

CLIMATE ACTION

SHORT STORY AUTHOR: JANE MAJOR

It has now been five years since we have been experiencing severe hunger in our country. There is a problem of climate change due to human activities natural disasters and many more. Climate is a long-term shift overall weather conditions over time. I am Chisoni a girl of 14 years who is one of those who are experiencing this kind of incident.

In this country the main cause of climate change hasn't been discovered yet but there are some minor causes which are causing major problems in our communities and our country. One of this is early childhood marriages for example in our community girls under the age of 16 are engaged into marriages which is prohibited by the law of Malawi. It is stated that girls must get married at least at the age of 18 and above. When these young girls get married, they lack means of finding income to support their families due to this the practice deforestation for the production of charcoal and firewood for a source of income is involved.



Deforestation aids in climate change in a way that carbon dioxide is stored in the trees of the forests when the forests are burned and cleared the carbon dioxide stored in the trees is released in the atmosphere adding to greenhouse effects thereby leading to climate change. Some of the possible solutions to this problem are by protecting threatened forests and wetlands and planting more trees to capture and store carbon dioxide, and by encouraging parents to send their children to school where they can gain necessary knowledge, which can help in development of the country and society instead of early marriages.

The use of fume (cars and industry fumes) has also contributed to climate change in a way that the fumes can cause damage of the ozone, this is a layer that protects us from a layer that protects us from harmful sun rays which cause skin diseases. It also causes global warming this is the increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere caused by increase of particular gases for example greenhouse gases especially Carbone dioxide. This can be reduced or solved by public awareness about the causes and impact of climate change and by establishing strict laws and heavy penalties for non-environmentally friendly action by companies and industries. I as a student this is all I can do to maintain or change the climate of this country, our community and even worldwide for better and sustainable environment for the next generation.

MOTHER MALAWI

POEM AUTHOR: SHINGRAI MANKHWAZI

You were beautiful, Malawi
You had a lot of trees and evergreen grasses
In times of high temperature,
People used to get shade from you
But now when I look around

Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

You are real desert

You had a moderate temperature but
Now it has been increased due
To early marriages and lack of
Family planning methods where
People bear many children like fruits
Thereby deforest trees to use that
Land for settlement and farming
That led to low transpiration leading to
Low or no rainfall as a result having drought

Because of honest you had,
Many people like you
Many people proud of you
But now corruption is your staple food.
We as Malawians, let's have justice
And eradicate this by uniting with
Each other
So that it should be a better Malawi

Let's us reforest and aforestate
To provide evergreen grasses and a lot
Of trees to our own mother, Malawi
Let's us follow family planning methods
To reduce deforestation by reducing
Population that reduces drought.



CLIMATE ACTION

ESSAY AUTHOR: FLORENCE TEMBENU

Climate action can be understood in a simple way as being reaction of the climate on nature. This topic mostly focuses on the climate of the world. Climate is the average weather condition observed over a long period of time. Our universe has been experiencing a lot of climatic disasters. The major factor contributing to these climatic disasters is climate change.

One of the factors that influence climate change is deforestation. Deforestation is the indiscriminate cutting down of trees. People cut down trees for different purposes such as for fuel through charcoal burning and construction. People cut down trees mostly for opening up new settlement areas and for industry construction. They also cut down the trees to find land for their construction and to use the trees for timber.

The second factor that influence climate change is air pollution. This factor is one of the major factors that cause climate change because more countries are now having more industries that produce toxic or harmful substances in gaseous form during their manufacturing process. These

Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

gases are so much that they go into the atmosphere and as a result, they end up destroying the ozone layer.



Climate change, for instance every person needs a good shelter, good food and other resources for his or her family and when the population is so high, everyone will need basic necessities for support in life and people may end up building houses on mountains, cultivating along river banks. So, when parents found it difficult to provide basic need for their children, they force their children to get married even if they are still young (teenagers) so that they can decrease the population of the house. It is also one of the beliefs of people in other societies that “having more children is a sign of wealth” but it is just a lie because when observed in many societies people who have many children find it very difficult to provide enough resources for their families that the ones who have few children.

