



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Save the Children
USA

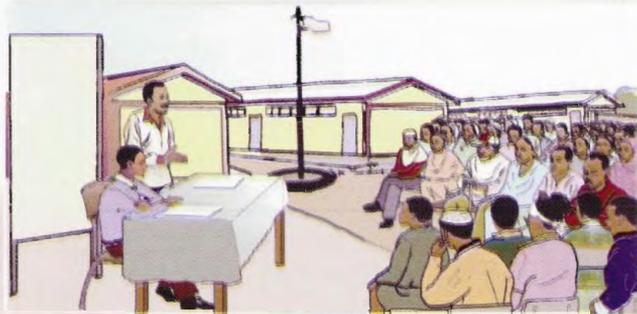


Organize Parent's Day kit

BESO II/SCOPE Project

Introduction

Parent day is a special occasion in the life time of a school. This event is a day where parents can be more engaged closely in their children's education.



Many Ethiopian communities have demonstrated an active interest in school affairs. Most school communities contribute and organize such a day, encourage community to engage more on the school management and achieve partnership in education.

Hence, the tool kit is designed in order to equip PTAs, GEAC, teachers, students and school communities to organize an effective parent's day. It is divided in to three parts i.e. before, during, and after the event with responsible bodies and their tasks for each event.

Objective of the kit

- To assist teachers, students, PTAs and GEACs in organizing effective parents day;
- To help teachers, students, PTAs and GEACs promote the issue of girls education on parents day;
- To help children and parents rebuild their relationship with regards to education and community;
- To provide children and young people with semi-structured recreational activities;
- To encourage self-expression of students especially girls through different activities;
- Great opportunity for parents to get to know their children teachers.

How to use this kit:

- Select a taskforce from GEAC, PTA, and School personnel to introduce the kit to the rest of school community
- Provide orientation to stakeholders and begin to organize the Parent Day following all steps in the kit
- Localize the kit (the kit is a flexible material so change or amend some activities which fits to your own local norms.)

Users

- Teachers, students, PTAs, GEACs, Parents, and school community

Follow up

- Post winning essays or any contest results in the school notice board
- Feedback collection

How do I organize parent's day?

Sometimes a school comes together to create a truly special event that benefits every child -- and every family in raising awareness such as importance, barriers and strategies to girls education, questions and issues on quality education. This day should be a unique day for all the organizers, students, and parents and needs a great deal of preparation from all sides.



Save the Children US
BESOII/SCOPE - Girls Education Behavioral Change Strategy

Part one: Before the Event

Any event needs prior organization and preparation. Most of the time parent's day is conducted at the end of each year but sometimes some schools also organize it in midyear, therefore whenever you plan to have the event, start preparation at least two months before, using the following tips.

Organizers

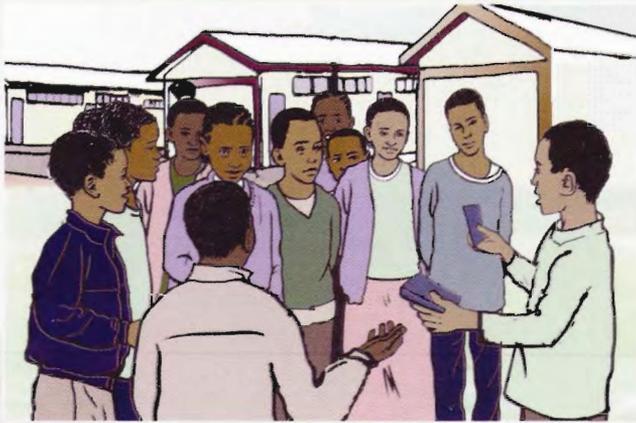
The success of your Parent's Day Event will depend on how well organized you are. Put together a Parent's Day Event team, including teachers, students, PTAs, GEACs and parents. You'll need some group to assist with planning the event and others to help out on the day of the event.

Here are some ideas to help you get started:

1. Recruit volunteers

- PTAs and GEAC members, make Parent's Day announcement at your PTA, KETB and Student Council meetings.
- Send home a separate Parent's Day notice to parents that announce the event and ask for volunteers.
- Display a poster around the school, on the bulletin board
- Select a team leader for the day

2. Build Awareness



- Use the Why Parent's Day Fact Sheet to help raise awareness about the benefits of organizing the event.

The fact sheet may have look similar as below

- _____ % of parents were present last year when compared to the previous year. This indicates; parents are eager to know about their children's education and other school related activities.
- Last year the school raised _____ amount of birr on that day. We were able to construct girl's student's tutorial classroom.

- BES0II/SCOPE provided training to PTA and GEAC members on how to minimize abduction since our school played a drama on this similar issue.
- Etc.....

3. Get the word out to your community



- Create a Public Service Announcement on market day, Iddir monthly meetings or other social and cultural gatherings
- Have the local administrator make a proclamation

Banner for parent's day

Ten Good Reasons to organize
Parent's day Together

It's fun

It's healthy

It's friendly

It's a chance to teach and learn parents and
the community about their children

It's considerate

It's educational

It's economical

4. Invite local dignitaries

Invite local dignitaries (kebeles administrator, city, police chief, etc.) to join the Parent's Day or to be guest speakers.

5. Get help from Community Partners. You may wish to visit and solicit assistance from rich individuals and businesses owners for prize donations.

