

Thank you for reading!

Hello, my name is Philip K. Appiah and I am the Director of the PAAJAF Foundation (Providing Adolescents and Adults Jobs for Advancement in Future) in Gbawe, Ghana.

My heartfelt appreciation to ALL the children networkers of the Nkabom - After School Program. Their hard work and dedication to their studies is truly inspiring. My sincere thanks to Headmistress Elizabeth Larbi and Teacher Alex Nyani for their continued support.

To you, dear reader, I give my gratitude for taking the time to read the stories and articles from our children in Ghana. We hope to hear from you and always welcome volunteers (online) or in person to help support our beneficiaries!

Contact: kappiah@paajaf.org



AFTER SCHOOL
Program for 70 children
in Ghana

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Meet the Team

Elizabeth Larbi

Mrs. Larbi is the Headmistress of Gbawe Methodist School and a native of Ghana, where the Nkabom program is based.



Alex Nyani

Alex is a native of Ghana and a Christian with good standing. He is Paajaf's educational coordinator and a national trained teacher with 31 years experience in teaching and education.



Philip Appiah

Co-Founder and Director of PAAJAF Foundation, founded in 2007, an NGO recognized by the Dept. of Social Welfare in Ghana. Philip is a passionate and motivated philanthropist from Ghana.



Contact us

If you have questions or comments about the articles, please contact aruna@paajaf.org

Editorial and Design: Aruna Rao
Volunteer resource
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Nkabom!



Issue
ONE

Togetherness - Children of Ghana

Short stories and engaging articles written by the children of the PAAJAF After School Program - Gbawe, Ghana

Who are Nkabom?

We are the children at Gbawe Methodist School in Ghana aged 14 -15 years old!

The local school is in a poor rural suburb of Accra. NKABOM lets the children of Ghana, connect with each other and the world.

We can share what we write, what we read, what we're thinking about, and what makes us laugh. It will help all of us to gather here at NKABOM to discuss, share, and enjoy our lives.

By making a whole, we can improve each one of us. By sharing, one person can become all people. Things that one of us might not understand can be overcome by supporting each other.

For more information go to
www.paajaf.org
www.nkabom.net

Welcome to our first magazine!

We, the bright and brilliant members of the PAAJAF's Children's Network (Nkabom) have written these thoughtful and engaging articles from our unique perspective.

We, at Nkabom share ideas so we are better able to understand issues that we experience like barriers to Education, Poverty, Our Community and Human Rights Abuse and look to developing solutions to these problems!

We, as the NKABOM Media group of **Gbawe Methodist School**, are networkers have engaged in article writing to help us practice reading and writing.

We see each other's views and think outside of ourselves

We develop new friendships and social skills and see each other's views and think outside of ourselves. We like to write letters to develop patience and empathy.

Please read our collection of articles in this magazine, they are subjects that matter to us and we hope you can learn about the things that affect us in Ghana.

Please visit us at www.nkabom.net and watch our videos.

Short Story >>>

A Day I Would Never Forget In My Life

Saturday 22nd April 2012 is the day I would never forget in my life time. In the morning around 9:00 a.m. of this day, it was time to attend the Conversion of Jehovah's Witness. Suddenly I heard a knock on my door. Surprisingly it was one of my friends from the nearby congregation!

It's been a long time since we met. In fact, when I saw them, it seems like a dream but it was real. When I got nearer to each other, we both shouted in joy of surprising.

After I welcomed them, I gave them something to eat and drink.

I dressed up and went along with them to where the conversion was held. It is just a few meters from where I lived. The program started exactly 9:30 am and the theme was "Let Jehovah's name be Holy" which was taken from Matthew 6:7. It carried on till 2:00 p.m. It was time for break. So we went out to the nearby restaurant.

They asked the waitress to serve us with a local dish. In fact I really enjoyed the delicious meal.

From the restaurant we went back to where the conversion was held. We made good friendship with our fellow Christians and even made new friends.

Actually it was amazing; I was very thrilled. I can't forget this happiness in me.

My name is **Mary Essuman**. I'm fourteen years of age. I am a member of the PAAJAF Foundation also known as Nkabom (Children's Network). I am writing an article on the topic of Teenage Pregnancy.

Teenage pregnancy is a major problem facing the country. One may ask; what is teenage pregnancy? Teenage pregnancy is when a girl between the ages of thirteen to nineteen gets pregnant. There are causes of teenage pregnancy such as poverty, peer pressure, and early marriage. But I want to explain why these are causes of teenage pregnancy.



Poverty is one of the factors. Parents who don't have money push their children into prostitution.

Secondly is peer pressure means being forced by peers to do something you are not willing to do. It may happen that a girl is advised by friends or peers to go and have sex with a boy and she may say no but the friends tell you that if you don't have sex you are a fool.

The girl will quickly want to have a boyfriend because she thinks she should. If a girl is in relationship with a boy, the boy can ask the girl to have sex with him or force the girl and rape her, if she is a teenager, the pregnancy is known as teenage pregnancy.

Early parenthood or marriage is another factor. Some parents send their girls into marriage in their teenage years and if the girl gets pregnant and the man dies or the man divorces the younger girl, the girl's pregnancy becomes a teenage pregnancy. However, girls who become pregnant in their teenage years are likely to face these side effects.