Climate change has many impacts on every living creature in the universe. Deforestation can lead to insufficient rains causing drought which can lead people to starve and suffer. Trees also reduce the speed of running water preventing soil erosion but when trees are cut down indiscriminately, soil erosion can increase, leading to soil infertility. The cutting down of trees carelessly can lead to floods because the heavy rain water can have no barrier that can slow it down and the water that has flooded can make people become homeless because their houses have been carried away by the water.

Air pollution can cause an enormous problem to both humans and the vegetation because more industries produce harmful gases that go out into the atmosphere and destroy the ozone layer which protects us from direct sunshine. Beijing in China experienced fog but it was discovered that it was not fog but smoke from intruders. According to a report of the UN International Panel on Climate Change, if global warming continues at its present rate, it could eradicate the quarter of both plant and animal species of the earth and it can melt the ice in the Antarctic and flood the countries which are near to the sea. Global warming can also cause skin cancer which is one of the dangerous diseases in the world.

Population growth as we have already noted influences the tree cutting process due to either new settlement construction or other purposes for people to satisfy their need. The rapid increase of population has increased demand for arable land to produce food for the population because everyone needs land for production of crops, and for raising farm animals. This has led to increased pressure on natural resources to sustain the population. The behavior of engaging children into marriages also contributes to climate change because when the children get married at a younger stage, they are not economically fit and the result will be involving themselves in activities like tree cutting activities, in order to make charcoal and earn a living which can also destroy the environment leading to climatic disaster.

There are plenty solutions to these problems faced by the world. Deforestation can be managed by planting trees to replace those that were cut down. Here in Malawi we do have national tree planting seasons, but they are only conducted once a year. In order to have more trees, it could have been better and necessary if we conducted these activities for almost five times a year and we can have more trees in no time. Trees can also be increased if the village chiefs can encourage that every person's compound must have more than three trees. Lastly, to end deforestation, we

Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

need to enforce strong laws on the environment by asking the government to employ soldiers who can guard the forests so that not even a person should be found cutting down trees.

Not all problems can be solved using already available materials that people already invented but sometimes it is necessary to invent something new in order to solve a problem. Air pollution can be solved by using the gases produced by industries in refrigerators, but the most effective method can be inventing a machine that can trap those harmful substances and purify them. The machine can be helpful because there will be less harmful gases that can pollute air and that can destroy the ozone layer and global warming can end without destroying more things.

We have seen that one of the contributions of population growth is early child marriages. This contributes to population growth because when children get married at a younger age, they bear more children because they started having children during childhood to adulthood. We can end childhood marriages by forcing a strong law that any parent who will be found encouraging a child to get married at a younger age will be severely punished and arrested. We also need to civic educate people that having few children improves the economic status of a family because parents find it easy to provide enough basic needs for their small family.

To windup everything, climate action is due to climate change and climate change is commonly due to human activities and there is a possibility to end climatic disasters caused by these human activities. We can replace the resources that are used in everyday life to satisfy needs but can contribute to climate change by using other resources that do not like using metal in place of trees as timbers. Let us join hands as a world to end **CLIMATE CHANGE**.

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ESSAY

AUTHOR: TIYAMIKE

Water is life people claim, they say no water no life. The question is, is water really life or is life water? Well the possible answer is yes you can't stay without water because life solemnly depends on water. The general artery of people these days is the rising cost of water. But why do we spend half of our salaries paying for this water, when Malawi has over 10 water bodies, almost five of them contain fresh water but still we pay for the natural resources given freely at high costs, this is because the water we drink has been filtrated in companies and cleaned for clean water supply. What interests people most is how the water leaves the same fresh water bodies to these factories to be filtrated, well this is because the water is dirty. Here are some reasons why the water is unsafe, unclean and dirty for consumption.

Firstly, increase in population, this word has finally reached its climax, every newspaper, article and book you touch contains at least a smaller content of this topic. The reason why people are multiplying like ants is still a misery to the government but to be precise early marriages are one of the biggest factor to this topic. A young girl is forced into marriage and suppose she marries at the age of 13, this means that there will be no education for the poor being. No education will result to no proper



Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

knowledge of family planning, she will bear a lot of kids to please her husband desire or the communities'. These children will be at least few years apart. A young girl cannot take care of all these children alone for this she will have low sanitation and will need a lot of water. And for this matter the word unclean water supply brands in, the mother, thinking of the tireless job of fetching water to and from the river or lake will take cloths, plates, children and other things and wash in the rivers, resulting into contaminated water bodies.

