

TUNZA CHILDREN CENTRE - JUNE REPORT

Last month we looked at the physical environment affecting behavior change of the children. The nature versus nurture of every living being is very important in terms of its growth. One of the most key issue was finances. May be we need to highlight at this juncture that all the form one's at this point have resumed their schooling, but they had to shift to another school from Joram G to Ngong Centre though they also still owe some balances at the new school. The form two's, three's and four's are still at home.

In the month of June we mostly dealt with reestablishing the environment for the kids to grow whole round. We thank God for those who came up and have contributed with their kind support. Surely it has been difficulty for us to address emotional issues when we knew that the kids require some basic needs we could not offer. But all in all we tried to prepare them and let them comprehend that life has many phases that as human beings we need to brace up and face the giant challenges in life.

Mostly we taught the kids that no matter how hard a situation is, they should never give up in life because this can contribute to suicidal cases. There is always a room for growth in life. It is very challenging for us as counselors that after moments of building healthy relationships and building the kids' lives, these can be overturned by one week's financial lapse which jeopardizes and puts at stake all we had already began or built. It is hard to mentor or conduct a counseling session for kids on empty stomachs or send from school due to lack of school fees when their friends are in school or even when they have no school uniform or textbooks. May be at this point we would have to express our gratitude to Dan who bought a comprehensive text book for the class eight kids, but now the challenge is that its only one to be shared among many of the class eight candidates. We have approached Dan to see to it that the kids get more books as well as other texts for the high schoolers.

Generally the kids are doing well besides all these challenges. However, we were also forced to stand in because Mama Tunza has been away for three weeks in the hospital nursing one of the babies called Ramsey who was diagnosed of pneumonia and has been admitted for three weeks now at Mbagathi District Hospital in Nairobi. We would also appreciate the efforts of the new social worker who has been working hard in our absence to ensure that all our efforts are not watered down with the absence of Mama Tunza.

We still have pending projects: putting up a library for the centre, kids' retreats are also important to kill the monotony of conducting sessions in one place. We would like to have team building activities for the kids as we teach them how to relate with each other both boys and girls. The form four leavers' also are waiting for us to initiate our life-induction program for one year. They need to be thoroughly equipped to conquer life challenges after school. We have tried to do a one-on-one but this might not bring out the in-thing of the program.

So far so good, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude also to Jen and Meghann for their facilitation of this counseling program at Tunza. It is not in vain the kids growing are growing wholly, fully and holistically and their behaviors are being transformed to becoming better Kenyan citizens who are responsible for their lives.

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