Girls who become pregnant will stop going to school and dropout and if they give birth some go to school again but others refuse to go because they are shy that people will laugh at them and then they don't go to school too. Some learn trading, others become hustlers and their lives become miserable.

In some cases the girl may attempt to abort the baby and this may lead to death. In some cases the girl may not attempt to abort but give birth and she will give birth to underweight babies.

Early parenthood: maybe the boy and the girl are young to become parents but yet still they must become parents. So because they don't have money, they are forced to go to their families to help them fend for themselves. And if the family doesn't have money then they must try and get some for themselves and the child.

Therefore, there are some things that we should avoid, and by doing that, we will not be pregnant and the level of teenage pregnancy will come to a low level.

Abstinence from sex, girls and boys must not get into a relationship that may lead them to the opposite sex. And if it comes that way, the girl must learn how to say no to sex. We must not take the advice from our friends, peers if they are all positive about sex we must be able to: **SAY NO TO SEX.**

I think or suggest that the only way of preventing teenage pregnancy is by saying no to sex. My dear readers and friends, we must learn how to say and we must be able to say **NO TO SEX.**

In the News >>>

Children receive prizes for articles they wrote!



60 books worth \$40 USD to pupils at the Gbawe Methodist School in Accra in November 2012. The items included much-needed exercise books and pencils as prizes to students for articles written about Human Rights during their After School program (Nkabom – Children's Network) which supports 36 pupils.

8 students were presented with prizes. The next contest theme the children are writing about hunger and food and My Community, Gbawe - we look forward to providing you feedback on their articles!

Headmistress Mrs. Elizabeth Larbi who presented the books to students, said the book donation encouraged students to keep writing and motivated them.

Teacher Mr Alex Nyani of class Junior High School Class 3 at the Gbawe Methodist School expressed gratitude for the support given which helps pupils improve on their studies. The Children's Network at the school which creates a safe after-school environment for pupils to do their homework and interact with their peers that enriches their lives and community.



How can I help? >>>

Q: Can I donate to this project?

A: Yes, the project is in urgent need of a facilitator, who costs \$50 per month. Also in-kind items books, stationery, and exercise books are most appreciated by the school children. Contact kappiah@paajaf.org

This project gives 36 children help and support with their school work. Our goal is to help 70 underprivileged children. Visit GlobalGiving.org



Why candidates should not cheat in examinations

My name is Rebecca Otoo. I am a member of the PAAJAF Foundation Children's Network. I am 14 years of age. I am very glad to write an article on why candidates should not cheat in examinations.



I would like to use this opportunity to explain what an examination is. Examinations are the yardstick used to measure academic performances of people in a country.

When a student cheats, there are numerous adverse effects on the student both long and short term. One may also ask about cheating. Cheating is the act of dishonesty. Cheating in examinations by candidates in tertiary institution, training colleges, senior high and junior high schools tarnishes the image of the candidate, the school, the society and the nation at large.

There are reasons why candidates should not to cheat in examinations. It greatly affects the candidate's future career, it does not measure the actual performance of candidates and it can also lead candidates to prison.

Firstly, it greatly affects the candidate's future career this means that when the candidate cheats during the examination and then complete their education, they do not know their true future career.

Secondly, it does not measure the actual performance of a candidate. The candidate's performance is not actually what they are capable of doing.

Lastly, it also lead candidate into prison, it means when candidates are in search of job they do not have what it takes to become a worker they are blamed for bribery and corruption.

Also there is importance of what candidates get from examinations.

- Candidates get certificates which prepare them for life.
- Examinations assist candidates to get admissions to other schools of their choice
- Examinations are used to evaluate candidate's performance.
- Examinations enable candidates to secure lucrative jobs in future

Cheating in an examination is a very bad practice and should not be encouraged by candidates in all examinations throughout the country. Hence, they must know the discussed dangers in cheating in examination and run away from them entirely. I hope it can be published in a magazine.

>>> Tackling subjects like cheating in examinations means the Children's Network (Nkabom) adds unique values into the lives of our networkers by helping them talk about teenage issues and learn about good behaviours from each other.



My views on Child Education

As a citizen of this country (Ghana), I am sad about the rate of child education in my country. The level of child education is low in my country and it does not help to improve development in my country, and also affects the reputation of the country.

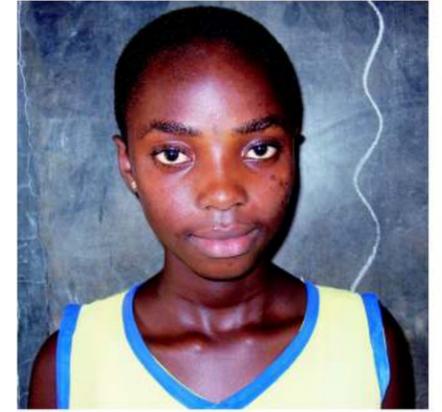
A cause of poor child education is lack of school buildings. The country does not have enough school buildings, example in the villages, they have no school buildings for children to stay in and learn. They learn under trees or in buildings with roofing made of dry grass. They don't concentrate on what the teacher is teaching when it's raining, they also work which means sometimes they have to doze. Likewise when it rains heavily and buildings can break down. In this situation how can it advocate improvement?