Secondly, deforestation, the word that lingers in the world. Deforestation is connected to the supply of low clean water, in such a way that people deforestrate but don't afforestrate so those who know the background of rain formation know that for there to be rain there is need to have trees. So this simply means no trees no perception, resulting to drying up of rivers and lakes and thereby no clean water supply in many areas. The reason people cut down trees in Malawi is very uncertain because Malawi is a developing country, they will need less trees lather than the developed countries but why? Well Malawians will always be known to have an element called ignorance they are very ignorant when it comes to these things. Over a million of Malawians are educated and know the importance of trees but still choose to do it. This also connects well with the population growth, more people will need more resources like books, food, some of the natural producers are trees thereby a lot of tree cutting.

Lastly, lack of proper facilities and monitoring of water supply equipment. This can be proved by the incident that happen in Malawi, Lilongwe Area 18, where by the sewage got mixed with the water pipes. This caused a lot of sicknesses and deaths, diarrhea was the main effect. If there was proper monitoring of the facilities, we would have not experienced such a tragic incident in Malawi. This is where sanitation comes in, many people do not know the relationship between water and sanitation but no clean water equals poor sanitation. This can be explained with a good example of urban areas where indoor toilets are common, poor water supply will result to no poor sewage disposal results to poor sanitation.

The research done by the government people of the world shows that the rate of safety managed drinking water from 2000 to year 2015 had increased by 61% to 71% worldwide. What happens to the remaining 21% of people? will they have no sanitation or clean water for the rest of their lives? Or is the rate being increased by government or people well these question from minds of a lot of people. The possible solutions to these problems remain uncertain to all who care. But according to my experience I think the following can be done: -

Conducting competitions among youth. It seems as though a lot of youth like winning. So if monthly competitions to keep school, homes, communities and public institutions clean are people will have clean surrounding hoping to win the gifts which will be given to the cleanest person. This will ensure vigorous proper disposal of waste and proper hygiene in societies. This also implies to trees a person who plants more trees around or near their homes or schools or even societies will win the renewable source energies like solar bulbs, briquettes and alike.

Enhance the strong laws on child marriages and disposal of wastes. Introduction of a litter one night stay in, imprisoning all who litter in in proper places like Lilongwe river and everywhere, the person who litter will be introduced to hard punishments. This will ensure clean water supply and sanitation for many years. No child should be found married at an early stage such children should be brought back to school and the adults who watched the shameful act being practiced should be taught a lesson.

Inclusion, clean water and sanitation is essential for many Malawians and every person worldwide. The insufficient Water Supply and no Sanitation is caused by things like Rapid population growth, deforestation and many more to deal with this problem before 2030 we can conduct competition and enhance strong and many more.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

POEM

AUTHOR: MARY ZINGANYADE

Where is the peace that we once had?
Because is this, now everything is bad
Where is the justice that was being served?
If we had practice, then we would have been saved
Peace has been now disturbed
Is this what we deserved?
People are now being unjust
There is no one you can trust
There is no peace
There is no justice
There is nothing left for us to cherish

A peaceful society once stood,
Back then everything was good,
Together we celebrated our countries benefits
This was before money took people's best interest
Now people are interested in money.
We now have corrupt police officers, lawyers and judges
Newspaper pages Are all headlining the same thing
Corruption this, corruption, corruption
I wish we had another option
To choose our own motion

It's never too late to do the right thing,
We can bring back peace and justice
We can bring back our once peaceful and just country
If we work together and work hard
Then with the results we might be glad
Peace and justice might be restored
This might be our reward

If judges are just
Them cases will go by fast
The truth will prevail
Let's work together hand in hand
To bring back
Our peaceful, just steady and hardworking.



