

From Corporal Punishment to Constructive Guidance: A Shift in Educational Practice

Generations come and go; each generation comes with its culture of handling issues. During my childhood, I never realized that corporal punishments were not a danger and one of the biggest threat to the education of children as my teachers and relatives used them often in case of any mistake I made claiming they are correcting me and to make the matters worse even my guardians didn't pay much attention to the pain inflicted on me even when you report I was always considered wrong and teachers were always right and in many occasions I suffered silently. I resorted to transferring my aggression to my friends who seemed to laugh at me when am punished by the teachers or guardians and if it was not to be the grace of God who accorded me personal strength to keep going, I would be one of those wasted people beating snakes in the village. Thanks to MEMPROW for opening my eyes to the truth.

Now, am a parent and also holding the same title as my teachers and at certain occasions I have been replicating what happened to me in childhood in disguise of the scripture which says "Spare the rod and spoil the child" but from this training organized by MEMPROW (Mentoring and Empowering Program for Women) on Trauma and Children, it has caused a great shift in my perception of disciplining or handling mistakes made by children from torturing them I would say to training them in the way I want them to be in future as teaching is meant to make children to be, to do, to know and to live in harmony with others. From this training its naked truth that I have been torturing children and not

guiding them to grow into great citizens who will be passionate for others in future.

This training has also greatly made me to be more conscious with my actions towards children and be very observant of other people's emotions so as not to trigger them to hyper arousal or hypo arousal. It has also opened a great door in my heart to have a listening ear and a clear observant eye of my biological children and those I teach so as to desist from blaming children blindly but help them manage their stress without causing them more danger. It's also in this training that I have realized that we go through a lot and people's actions are a result of what they went or are going through and I wish to tender in my commitment to change completely and become a teacher who will build children and not one who breaks them. I pledge to exhibit qualities of one who supports and strengthens children's resilience and drop all the qualities which weaken their resilience. I also promise to be an ambassador of bringing children to the window of tolerance and educating my friends on the danger of traumatizing children through corporal punishments like canning, hauling insults on children etc. which makes children feel less important and lose hope in life.

Long live MEMPROW, long live my country Uganda.

For God and my country.

Mangeni Ronald,
Teacher - Ayara Primary School
Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District