6. Students/Children



6.1 Encourage students to think and talk about the event

- Ask students to create materials that reflect any of the main benefits of organizing parent's day
- Encourage students to recruit as many participants as possible. Older adults are a great source of potential volunteers for the event
- Have students create announcements to read on the school's Public Announcement system
- Have students design a Parent Day banner that can be displayed prominently outside your school
- Invite students to prepare poems and songs about parents' day in school and 'perform' them on the school's Public Announcement system, or at an assembly

7. Selection and preparation of activities for the event

The following are list of activities for the parent day. But they need a prior preparation and organization. The organizing team and the school are expected to decide and select some activities from the list and notify the relevant group to start preparing on them. However, not all activities are to be performed in one parent day but rather the list is repertoire for future similar events.

7.1 Parent of the year!



Recognition Event

Allocate a time to recognize and award **parent(s) of the semester or the year!** These exemplary parent(s) are very influential in the success of their children's education. Decide on criteria such as parent(s) from economically poor background, a family with large number of children, a family which gives equal study time for both their boys and girls, a family which delayed their daughter proposed marriage, etc. the criteria can further be developed by the school.

The award could be calling upon the parents and their child in front of the audience and giving the parent(s) certificate or applauds by the day guest of honor. And allowing these parents for few minutes to share their experience how they are supporting their children education, the challenges they faced and the solution they are using.

7.2 Champion GEAC, PTA or Teacher of the year!



Recognition Event

Allocate a time to recognize and award **Champion GEAC(s), PTA(s) or Teacher(s) of the semester or the year!** These exemplary GEAC(s), PTA(s) or Teacher(s) can be persons who were very instrumental in solving problems such as rescuing girls from abduction, early marriage, creating Child Friendly School environment, sensitization the community about importance of education, specially girls education, etc. the criteria should be developed further by the school.

The award could be calling upon the **Champion GEAC(s), PTA(s) or Teacher(s) in front of the audience and giving the GEAC(s), PTA(s) or Teacher(s) certificate or applauds by the day guest of honor.**

7.3 “Kids Speak for Kids” Essay Contest!

Open to all students from grade 1 to 8, students will be given essay titles to compete. The titles are selected to focus on persisting problems of the area. For example:



Grade 1-5 activities include lessons in understanding

- The world of education
- Short and long term benefits of education
- Girls education
- Benefits of girls education
- Harmful traditional practices
- Equality of girls and boys
- Early marriage
- Abduction

Grade 5-8 activities include lessons in

- Understanding that children, specially girls in many places around the village don't have time to study
- What can a parent or a teacher can do to bring changes in the life of their child in educating her/him
- Identifying students' goals and exploring their priorities in life, and thinking and planning ahead for the future.

- Elopement
- Women and men in leadership
- School family interaction

The **winner essay** will get to be read by the writer on the event and will receive a small award. In selecting awards schools should be very creative and not only focus on material rewards. For example the winner student can be named writer of the year! or can be awarded honorary class or school monitor.

7.4 Listening activity

Read aloud the " _____ " a story prepared for the occasion. Then ask students questions to test their listening skills. (Answers should be in parentheses.)



Think different ways to initiate student's participation at all levels.

And the student with the best and innovative idea to contribute to the process of changing the school to a friendly environment will be rewarded or recognized.

7.6 Fund raising for GEAC and the school

Here are some fund-raising ideas that may work for the event.

1. Seasonal "homemade" sales. Girls Club can prepare traditional foods with low cost and sell on day.
2. On slips of paper, people write a message for their child, mother, father, friend, so that they can give surprise gifts.

The PTA can organize different locally made and sensible gifts and sell to the audience in this manner.

3. Health and Fitness: organize sporting activities.

7.8 Teach a Lesson at School!

Sensitization Event

Teach a Lesson at School

Arrange or invite Woreda Health Office to briefly present on the health hazards of early marriage, Abduction, HIV and AIDS, Family Planning, healthy school in general etc., and encourage questions and discussion from the audience.

The same arrangements can be done with other sectors such as education, agriculture etc. to teach on relevant issues that have direct and indirect influence on both girls and boys enrolment, retention and success.

8. Follow up

This specific stage is going to be monitored using the following checklist format: (this format should be filled by the organizing team)

Volunteers selected by male and female			Activities done (please tick)	Calculate in %	Remark/measures taken
Students (No)	Teachers (No)	PTAs (No)	Recruit volunteers		
			Invite speakers/guests		
			Prepare banners		
			Collect donations		
			Prepare school activities/games, songs		
			Prepare activities for the event		
			Others		

Part two: Day of the Event

On this day, the organizing team should be well prepared and decorated the school for the event. Ask for students help to post posters, banners, announcements, gender policies etc. select team leader for that day to introduce the program to guests and audiences.

Organizers

1. Assemble the students to listen to the invited guest speakers.

2. Give out food and other items if provided by local businesses. Children always enjoy a treat!
3. Prepare a “what to do check list”
4. Distribute attendance sheet and suggestion column to the audience.
5. Follow the day program guided by the team leader.

Students/Children

1. From the volunteer team, two team leaders (a girl and boy) from students should be selected to organize the day event

2. Prepare a “what to do check list”
3. Children can participate in races, or fun themes
4. Some students may like to make a presentation at the assembly

Part three: After the Event

Organizers

1. Post results of contests and competitions related to the event and award prizes
2. Publish results of the event in the school for e.g. how many people participated



3. Each **parent Day** experience is a special and unique success story, share your achievement with other schools in promoting parent’s day
4. Ask Feedback from teachers, parents and students
5. It is up to the school to choose a day within the week after the event and inform all teachers to conduct their assessment.

Students/Children

1. Have children write about the highlights of their day or draw a picture to show what the day meant to them.
2. Volunteer students visit the village house to house to collect feedback about parent day

Give Her a Pen and She will Change the World!