

PASS IT ON! (AND ON, AND ON...)

Issue 1 - 2022

A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FOR PEACEFUL HOUSEHOLDS AND WELL-ROUNDED FAMILIES

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DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)



A right and responsibility



Do you want to start a family someday?

Mbola: Well, I have thought about it and came to the conclusion that it's not for me.

Joro: I would love to! I can't wait.

Thérèse: Yes, I'd like to, but I need to be in a position where I can provide for one.



When do you think you will be starting this family?

Joro: If I can, as soon as I am an adult. I'm just waiting to be physically, mentally, and emotionally ready for it.

Thérèse: I'll complete my studies first then maybe work for a year or two? By then I should have what it takes to start and provide for a household.

Do you plan to have kids immediately after you start your household or wait a bit?

Joro: Immediately, of course! That's the whole point of starting a household, why put it off?

Thérèse: I think I will wait a year or two. As a new couple starting a household we will need some time to establish our relationship and a good home for our kids, that does not happen overnight. Also, it takes quite a bit of savings to have children and raise them!

How many kids would you like to have?

Joro: Just two - no more for me. Life's tough nowadays, "seven sons and seven daughters" would be a curse instead of a blessing. I would like a little boy and a little girl that we can care well for.

Thérèse: I love a big family so if I am going to have kids, I want lots of them. Maybe five or six? That's why I am studying so hard. Once I get a great job and can provide for all of them, even if I go as far as seven, it should be all right...

PASS IT ON!

EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE:

- if they want to start a family or not.
- if they want to have children or not.

THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO START A FAMILY AND/OR HAVE CHILDREN ALSO HAVE A RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE:

- how many kids they want to have.
- when they want to have them.



What measures do you plan to take to achieve those plans?

Mbola: I will take responsibility and act responsibly. And I will complete my studies so I can be independent and self-sufficient.

Joro: I will take due care until I officially am ready to start a family. Then I will do what it takes to adequately space the birth of my children. That way, both the kids and their mother will enjoy good health. Life's not easy, you must face it head on. How many years again is enough spacing between births?

Thérèse: At least two years, I think. In my case, it will depend on how ready our household is to welcome a new member. Once our relationship is strong and we have financial stability, we will take a break from family planning and have a baby. And then we will go back to family planning and so on...

DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

What's in it for us?

WHEN EVERY SINGLE PERSON TAKES RESPONSIBILITY for voluntary family planning - i.e. whether they will start a family or not; have children or not, and if so, when and how many - then:

- They can pursue and prolong their education,
- They can secure work that aligns with the goals they have set for themselves,
- They can enjoy every stage of life, i.e., childhood, adolescence, and adulthood,
- They can be a stable pillar of their family if and when they start one, and
- They can ensure a better life now and for generations to come.



PASS IT ON!

- When youth benefit from a comprehensive education, they become well-rounded individuals
- When households are started by these well-rounded adults, their families and children have a head-start for positive health and well-being, and can further contribute to the development of their communities.
- When individuals access voluntary family planning, the benefits ripple through families and communities, and across society and generations. This contributes to a more prosperous nation where every single person can have a happy life and family..

DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

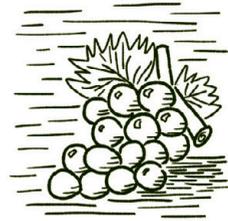
A right protected under Law #2017-043



THE DECISION TO START A FAMILY OR NOT, have children or not, and where applicable, their number and timing, is a right protected under the Madagascar law.

Article 3 of Law #2017-043 clearly states that the choice of if, when, and how many children to have is a fundamental right.

This right applies to everyone in Madagascar and cannot be denied to anyone for any reason. Anyone in Madagascar is entitled to exercise this right regardless of their skin color, age, gender, wealth, creed, and ethnicity.



- It is our right to speak up in the face of challenges.
- It is our right to share our ideas for improvement.
- It is also our right to ask about the realization of this law!

Share your knowledge!

PASS it ON!

DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

A right supported by the Ministry of National Education



TO SUPPORT THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS in school, the Ministry of National Education promotes every Malagasy's right to freely decide if, when, and how many children to have.

To demonstrate this support, the Ministry integrated the education on this right and its improvement in the 2018-2022 Education Strategy. It clearly stated the objectives of:

"Promoting adolescent reproductive health at school."

"Educating parents and community members about the importance of reproductive health education."