MARIA'S DILEMMA

SHORT STORY AUTHOR: MARIA NYIRENDA

Maria is a student at Lilongwe Girls Secondary School who lost her father during the time she was pursuing her education. She came from a large family with nine children and she was the fourth born child. This did not stop her from having the most of family responsibility. The kind of environment Maria was being brought up after the death of her father caused a lot of stress, having negative impact on her education. As determined as she was, the challenges did not weaken her drive for education instead she was working hard and she was the first to be selected to national secondary school (Lilongwe Girls Secondary School) in her village. During her time most girls were engaged in early marriages because they had no interest in education. In the community which Maria came from, sexual exploitation among youth is a story no man needs to be told (sexual exploitation is high due to poverty), as such Most of the girls of her age were engaged in early marriages because they believed that there is no benefit in girl child education. When a girl shows no interest in marriage parents could even force the child in marriage by arranging her marriage without her consent. In most rural communities' people believe that education is important to boys only as he will be the head of family, the duty of girls is to look after children, doing household chores and captivating in farms as such there was no need to educate a girl child.

As a result of early marriages, there is an increase in population growth in many rural communities as many girls start giving birth while young and unmatured and they frequently give birth as the right to choose the number of children to have in a family is mainly vested in the husband' authority. Women are supposed to be submissive and obedient to their husband always, if they fail to do so they are sent back to their parents' house. At times, when some have been sent back home out of marriage, parents arrange another marriage for them since they were still of young age. The growing population put pressure on natural resources available. For instance the pressure on energy resources has led to deforestation as families look for trees for cooking and manufacturing of charcoal, further more deforestation has come about due to the need for land for cultivation, settlement, building social services since there was overcrowding in public services for instance public hospitals, public school and other public gathering centers.

In this community where Maria came from the main source of income to many families was selling charcoal. This is a community that had zero interest to educate a girl child and lacked role models. The youth in general of the community saw education as barrier since they had to work hard either in their fields or other economic activities to feed their poor families. As charcoal was the main economic activities of Maria's community, a lot of trees were cut causing climatic change and production of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Years were passing as rain patterns kept on changing affecting subsistent agriculture yields. The village was on alert for a possible drought spell, amount of rainfall recorded kept on reducing affecting heavily on the harvest. In the year Maria lost her father, there was hunger as the harvest was very little. Children suffered from malnutrition even women bare children with disabilities as they had unbalance food diets. Deaths were recorded among the people as well as livestock.

As the drought continued, the community experienced extreme hot temperatures. As the hot condition persisted, disease pandemics erupted in the community. Outbreaks of skin rashes and whooping cough, including an increase in malaria cases was recorded, the pests were also everywhere which killed many livestock's this led to poor development of the community.

Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

The issue of climate change affected Maria's academic excellence so badly as such she suggested to get married to a well to do man who will be giving her and her family basic needs. That this time she was only sixteen years of age and having only one parent alive, her mother, who was also paralyzed and needed extra attention, Maria couldn't do otherwise but respond to the pressure as how other girls in her community did. She left school and got married to a man known as Dammy.

Dammy came from a well to do family but due to misfortune, Dammy lost his father who was suffering from Malaria barely after two months in marriage with Maria. After the funeral ceremony, all the possessions were taken by the relatives of his father leaving Dammy and his mother with nothing. Because Dammy depended on the worth of his father it becomes difficult for him to earn a living with a new family and his old mother. This increased Maria's stress and negative impact on her health because her responsibility was increased as she also had to look after her mother-in-law as well.

Suddenly, Window of Hope Foundation came up with a project targeting sustainable Global Goals which came with many innovations on the mitigation measure to the issues Maria's community was facing. The community was involved in tree planting exercise, entrepreneurship seminars and elevating of education in the community by sending their children to school and ending early marriages. The project also focused on improving maternal health by providing information on family planning methods to the community.

Maria was voted as a community coordinator for the project and she managed to educate the community on the aims of the project, this included educating the community on the importance of trees as they can reduce soil erosion and provide a favorable weather conditions (rains). Civic education which was championed by Maria targeted both men and women. She taught people on how deforestation and releasing gases led to climate change.

When the community learned and understood they came up with new ways of improving their living standard, for example construction of a community dam to harvest water and ask for help from the government to provide the machine that would help them to generate electricity so that they would stop depending on firewood and charcoal which brought about many consequences. Furthermore, they made by laws for combating cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood. Farming became the main economic activity of the community, with irrigation being preferred so that people would depend on that for earning money and provide basic necessities to their families. This decision brought happiness to Maria because the problems of financial services were being reduced for her.

