

The Bishops' Harvest Appeal 2025

Rewrite Their Future

Youth Group Activities: Exploring the Power of Education

Ice Breaker Game: Realising Potential

Start the session with a fun and insightful ice breaker activity that symbolises unlocking potential. Provide each participant with a pencil and a piece of paper. Not all these pencils are sharpened. Ask them to write down their goals and aspirations for the future, but only the people with a sharpened pencil will be able to write.

The point is to illustrate that everyone has hopes and dreams, much like how every pencil has the potential to write. However, just as the pencil needs sharpening, young people need access to education to realise their potential. Highlight that education is the tool that "sharpens" their abilities, allowing them to rewrite their futures.

Group Discussion: "Education—What's the Point?"

Facilitate a group discussion focused on the importance of education. Use a giant pencil shape cut from cardboard, drawn on a whiteboard, or created digitally. Encourage participants to write their thoughts or use post-it notes to stick their ideas onto the pencil. Consider the following discussion points:

1. **What are they learning at school or college?**
2. **What aspects of school do they enjoy and which do they dislike?**
3. **How do they commute to school?**
4. **Does attending school cost their parents or carers?**
5. **Do they wear a uniform?**
6. **Do all children and young people in this country have the right to education?**
7. **Are there adequate facilities like toilets at their school?**
8. **Do they know anyone who has left school before the age of 16 for reasons like marriage?**

Comparing Experiences

Encourage participants to think about a child in another country, like Uganda or Zambia:

1. **Curriculum:** They are learning similar subjects such as maths and science
2. **Unique Preferences:** Just like here, some children enjoy academic subjects while others prefer sports or lunch breaks!
3. **Access to School:** They may have to walk long distances, possibly without shoes.
4. **Cost:** Education can be a financial burden on families; sometimes too heavy a burden and children are kept home because they can't afford to send them to school.
5. **Uniforms:** school uniforms are a real source of pride.
6. **Right to Education:** Is schooling a universal right?
7. **Facilities:** Often basic amenities like toilets and hand washing facilities are not available.
8. **Early Marriage:** This is not uncommon in some countries where we work. Girls as young as 12 are forced to leave and marry much older men.

Aspirations and Opportunities

Discuss the aspirations of children in Uganda and Zambia, who dream of becoming pilots, doctors, nurses, teachers, photographers, footballers, and lawyers—just like children in your community. Emphasise that achieving these dreams requires education.

Conclusion: Building a Better Future

Conclude the discussion by highlighting the role of education in providing opportunities. With an education, a child living in poverty can break the cycle and escape a life without possibilities.

They can **Rewrite Their Future.**