THESE GOALS AND EFFORTS OF THE MINISTRY are further supported by Article 5 of Law #2017-043, stating:

"Regardless of age, every individual has the right to complete services: information, education, communication, care, referral in reproductive health and family planning."

To enforce this law, for instance, health centers may lengthen their opening hours in the afternoon to provide students with a window to see a healthcare provider. Healthcare providers who serve youth may also reinforce their capacity to act respectfully and maintain confidentiality. Healthcare providers could also schedule visits to schools to advise and educate youth.



WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

5 Minutes for Education on Life Skills and Politeness

THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION realizes the importance and necessity of educating children to become well-rounded citizens and therefore providing them with a comprehensive education. As such, on September 21, 2021, the Ministry issued a MEMORANDUM that put all public school teachers in charge of education on life skills and politeness.

THIS EDUCATION IS FOR 5 MINUTES, to be provided at the beginning of the school day in primary schools and at the beginning of every class in secondary schools.

IN OTHER WORDS, ALL TEACHERS TAKE PART in this “comprehensive” education for students. A timetable was established to that end, and no matter if they teach history or languages or physical education or any other subject, all teachers are designated to teach life skills and politeness.



OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR, 25 topics are addressed and students are scheduled to be assessed after every 5 topics.

Reproductive health, an essential topic for Malagasy youth and their futures, is one of those 25 topics scheduled for 5 minutes at every subject change or beginning of the school day during one week of the timetable.

LET'S DISCUSS!

5 Minutes for Education on Life Skills and Politeness for Students at School



STUDENTS:

Have any of your teachers taught this subject?

How did you feel about it?



TEACHERS:

Have you already taught a lesson for this subject?

How did you decide how to teach each lesson?

What are the impacts of this subject that you noted on your students?



PARENTS:

Have you ever heard about this subject?

What do you think about it?

A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

Mirana and Santatra exchange letters



MY NAME IS SANTATRA AND I AM 15 YEARS OLD. I am in eighth grade at the public middle school in Ambondrona, a tiny commune in the deep countryside of Fianarantsoa.

The school year had just ended and I was very much looking forward to a vacation at my Aunt's house. Her place is even deeper in the countryside than ours, but seeing the faces of my beloved relatives usually makes me forget the excruciating taxi-brousse ride there.

As I walked through the door of our family's house, my heart sank. I remembered that Mom just had a baby! My heart was torn as I looked at my wee baby brother Parany, cradled against her bosom. I smiled, happy that he safely made it into this world, but at the same time, my throat was tight, realizing I would not be seeing my cousin Mirana this school break. **Is this what «bitter sweet» means?**

Mom noticed the sad look in my eyes.

«Under other circumstances, you would run off to pack your things and leave me and your dad behind, right? Just this one time, let me and Parany keep you to ourselves. Please?»

I tried to smile without much success.

«You can write to Mirana, you know. Her dad will be visiting over the next few days. I am sure she is expecting you, and will be disappointed not to see you either.»

After I finished my homework and chores, and baby Parany was sound asleep, I sat down on a mat with a pen and sheet of paper.



What could I tell Mirana about? Maybe Yvonne who was forced by her parents to drop out of school and make money in the city, or Ranja who left school at the end of the first quarter because she became pregnant?

My heart became heavy thinking of these two friends of mine. I wondered how they were doing. I felt lonely when they stopped showing up at school - I even started to dread school. Thankfully, I made new friends after a while.



Wait, maybe I should ask Mirana how I can prevent a pregnancy since I do not want to end up like Ranja! I still clearly remember how tough it was for Mom to deliver Parany! I'm not ready for that anytime soon!

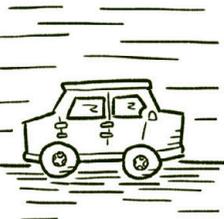
My thoughts wandered. I remembered the good times Mirana and I had, the things we experienced together. I happened to be at her house when I had my period for the first time. Oh dear, was I scared! What on Earth was

happening? I was lucky to have Mirana by my side to help and explain things to me. I was able to breathe, and she took good care of me and gave me sound advice.

I probably should tell her that I am starting to have romantic feelings. Or I think so... Is that not what people call it when we daydream aimlessly without meaning to? I would not dare to discuss that with Mom. She might scold me! It would be much better if I discussed it with Mirana.

