girls are doing sessions on goal setting.

All in all challenges still exist, especially that the kids were now resuming to school and there are lots of demands for shopping, stationeries, some would like to go for shaving, and the need for new shoes especially for the secondary school students. All these needs and others have been quite overwhelming to us and we would request how possible you would consider to chip in. At times we have tried with the little we can afford to support financially, but the needs are massive.

Report compiled by:

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