Secondly, poverty, because of poverty some guardians are not able to educate their children. And even if they are able to send the child to school, they have no money to buy school items or even cater for the child. It is embarrassing, so because of this they don't worry themselves to help the child. Truly in the olden days, education did not seem beneficial, but in this modern day it is important, without education you can survive in life. And we need the help of the government.

However, there must be enforcement to child education. Some guardians refuse to educate their children because of some motives. Therefore, I suggest that the government should pass laws and also enforce existing law of punishment to those who refuse to help their children.

If the state is able to educate the upcoming youth; the country can stand firm. It decreases the low rate of child education in Ghana, and when children are educated it will reduce poverty, suffering and a whole lot it will help to improve development in the country.

In my opinion from the points stated above, if the state, individuals and the government are able to promote child education our country will be the country with a high rate of child education in Africa.



I am **Davida Nkansah Asiamah**. A member of the PAAJAF Foundation also known as "Nkabom club" and a citizen of Ghana.

I am very thrilled to express my opinion on this topic of Child Education.

"There is a saying that if you teach a woman you have educated a whole nation, but if you educate a man you educate an individual so we are appealing to the government, the state, for a child to be educated.

If the state helps individuals and provides all the necessary items needed for a child to be educated."



I am Patience Bonney, of the PAAJAF Foundation. I am writing an article on the topic "Child Education"

Parents and guardians, why don't we educate children to know their rights and responsibilities and also to know what is good and bad!

As Doctor Aggrey said "if you educate a man, you educate an individual but if you educate a women, you educate a nation. So my people why don't we educate our children for they shall become great people and take care of us."

I would be very much delighted if the above article could be published in a magazine so as to serve as a future reference. This will also assist management of the school club to offer meaningful contributions and suggestions in order to raise the image of the school club.

Thank you
Patience Bonney
PAAJAF FOUNDATION

What is child education?

Child Education is the process in which children are geared towards acquiring knowledge, skills and attitude that will help them as an individual to improve upon their life.

Problems which face a child that is not educated

- i. Their rights are abused
- ii. They do unnecessary work for a living
- iii. They go through some domestic slavery
- iv. Their responsibilities are always taken away
- v. from them
- vi. They are always threatened by people

I am **Ebenezer Tetteh-Narh**, a 14 year old boy and member of the PAAJAF's Children's Network . Permit me a space to draw the public attention on a very important topic which is "Human Rights". Before I proceed, I would like to utilise this stupendous opportunity to explain what is meant by Human Rights.



Human Rights are liberties and privileges (benefits) an individual is entitled to under the constitution to enjoy within the state. For example, the right to education, every citizen of a country is entitled to certain liberties and privileges that he/she can enjoy. These rights have been classified into six categories which are known as the types and they have been stated and elucidated below:

- Legal Right which is the first the type of right has to be the protection of individuals under the law. Rights for fair hearing, fair trial, and legal aids are also included.
- The second is known as Political Rights and also involves the right to vote for associations, freedom of assembly and the right to contest for any position in an election.
- Thirdly is the Economic right which is the right to own property, right to work and get fair wages or good salaries etc.
- Social rights which has to do with the right for decent or good accommodation, education, health good drinking water, freedom of religion, freedom of movements etc.
- Last but not the least is Natural rights which also involve the right to life and freedom of speech.

Individuals are all entitled to the above mentioned types. However some of these rights are being abused and therefore citizens are not able to enjoy them.

The infringement or violation of the rights and freedoms of the individual is referred to as "Human Right Abuse". Human Right Abuse has really made people like women, children foreigners' etc. suffer and they are still suffering a lot. They are suffering because they are not educated, they are poor, they lack political representation and also because they become afraid if they are threatened.

The infringement or violation of the rights and freedoms of the individual is referred to as "Human Right Abuse". Human Right Abuse has really made people like women, children foreigners' etc. suffer and they are still suffering a lot. They are suffering because they are not educated, they are poor, they lack political representation and also because they become afraid if they are threatened.

These can however be prevented, they can be prevented due to education, courts existence of the police, provision of socio-economic facilities etc.

With Education (i.e: when the individuals are educated) they are provided with knowledge and attitudes for preventing slavery, child abuse, and all forms of discrimination and violence against women, children, and minority groups.

The court also provides justice and compensations for those whose rights are being abused.

The police also make sure that there is an effective enforcement of laws and how to maintain order to enhance happiness in the societies.

Provision of social –economic facilities, the last but not the least must be provided equitably without bias to facilitate the enjoyment of our social and economic rights. These social-economic includes schools, hospitals, pipe-borne water, employment opportunities etc.

With all these points stated, I am ninety-nine percent sure that there will be free enjoyments of the rights of people and this will promote peace, stability and harmony in the society.

In the News >>>

Young writers receive pens, paper & encouragement!

In April 2013, the After School Program received 'packs of pencils, pens, paper and stickers for up to 30 children to continue their creative writing studies! Thank you! To donate in kind contact kappiah@paajaf.org



Human Rights Abuse

Someone may not understand the meaning of “**Human Rights Abuse**”. They are the infringement on the rights and freedoms that the constitution has given to them as citizens. In other words, it is preventing others from enjoying the right and freedoms given to them as individuals.

