

Activity 11

Age: 8 yrs +

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: Pens and paper, art materials and flipchart

Right to Learn

AIM: To explore education as a right and its importance to young people's development

What to do:

Give each person a piece of paper and markers. Give half the group a copy of Adiatou's story to read and ask the other half to think about a typical day in their lives, from the time they wake up to the same time the next day.

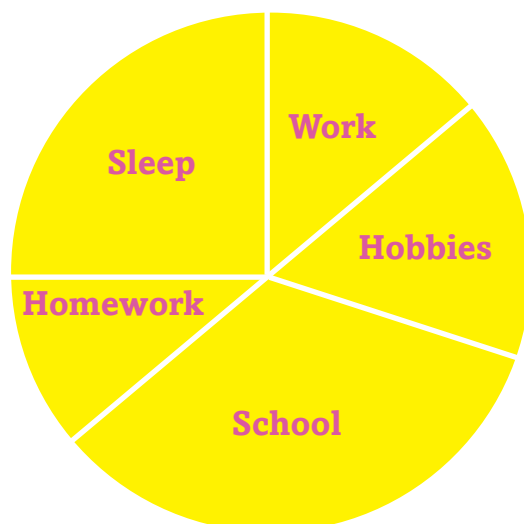
Ask everyone to draw a large circle on their paper, divide this circle into hours of the day and ask them to illustrate what they do during these hours. The people with Adiatou's story do this activity from her perspective. Segments could include School, Sleep, Work, Hobbies or Homework. When everyone has completed their daily clock, ask them to display and explain them. Highlight the similarities and differences between the clocks.

Discuss with the group the following questions

- * What would you like to change about your day?
- * Would you like to swap places with Adiatou?
- * What would you enjoy the most/least? What would you miss the most?
- * What do you think the future would be like without a good education?
- * What would you miss out on/not be able to do?

As a group make a list of all the benefits of having an education that the group can think of. Form groups of 4 and ask the groups to create a slogan for an advertising campaign, which highlights the value of having a good quality education and the importance that everyone has the chance to get one.

When the slogans are complete, groups can present them and using a clapometer can vote on the one they think is the catchiest. Groups cannot vote on their own work. Display all of the slogans on the wall.



Action: Display the slogans on a public notice board; ask your local newspaper to write a story about the workshop and to display the winning slogan.

Extra Idea: If you have a video recorder (or use your mobile phone) turn your favourite slogan into a 30 sec – 1 minute ad campaigning for education for all. Post your video on Youtube to raise awareness around the fact that not all young people have access to Education.

Adiatou's Story

My name is Adiatou Issaka and I am 12 years old. I live with my family in Niger. I don't go to the local school even though it's only a short distance away. I have never been taught to read or write. My younger brother enrolled in school two years ago. He's the first in our family to go. In the morning, when my brother walks to school, I am already hard at work. I spend most of my time, about 6 hours a day, pounding millet which is a kind of grain. Sometimes the work is very, very hard because often I don't have water. That's not my only task. I sweep the mud hut and compound where we live, go to the well for water, fetch firewood and collect gandafoye leaves which are used to make the sauce we eat with our meals. Sometimes I sell kopto leaves (a kind of cabbage) that my older brother collects. I can make up to 300 francs a day (about €0.40). I feel sad when my brother goes to school in the morning. He has taught me a few words of French. Sometimes he asks me to go to school with him, but I have to say no. My brother wants to be a teacher so he can share knowledge with everyone. I want to learn to read and write too. I think my mother and father would allow me to go to school if there was space there. But who would pound the millet?

Source: Global Campaign for Education (2004).

FACTBOX

Missing an Education

- 80 million children around the world do not have the opportunity to go to school, most of them are girls.
- Another 150 million children will not complete their primary education.
- Right now 750 million people (15 years or older) across the developing world cannot read or write.

Reasons for missing out are:

- Children and young people living in poverty who can't afford it
- Girls and young women
- Children and young people in conflict situations
- Children and young people with disability or other minority needs
- Children and young people affected or infected by HIV and AIDS
- Child labourers and young people in exploitative work.

Source: Chilled out not worn out, NYCI (2004), Global Campaign for Education – www.campaignforeducation.ie

The Global Campaign for Education is a not-for-profit association made up of lots of separate civil society organisations including campaign groups, charities, trade unions and child rights advocates. It has members all across the world and its aim is to ensure that everyone in the world has the chance of a quality basic education. Go to www.campaignforeducation.ie to see how you can get more involved.