

Supporting Learner and Parent Engagement

Introduction:

This case study looks at how Mr. Mathias Kyaligonza, Director of Stella Maris Nursery and Primary School in Kagadi Town and Mr. Nathan Wabwire, Director of Busia Trust Secondary School in Busia District have supported learner and parent engagement effectively during the pandemic.

Challenge:

The shift of learning from class-based model to remote/long-distance is a new experience for parents, teachers, and school leaders. This has left most school leaders with no much ado in supporting their learners after the lockdown.

Solution:

In the face of the social unrest of the pandemic, Mr. Mathias Kyaligonza and Mr. Nathan Wabwire remained leaders of learning during the lockdown. When lockdown struck, they took the following measures to ensure learners and parents felt supported:

- Learners were given physical copies of homework revision assignments as the schools closed. For learners who lived near the school, the revision assignments were made available for collection and for those who lived farther away, teachers were enlisted to reach out to them.
- The schools had already created a WhatsApp group for parents, so they used WhatsApp to communicate with parents to support their children's learning. The Class teachers were also supported with airtime and data to reach out to their learners.
- The school also explored using a local radio station platform to mobilize parents, learners, teachers and the community. They used the platform to sensitize parents on key themes such as: role of learners; supporting learners at home learning and mobilizing parents on a global response towards Covid-19. These radio engagements used a blended curriculum of academic content with the relevant experiences of society.
- To ensure good lesson attendance on radio platforms, the respective class teachers called their learners early to inform them of the subject and the time.
- Girls are uniquely supported by school staff. They talk to their parents and check on them regularly by reaching out to their homes. Knowing that a girl child is vulnerable, the school leaders used the radio platform to educate parents and the community on the need to ensure their welfare.
- The schools have also designed posts with information on the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents especially have made phone calls appreciating their effort.