I picked up the pen and started to write. I filled the back and front of the paper. Every day, I kept an eye out for my uncle so I could give him my letter. Once he got it and left, I was even more eager to get a reply.

The days went by. They turned into a week. At long last, Uncle Jao visited again and handed me a letter.



Dear Santatra,

OMG, you are so funny! I am literally rolling on the floor! You started having romantic feelings? I am laughing so hard my ribs hurt! I forgot how much I miss you!

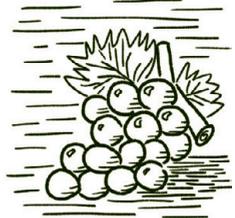
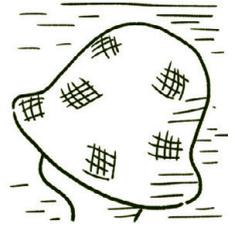
We are all well here and I have a lot to tell you! The biggest news is that Dad and Mom are sending me to study in Ambohimambola once I graduate from middle school. We talked it over and came to that decision. I am going to Ambohimambola! Let me do a little dance... I forgot again how much I miss you!

How are things with your new friends? What happened to Yvonne and Ranja is just dreadful! No students drop out of school here. Here, we learn about navigating adolescence and about life skills. We have that class every week for an hour, throughout the whole school year! The students love the subject and it helps us to make good life choices, to tell right from wrong.

It is welcoming here at our school because students know how to get along. They share similar values about everyone's rights and take care not to discriminate. Communication and respect are important for everyone.

It is no surprise, though. We have been learning about these things since we were in primary school so it's become natural. Plus, all the teachers we have for this subject are so good! All the students here are treated equally whether they are boys or girls. They do not discriminate or use any violence. That is why the kids love to go to school.

In my case, all my friends from primary school are still attending school with me. We are all focused on achieving our goals. I personally feel some kind of inner strength, I am



determined to finish my studies! Remember? I am going to Ambohimambola when I graduate!

Oh dear, I just remembered you are starting to have romantic feelings!

Okay, let me be serious, like for real. That's all very natural, girl. Every single person on earth goes through emotional changes during puberty. Our last lesson was about how to build and foster healthy relationships. We learned everything from friendship to love. That does NOT mean I now have a boyfriend. Learning is not doing!

Come to think of it, you probably should talk to your mom. You will not get scolded for that, things might just be a bit awkward. Tell her clearly how you feel and it should turn out all right.

There are so many things I still want to tell you about but they will have to wait for your next visit. One day, both of us will complete our studies and make our families proud, will we not?

I should go now, please send my greetings to all our family out there.

Love,

- Mirana

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

- **How is Mirana's and Santatra's education different?**
- **Which one is most like your education?**
- **Do you feel strongly about Mirana & Santatra's life stories? Why? What message about it would you like to pass on?**

A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE



GROWING UP IS NOT EASY in today's changing world.

Imagine if we didn't have accurate information and reliable skills to navigate the journey to adulthood. Many young people end up relying on what friends say, the media, television, or the internet - information that may be unreliable and not necessarily true.

That is why it is important to provide comprehensive education in middle schools; that is, to teach young people about:

- Taking responsibility,
- Setting clear goals in life,
- Discerning right from wrong,
- Making and staying true to mature decisions, and
- Growing up and living freely in the community.



A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION is not solely focused on imparting knowledge. It also **builds life skills** and **fosters holistic development**.

Education about puberty, positive behaviors, healthy relationships, and sexuality are a part of this comprehensive education to help children become responsible adults.

On top of that:

- It is adapted to the age and developmental stage of the children,
- It is based on evidence, and
- It involves collaboration with other educators in the community,...

...effectively helping children become well-rounded adults.

Preparing to build a home and raise the next future generation always goes hand in hand with knowledge, self-confidence, and setting goals for life and a bright future. They are inseparable.

When young people have sufficient knowledge, useful skills, and clear goals and know which path they want to take, they find the will to take the necessary precautions, until they arrive at the right time and place for that home and starting their family.

7

okony hampianatra momba ny fahasalamana ara-pananahana ny ankizy?

Nanasa fanatohiana taminy ray aman-dreny mpikaritra vitsivitsy tao aminy CCE Anabamboliana sy CCE Anabamboliana ary amonina ny proje jona Laser.