There are many people in the country whose rights are abused, many young girls or boys who are under 18 years and are expected to be in school but are working as maidservants or house helps in the home.

CHILD LABOUR: employing children who are under 15 years for income generated activities, examples are children who sell ice water and rubber bands just to support themselves or their family instead of being in school.

CHILD TRAFFIC: the practice of taking children from their parents to put them into “kayayo” (common carries) and other jobs else where. There are so many of them. All these things can be prevented from one source - education. If many of this people had been educated all this all this things would never have happened.

There are some particular people suffering from human right abuse and they are; women, children, foreigners, those in conflicts areas, minority groups in towns and villages and those who are not educated.

We can also prevent human rights abuse by making formal education more accessible to the citizens. This will help prevent human rights abuse because education provides the knowledge and activities for preventing slavery, child abuse violence against women.

Public education on rights abuse and freedoms of the individual must be intensified: This will help eliminate ignorance and illiteracy hence help to prevent it.

People must be empowered to be economically strong: This will help avoid poverty and enable people to be able to hire the services of lawyers to fight for their rights.

Agencies are always there to help. Let’s all come together and fight against human rights abuse.



My name is **Jennifer Quansah**, I am very glad to write an article about Human Rights Abuse.

Some of the reasons people suffer:

LOW EDUCATION: Most people are ignorant of their rights and how fight for their rights. This is either due to ignorance, illiteracy or low education standards.

POVERTY: Some people may be aware that their rights have been abused, that is because they are poor and are unable to get the services of a lawyer to fight for them.

DISCRIMINATION: People are discriminated on either because of their gender, race, color, physical disability and religion which are causes of human right abuse.

FEAR: Sometimes those who violate the rights of the children threaten them that if they report or expose them something bad will happen to them. So because of fear the children are not able to fight for their rights.

My views of the topic **CHASTITY**



My name is **Janet Adjei** and I am a member of the PAAJAF Foundation and I am a citizen of Ghana. I am writing this article to show my views of the topic **CHASTITY**.

I want to use this opportunity to explain what its means by Chastity. Chastity means staying away from sexual related activities until you get married. And chastity can also be known as living without engaging in sexual immorality until marriage for religious, cultural or personal reasons.

These are some of the benefits we can derive from Chastity. The first one is uninterrupted education. This means children who do not engage themselves in early sexual activities complete their education as they have planned without break.

The second is self confidence and this means living a chaste live also boosts confidence of adolescent boys and girls and enables them to develop their God given ability.

The third one is self dignity and it means adolescents who do not have sex before marriage have respect for their own achievement and for their bodies.

The fourth is gaining social acceptance and respect and means children who live pure lives are accepted and respected in the society.

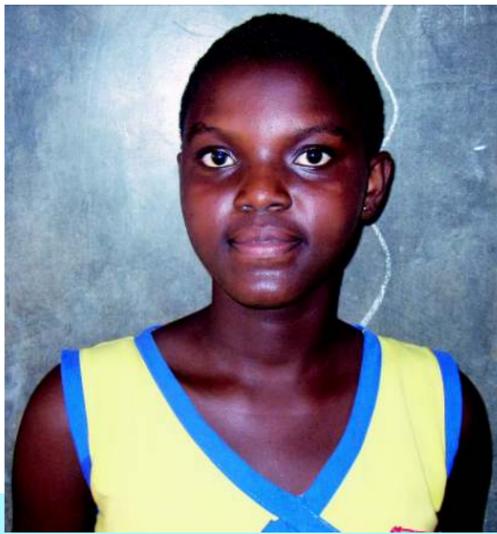
The fifth point is keeping focus on goals in life this means they focus on the great dreams of what they want to become in future.

And the end of my benefit says Gaining approval with God this means children who stay out of sexual activity are pure in the sight of God and therefore called us children of God. A chaste life promotes self discipline, brings honor to their parents, avoids abortion and in effect brings trust in marriage.

Here are some bad sides of children who do not live a chaste life. The points are they become school dropout, they could contract HIV and sexual diseases, they suffer in future, and they face the challenges of life.

I end this article here and I hope every child who reads this will stay out of pre-marital sex, for girls especially who know what will happen if her parents and the boy who made her pregnant disown her.

**Yours Ever
JANET ADJEI**



*I'm **Grace Darko**, a member of PAAJAF Foundation Children's Network. I am writing on an article on "Child Education"*

In Ghana, the rate of Child education is very low. About 80% of Ghanaian children are pushed into child labor. Every year, the rate of child education decreases. This may be due to some problems that most of the time, happens to both the child and the family.

Poverty is one of the most excuses parents give when asked why their children are at home. The only reply they give is "I don't have money" and because of this they engage their children in Child Labor. In Ghana, 50% of children are seen on the streets selling and most are girls; about 48% and this also decreases the rate of girl child education.

Most Ghanaian children are influenced by friends. They take bad advice and learn all sort of bad behaviours from friends. During this time adolescents get pregnant and become school drop outs and pre-mature parents. Some also engage themselves in hard drugs such as cocaine, marijuana etc. and end up mad and a school dropout. All these are caused by **peer group pressure**.