The community economy and lifestyle changed and so did of Maria's. She started living a happy life but did not go back to school to further her studies. Her school and marriage life posed a challenge for her because she had could not leave her marriage with Dammy, moreover she was pregnant, and she loved Dammy much like he was her Jesus. Through the project elderly education was introduced and as a community coordinator she was not happy most of the times when she saw children not going to school. The project resumed girl child education and broke all early marriage. They brought back all girls who married early to school. Maria was not brought back and was still with Dammy that was done because they were waiting her to give birth then they would bring her later.

Unfortunately, when time came to give birth, she was sent to surgery because she was young. They tried to add space in the birth canal in order for the child to pass but when they did that, she started

vassal vagina fistula and it was worse. The baby was born alive, but he was born with less weight and was sent to kangaroo method for two months. When Maria's mother held that she had met with such complication she fainted and later on she died. The problem was treated after five years this affected her too, she lost the chance of going back to school. The complications that Maria faced during giving birth ended the practice of early marriages as it gave a lesson to many people in the village.

PROMOTING CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

DUAL WORK KETRISSA ZONDOLA AND GRACE CHILALA

Water is one of the essential components of human life, but there are many people who lack clean water, for example 4 million people here in Malawi lack clean water (WaterAid, 2019). Sanitation refers to the arrangements for drainage and the disposal of sewage. Many people here in Malawi do not have sanitation facilities. According to Water Aid Malawi, (2019) 13. 8 million people do not have a decent toilet.

This essay will critically explain about the factors that affect clean water and sanitation here in Malawi, the effects and the possible solutions to them.

Firstly, inadequate sources of water: there are limited sources of water available to provide clean water to the entire population of Malawi. Surface water sources are highly polluted. Groundwater is the best source to provide clean water here in Malawi, because it is naturally protected from bacteria contamination as is reliable during droughts. However high costs associated with drilling for water and technical challenges that are large enough to serve the population need, present challenges that limit trapping the resource.

Secondly high population growth: Many countries including Malawi are experiencing remarkable population growth especially in urban and semi urban areas. This has led to an increase of waste disposal in water bodies overcrowding in urban areas lead to high diseases out breaks due to poor sanitation facilities associated with exposure to raw sewage.

Poor sanitation and lack off clean water results to death of people. Especially young children due to diseases such as malnutrition resulting of suffering from diarrhea diseases and even cholera. This is also affecting school attendance among girls because they have to travel long distances to find clean water for domestic use, due to absenteeism from school they will be forced to into early marriages.

In conclusion the general solutions to the factors that affect clean water and sanitation in Malawi could be waste management by enforcing strong laws on disposing wastes in water bodies instead of disposing the we can recycle the for instance using paper for making briquettes as one of the ways of reducing environmental degradation and using plastic papers for making plastic shoes.



Another solution is using family planning methods and avoid early marriages as one way of reducing rapid population growth. Using solar energy as a way of drilling underground water because most resources are expensive.

Earth. Land pollution has some of the deforest rating effects on both nature and living things, more especially the terrestrial animals as their health is affected and starve due to low agricultural production as the soil losses its fertility.

PEACE AND JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

INDIVIDUAL WORK PATIENCE KUNYENJE

Peace refers to freedom from or cessation of way and conflict. For peace to be there, there is need of fairness which is justice and strong institutions. Malawi seems to be a peaceful country but in real sense there is no peace due to lack of justice and strong institutions. The aim of this goal is to ensure peace and justice and strong instructions in Malawi

In Malawi there are people who would want to develop their country (Malawi) but whenever they want to, injustice happens to them for instance there was a man who built an Aeroplan but was arrested such cases of injustice make people to fear innovating things as they are afraid of being arrested.

Due to lack of strong institution there are high cases of killings of people with albinism. The attack is caused by a misconception about albinism. Either they believe that their body have magical power and bring good luck and fortune. Human right abuses stem from lack of understanding of albinism which give rise to false believers and mythology about the condition, which turn lead to justification of social exclusion stigmatization and violence

On the same vein of having weak laws many girls are dropping out of school and getting into early marriages. Girls do not fear of getting married in conflict of laws since there is no civic education and enforcement of laws against getting married early. This has also much impact to the country since there is high illiteracy rate of women, and this caused there right to be violated by man and they take it as normal and cultural.