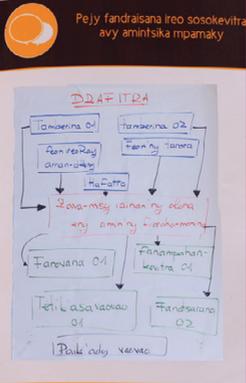
Nalaza ireo ray aman-dreny fa "ty Viaty toy ireo irey ny Ralazana sarita toy ampny ny teoana ireashana amin'ny ankizy noho ny fahasalamana ny fahasalamana ny fahasalamana."

Nioy ray aman-dreny hafa nalaza fa "ny loka ireo nalaza fa "aminty maha Malagasy, dia reo-ny loka ireo mahamenatra ny miasa loka amin'ny ankizy."

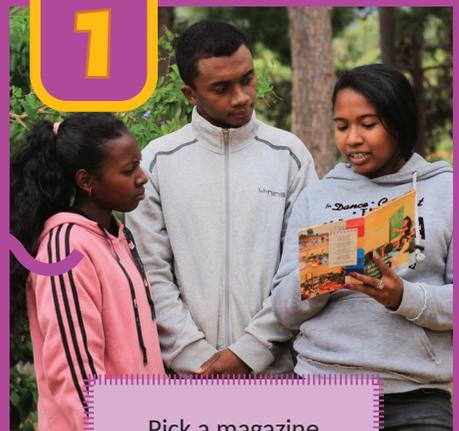
Maro an'ity ireo ray aman-dreny mihavita fa ny sakay no tolohy lehibe an'izany amin'ny fampahafantarana ny fahasalamana ara-pananahana ny ankizy.

Inona ary ny hevitr'ireo ray aman-dreny miasa ny fahasalamana ara-pananahana ny ankizy? Namarantany ireo fa "ny fahasalamana ara-pananahana dia abafahany ankizy mifandriana" ary "ny fahasalamana loka dia ray fampahafantarana halafahany miasa."

Tsapa an'ity ray aman-dreny ny ankizy momba ny fahasalamana ara-pananahana dia an'izany ny ray aman-dreny sy ny ankizy ary ny fampahafantarana loka dia fahasalamana hoan'ny ireo haintina ny fahasalamana.



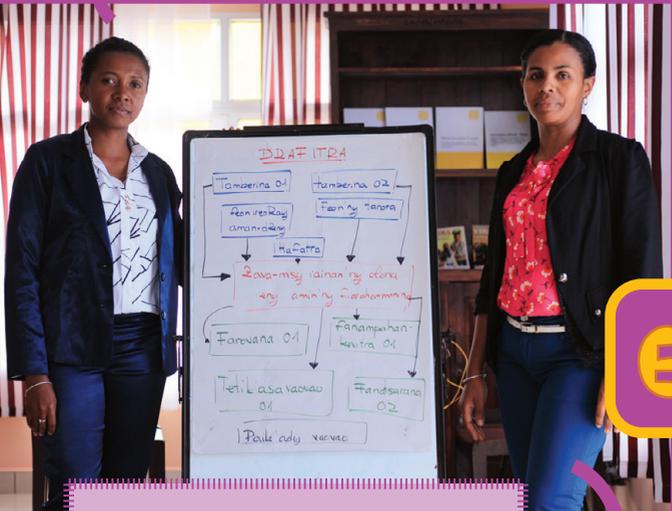
1



Pick a magazine issue. Read and discuss it!

The next magazine issues will share new ideas, as well as thoughts from other communities AND national decision-makers.

- Something challenging?
- Got ideas for improvement? **SHARE THEM!**
- Let's get in touch and through **PASS IT ON!**



6

We will use the common idea from a new magazine, this time from national decision-makers.

They will read and see our ideas. This will help them make new and improved services.



2



Share your ideas, comments, and suggestions on the comment paper provided.

3



Return the magazine with your comments and take another issue!

4



All of your comments will be combined into common themes and ideas.

5



? SPEAK UP!

ment?

discuss

ideas to make
for national

RAHERIVELU RAMAMO

Education that is done well,
Considers the achievement of all.
Educators are not born,
They need conditions and guidance to work.

Education needs values,
Not just done blindly to move on.
Thought needs to be put in, from the words used,
To behavior worthy of role models.

Share skills and experiences,
And raise mentalities so that they do not flee.
Education is a shared task,
Not only in the classroom.

Complete education nowadays
Must include sexuality, so that
All students understand their worth,
They take care of their futures,
And they succeed and achieve their goals.

NASOLO, Youth Leader, Antsirabe