As we all know, Ghana is a developing country and by all means lacks something. Some villages in the country do not have school facilities such as computer and science laboratory, library, etc. Some even do not have classrooms for children to stay in and learn.

Some stay under trees and learn. A typical example is Gbawe Methodist School and this may result in the failure of many students because children do not practice after school learning. It also affects their vocabulary because students do not read story books and make research.

Most politicians do not think about children anymore. For them it is just to convince people to vote for them and spend money. And so government also does not invest money into school development projects - All this results in **inadequate school facilities**.

In most villages, parents do not know the importance of education. That is why there should be radio or television programs based on education. It's because of this about 93% villagers do not attend school. I would like to appeal to general public to support PAAJAF. This organization is doing good things in our community and making great difference in our lives.

My suggestion as a citizen of Ghana to help increase the rate of child education is;

Parents should try as much as possible to send their children to school

Government should try their best and invest more money in school development projects so that every school in Ghana shall be developed.

Television and radio stations should organize programs based on child education and its importance.

Parents also should try their best to know the type of friends their children have. Also parents should educate their children on sex education and how hard drugs affect the human body.

I believe that, after all these have been done by both government and individuals, the rate of child education shall increase and I hope by years to come Ghana shall be developed.

***Mercy Sam** is my name. I attend school at Gbawe Methodist '2' basic school. I am a member of PAAJAF Foundation club, which is also called Nkabom club. I'm writing on a topic which is based on "Child Education"*



I would be very grateful, if you could allow me space to air my views on **child education** which has eaten deep in our society. In fact, Ghana is a country with good resources such as Gold, Diamond, Cocoa, and Tourist sites etc. these make the country nice and attractive and attract foreign visitors to the country. But there is one particular problem that disturbs the country and this is about child education. But one may ask, what is child education? This is where the problem lies.

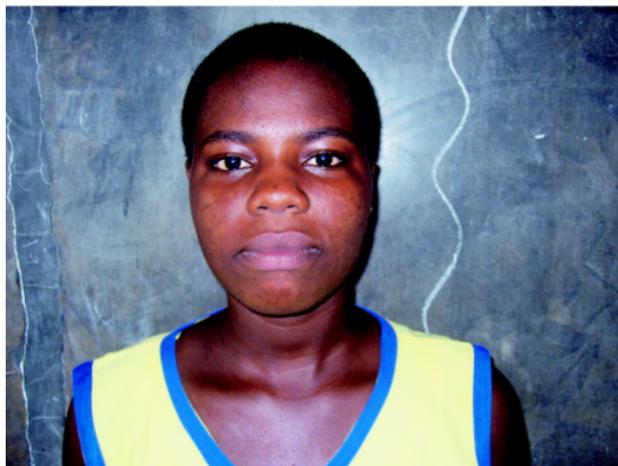
Child education is a continuous process of sending children who are of school age to school to gain knowledge and for them to be trained to become responsible people in future. So that one can gain respect from each other. So it is good for one for every individual to be in a form of education or educated. This is because when one is not been put into education; they may be ignorant about their rights and how to fight for their rights. And this is all about low education.

In fact, the level of education is very low, which has become a chronic problem to the society and government and it has eaten deep in the society and government. It has eaten deep in the finance of the government. This is because the education service has inadequate teaching materials and less infrastructure. Example, lack of teachers' aids which will help to teach the children like desks, text books etc.

Some students walk a long way from their towns/homes to school and they get there late and have to miss a lesson. So schools must be built in the nearby towns and villages, so that it will enable students to get to school early. Some children also have to wake up early and do lots of work before they go to school, and by the time they get to class, they are already exhausted, weak and tired. So when lesson is going on, they always sleep in class without paying attention on what the teacher is teaching/saying. And this also makes learning difficult for some students. So child labor should be reduced so that students can put more effort of learning and it can also improve upon their learning.

So I am appealing to the government to put more effort to help improve upon child education to make Ghana full of brilliant and intelligent people, to be able to gain respect without being abused and cheated by other countries.

MERCY SAM
Junior High School 2B



“Education is the key to success in life”

*My name is **Jennifer Quansah**. I am a member of the PAAJAF Foundation Children’s network. I am writing an article on “Child Education”*

I have always been wishing for an opportunity. I am very delighted to have this one. Someone may ask, what is the meaning of child education? A child is a human being who is not yet an adult to care for his or her self and education is the process of learning directed towards geared acquiring knowledge, skills and attitude that will help and individual to improve upon his or her life.

Education is a very important thing in life. In Ghana, our level of education is very low. There are many children on the street who are supposed to be in school but they are on the street selling.

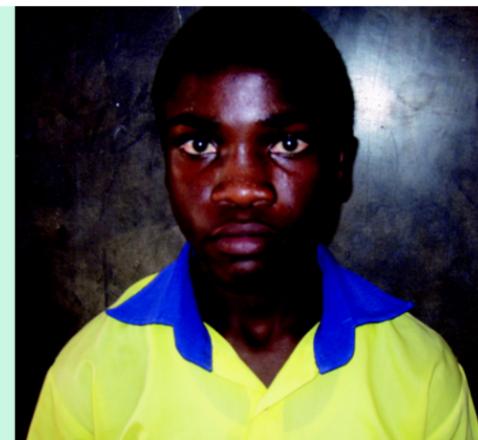
Education is the key to everything. As a country we must make sure that a child will have an education in life, so that they can become someone special in future to their parents and to the country as a whole.