In Malawi there is high cases of corruption, people with major authoritative powers tend to side or defend the rich because they have been bribed, and they bring injustice to poor people. This problem has caused the hatred towards the government by poor people because they think that the government does not regard them as important people in the country.

The injustices mentioned above can cause people to live in fear as they think the injustices done may lead some people to try to fight back this lead to conflict in the country (no peace). The injustice made by people with authorities also lead to poverty as there is no development in a country because people who try to develop the country are being arrested.



Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

To bring peace as well as strong institutions in Malawi there is need to help those people who invent and innovate things to develop Malawi instead of arresting them. If there was a disobedient of law done by them, they should be corrected and helped.

On the case of albinism is a genetic not a disease or fortune. And people should be assigned and trained to be secret investigators to search for cases of albinism and corruption. Special lawyers should be trained to defend the poor in various cases to avoid cases of injustice. On dropping out of school and early marriages the government through parliament should enforce laws that state that any girl who drop out of school at an early age and get married should be arrested together with their parents. This will help girls to fear the law and cases of school dropout and early marriages will be reduced and parents will encourage the children to farther their education.

In conclusion, if the above suggestions were to be implemented there will be promotion of peace and justice and also creation of strong instruction in Malawi. In addition to this, Malawi will develop financially.

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

INDIVIDUAL WORK MARY ZINGANYADE

Most of the resources we use including water are obtained from the natural environment. But as the population rises due to early marriages. Resources are being depleted and being polluted this has made the environment not safe to live in and water not safe to drink. The aim of this goal is to ensure that people have access to clean water and live in a pollution free environment.

Due to some human activities the greatest problem that the world is facing today is pollution. Pollution comes in different forms these are air pollution, water pollution and land pollution. Those which are currently affecting people in high percentage are water and land pollution. That is where clean water and sanitation comes in.

Water pollution is the introduction of chemical substances and other materials into fresh water that degrades the quality of the water. When water quality is affected it does not only affect us but also the oceanic fauna (as water is their habitat. Many water bodies near cities and town are highly polluted. This is the result of both garbage dumped by individuals and dangerous chemicals dumped by industries, and institutions.

Land pollution is the contamination of land surface and soil of the earth. Land pollution has some of the devastating rating effects on both nature and living things, more especially the terrestrial animals as their health is affected and starve due to low agricultural production as the soil losses its fertility.

The following can be ways of managing waste or ensuring a pollution free environment.

COMPOSTING: this is a natural process where biodegradable waste is broken down into organic matter. Which not only manages the waste but also improves soil fertility/ quality which results in high yields thereby contributing to zero hunger as one of the goals.



Essays, poems and short stories from Malawi

RECYCLING: this involves processing of waste products into new useful products. Recycling helps to control the use of raw materials, thereby reducing air, water and land pollution. The reduction of air pollution in turn minimize the drastic effects of climate change as the ozone layer is not destroyed. Thereby reducing the drastic effects of climate change as a goal.

INCINERATION: - This involves burning of wastes at very high temperatures. Through incineration the wastes can be turned into energy, steam energy that is, thereby not only reducing pollution but producing an affordable and clean energy source as another goal on its own.

The last way of managing wastes is by providing sanitation services which may help to safely effectively get rid of litters.

In conclusion clean water is not just necessary for us human beings but also for the aquatic animals. And we practice sanitation we not only ensure a pollution free land but air and water as well. For that reason, let's make the environment safe to live in by ensuring its pollution free. And to add early marriages also contribute to the depletion of the environment as pollution and if we end early childhood marriage, we not only secure girl child education but also contribute to a clean, pollution free environment.

March 2020

Written by pupils of the Girls Secondary School in Lilongwe

Global Goals Project: cooperation between Quality Centre Malawi, The Netherlands and Window of Hope Foundation, Malawi

Thanks to Emmanuel Kumwanje (project manager), Rachel Iphani (project coordinator) and Mrs Mitumba (teacher)