And also the government should concentrate on improving education. Such like: providing infra-structures, books and many more. In the olden days they used to say a girl child’s education was not important. But we should remember that what a man can do by having a chance to go to school, they should try as much as they can send their children to school.

Education at the 1st cycle level is good, if parents can continue with it. Children on the street have their dreams of becoming people like; doctors, lawyers, artists, ministers, judges and president. How will they be able to achieve their dreams while they are on the street selling? The lower the education the more crimes increase in the country.

Parents and leaders of this country, we should cast our minds back to our children. Education is like a farmer sowing cocoa plant. It is a gradual process. In the beginning is a little bit hard but it will become a successful one in future. I hope this will raise the level of education in Ghana, because education is the key to success in life.

**JENNIFER QUANSAH
ACCRA - GHANA**



*My name is **Essel Emmanuel**. I am a member of the PAAJAF Children’s Network. I am writing an article on “Human Rights”*

First of all, I would like to explain the term Human Right. Human Rights are the freedoms and advantages that everyone should be allowed to have under the constitution.

Human Rights are grouped into five: these are Legal Rights; these include the right to be protected under the law. Political Rights; these include the right to vote and to be voted for, freedom of assembly and many more.

Economic Rights: these include the right to own property, right to work and get fair wages or good salaries.

Social Rights: These include the right for decent or good accommodation, education, health care, good drinking water and many more.

Natural Right: these include the right to life and freedom of speech

Secondly, I would like to explain some examples under the rights. The right to life, under the Natural Right; everybody in his/her country or community has the right to life, no one shall be killed intentionally except it is authorized by a court through the due process of law.

The right to education under the Social Rights: Every person shall have the right to equal educational opportunities, facilities and advantages.

Right to own Property under the Economic Right: Every person has the right to own property, either alone or together with others.

Thirdly, I would like to talk about some Basic Right:

- Right to freedom of slavery and servitude ; no person shall be made slave
- Equality before the law: all persons shall be equal before the law.
- Freedom from discrimination: no person be treated differently just because of being a man or a woman. No person shall be treated solely because of belonging to a certain church or worshipping God differently. Nobody shall be treated differently because of coming from a different ethnic group or from different area of Ghana. No person shall be treated differently because that person is rich or poor or because that person is foreigner.

We shall all be treated equally before the law and in the considering the above explanations and reasons, I wish my Country and Community will see the need of Human Right.



Article by Essel Emmanuel
Gbawe Methodist School
J.H.S 2B

Spotlight on Child Education >>>

My name is Janet Adjei and I am a member of PAAJAF's Children's Network (Nkabom) and a citizen of Ghana. I am writing this article to tell you about a child education.

I want to use this privilege to explain what has become well known about who can read and who can fight for his / her freedom. I also want to use this opportunity to explain something that people use to say that a girl's education is not good and their reason behind it. Some people say that girls are not supposed to be in school rather in the kitchen and boys are supposed to go to school and get good job and earn a good living to bring home and feed the family.

But some men take advantage of that and insult their wife and maltreat them in the house and call them all sorts of names. But I disagree with what they think about a girl's education, because if you educate a boy you educate one person and **if you educate a girl you educate the whole nation** as quoted by Dr. James Aggrey. These are some reasons that abuse child education

Instead of sending a child to school they send them to become maidservants, house helps or garden boys.

Children often work under harsh conditions and are treated like slaves.

Some children that are sent to school are defenceless in the school and bully students come and threaten to beat them up so they stop schooling.

Some children suffer cruel treatment from their step and foster parent. They beat and insult them and they become so afraid and some time run away from the house.

There are children under 15 years who are forced to be employed to work and make money for their masters.

Some are forced to do sex trade instead of schooling

Some force the child into trafficking; instead of going to school. There are some ways to fight against abuse on child education.



Send them to Ghana National Commission on children for pure justice.

Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, The Domestic Violence and Victim Support Units, The International Federation on Woman Lawyers, The National Commission Civic Education.

The modernization of outmoded culture and tradition and sending children to school

Making formal education more known to children

I am ending this article here and my wish to all children of this country is for them to go to school and develop this country and fight against child abuses, child trafficking and child labor so that this nation can improve in the future. My wish to all parents is that all parents will endeavour to send their children to school.

My name is **Rebecca Otoo**, a member of the PAAJAF Foundation. I am 14 years of age. I am writing an article on the topic "Child Education" I would be very pleased if the above relevant topic could be published in a magazine so as to serve as a future reference. One may ask, what is Child Education?



Child Education is the process in which a child's learning is geared towards acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them as an individual to improve upon their life.

Child education in this modern world has become difficult due to modern technology etc. In this case there are some problems education is facing and these are taking away the child's right, the use of modern technology and lack of adequate teachers etc.

Firstly, taking away a child's right, has been one of the major problems in our child education. You can bear with me, that most of the children are not sent to school by their parent or guardian, which is now affecting the child's education.

Secondly, the use of modern technology has also been a great advantage but it is also has disadvantages. The disadvantage of the use of modern technology is that a lot of school can't afford the technology or the materials. Due to this, most of the students don't do well in their examinations.

Lastly, lack of adequate teachers, this has also been one of the greatest problems. Lack of adequate teachers affects education. Since the teachers are not well trained they also don't train the student well.

As a good citizen of the world and my generation, I will suggest that these problems are taken unto consideration seriously. I also suggest that all the schools with inadequate teachers will be given adequate or trained teachers. Also those who do not have the modern facilities will be helped to afford them.

Lastly, the governments should make sure child abuse is curbed well because education is the key to success.

I would be very much delighted if these suggestions as I said in the above article are taken into consideration and also I wish this article could be published in a magazine so as to serve as a future reference.

How can I help? >>>

Q: Can I volunteer to teach for PAAJAF in Ghana?

A: Yes you are welcome to teach in Ghana. Placements do not require any formal teaching qualifications. You can choose to teach English, Basic Mathematics and Health Issues under this Programme. You can help us develop ideas and create clubs in various schools and communities across Ghana. You can also help establish linkages with youth groups and institutions outside Ghana

PAAJAF does not have a donor yet to sponsor volunteers or exchange students to work on our projects. Volunteers and Exchange Students are therefore requested to participate in the costs. Costs include: Accommodation and Meals. Contact kappiah@paajaf.org

My views on Human Rights

Some of the example of Human Rights Abuses are child abuse, child labor, sex trade, child kidnaping, child trafficking, domestic slavery, violence against women, discrimination etc. but I want to explain only five of this examples. The first one I want to express my views on is child abuse.

Child abuse is a cruel treatment of children such as beating, calling nasty names, insulting, cursing and so on. In other words, it is a bad treatment of a child by an adult, especially an adult in a position of trust or authority.

Secondly, I want to talk on child trafficking. This human rights abuse is a practice of taking children known as “Kayayo” for other jobs elsewhere. Many young girls and boys are brought from Northern Ghana to the Southern part of Ghana to work as common carriers.

Thirdly, I would like to speak on the sex trade. The sex trade is the forcing or luring young girls into sexual activities for money. Mostly, the money goes to their madam who has forced them into this life.

The fourth point is child labor. This human right abuse is the act of employing children less than 15 years old in income generating activities e.g. Children who sell ice water, rubber bags, just to support themselves of their family instead of being in school.

Lastly, I want to speak on Child Kidnapping, this is the practice of kidnapping or taking children away from their parents without the consent of the parents.

Some of the people who suffer human rights abuse are situated in certain sectors of the Ghanaian population, these in conflict areas and minority groups in towns and villages. The reasons why such people are vulnerable to human rights abuse are because of low education, poverty, fear, apathy and lack of political representation.

I would like to end the article here. I hope the acts mentioned will be in no use again and that no one will stop others from having their rights. I wish that people who practice human rights abuses will endeavour to stop it. I thank you for giving an ear to what I have said. I will be very thrilled to that human abuse is decreasing in our country Ghana.

Jennifer Mills
A member of the
PAAJAF Foundation

Some of the ways by which human rights abuse can be prevented includes education, the role of the courts, the role of Ghana National Commission on children and the role of Department of Social Welfare.

I would like to explain some points such as education. This means that when people go to school and are educated on human rights abuse, it can help to prevent them suffering from it, because they know their rights.

The role of the court: This means they must provide justice, sections and compensations for the abused person.

The role of Ghana National Commission on children: They must help to protect the right of children.

The role of Department of Social Welfare: They must help in the community especially women and children who cannot go to the law court because of poverty.

Articles on Nkabom.net!

I am **Abigail Nyani**. I am 12 years old. I am a member of the PAAJAF Children's Network and student of **ACROPOLIS Schools** at Gbawe. I am writing on the topic Human Rights.

I am writing to tell the general public of human rights in Ghana. To begin with, rights are the freedoms and advantages that everyone should be allowed to have under the constitution. Examples of human rights are right to life, right to freedom, right to work, right to education, and right for protection, right to own property, right to personal liberty etc.

Secondly, rights are grouped into five. They are legal, economic, political, social and natural rights. Legal rights are rights to be protected under the law. Economic rights are rights to own property, right to work and get fair wages or good salaries. Political rights are rights to vote and to be voted for. Social rights for decent or good accommodation, education, health care, good drinking water, freedom of religion, freedom of movement and natural rights are rights to life and freedom of speech.

Lastly, human rights in Ghana cannot be controlled by anybody. Human right is owned by everybody. If one is abused he/she can report to the authorities nearby.



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My name is **Patience Bonney**. I am a member of PAAJAF Children's Network. I am writing an article on the topic “Human Rights”. Human Rights are the claims of individuals and citizens backed or supported by law. E.g: the right to vote.

My first point I would like to explain this right to life: this means no one can take the life of another person a person shall be killed intentionally except by the due process of the law.

My second point I would like to explain this right to own property: this means every person has the right to own property either alone or together with others and that no one can take it away or use it without the permission of the owner.

My third point I would like to explain this right to education and information; every Ghanaian has the right to equal education facilities and opportunities.

My fourth point I would like to explain this right to be treated with dignity (respect) as a human being; this means no one can force another person to labour (work) without pay.

The Universal Human Rights declares that every individual must be treated with dignity and the same to other people. Some of the act that deprive people of their Human Rights and Liberties are :

- Depriving children of school education
- Unlawfully arresting people and sending them to prison without giving them the chance to be heard in an open Court.
- Refusal to allow the citizens to vote in an election to elect their own government.

It is useful to know the functions of Human Right Institutions are:

The NCCE is responsible for educating the public on their right and freedoms under the constitution. The Domestic Violence and Victims Unit (DOVVU) formally WAJU, their functions are to prosecute cases to rape, defilement, incest, indecent assault, threats and causing harm to individuals and domestic violence.

CHRAJ educate Ghanaians on human rights and freedom. They are to investigate complaints of discrimination, unfair treatment and other abuses of human right and freedoms of any person made against public officers like Civil Servant and Others

I wish that the rights I have mentioned above will be considered, I also hope that no one will deprive each other his or her rights.

Mary Essuman is my name. I am fourteen (14) years of age. I am a member of PAAJAF Foundation (Children's Network) also known as Nkabom. I'm writing an article on a topic Child Education.



Poverty is a factor why child education is very low. Because some people don't have money to send their wards to school, they send their children into trading such as selling on their own street and others hustle about, they become street-children, pregnant and their lives become miserable.

Another fact is that some places in our society have no school buildings and they children study under trees and even only the lucky ones study under a tent. Though these people don't even see why they must send their children to school.

Some don't know the importance of school. In the olden days girls are not allowed to be educated because of some reasons. They said girls are to stay in the house and cook while the boys are allowed to go to school to get a good work. Only a few Ghanaian girls were educated.

Some also send their children to be educated but are not able to provide them with their school materials. Others don't have computer laboratory when studying I.C.T to do practicals and also don't have science laboratory to perform practicals. Some schools don't have material such as a pair of compasses, a pair of dividers and black-board rulers for teaching mathematics.

In my points, I have listed above what make education low in Ghana. But if the government and other NGOs helped, it can make child education in Ghana move to higher level.

First of all let me talk on poverty: the government and NGOs must provide public schools so that parents who are in poverty can send his/her child to school and they will not pay school fees. Those who sit under trees can also benefit and when it is during the rainy season they can come to school and not only in the dry season if they build the school for that area in society.

Secondly, the government and NGOs must tell people about how child education is important. They must tell society about how child education is important. They must tell them that, if you go to school it will help people to achieve their aims and they also will be able to read and write. Government must also educate parents on what Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey said, which states that if a man is educated it benefits one person but if a woman is educated the whole nation benefits. So am pleading with the government, ministers, NGOs to educate parents and even children to what Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey said.

Thirdly, I like to plead with the government and NGOs to do their best and visit schools in Ghana and provide them with academic needs that the teacher will use in teaching. Also they must give materials such as pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, exercise books, note books, school bags to the needy who don't have these item so that they can also write and learn hard. I suggest that government should enforce laws to improve upon child education in Ghana. They must also build science and computer laboratories for the public.

THANK YOU.
MARY ESSUMAN
ACCRA - GHANA

A child must be educated

*I am **Jennifer Mills**, A member of the PAAJAF Foundation Children's Network, As a citizen of this country, I am very thrilled to write and also express my views on this interesting topic of Child Education*

Among the basic rights we have under the constitution of Ghana, a child has the right to education. This means every person shall have the right to equal educational opportunities, facilities and advantage. Besides everyone knows education is very expensive these days, but every parent should endeavour to send his or her child to school.

A child must be educated to acquire knowledge skills and attitudes that will help him/her to improve upon his/her life. Some of these skills and attitudes that will help an individual are learning how to read and write and how to be respectful to elderly people. A child can be educated to gain the knowledge so they will become a responsible person in future.

In other words, when a child is educated, it enables him/her to develop his capabilities and confidence. To ensure this, child education should be free and compulsory, and that parents who refuse to send or stop their children from going to school should be severely punished. This is so that children will be well educated. Therefore since education develops the intellect of an individual and equips him with skills, the government should establish schools to educate people especially children.

The reason why child education is very much important is that it makes many children and students become future leaders and business owners. It also makes children to become important and famous people in future.

It therefore helps to improve ones fluency. I would like to explain some of my points mentioned. The first one would be the child becoming. The child becoming a business owner means that when the child is educated, that is given skills and attitudes; he/she now becomes knowledgeable and intelligent both in school and contributes to his/her community or society.

The second thing, I would like to explain is the child improving on his/her fluency. This means that when the child is educated he/she is able to speak foreign languages very well, without any difficulty. Some of the foreign languages are French, English, Spanish etc. remember practice makes perfect.

I would like to end everything here. I hope that parents will now try as much as possible to send their children to school. I am therefore appealing to the government to give ear to my request because education is the key to success. From the aforementioned points, I am now sure that parents will endeavor to send their children to school,

I thank you for giving ear to what I have said. I am of the view that when the above mentioned points are taken, many children will be well educated in our districts and in the country in general.