

Essays from DGS children on life during the Covid-19 crisis – 11 June 2020



Corona virus has changed everything in Kenya and the entire world. Counties have kept strict measures in order to curb the virus. Our leaders have also kept measures like other countries so that the virus does not spread faster. The government is working hand in hand with the broadcasters to spread the news to all communities which some still believe the disease doesn't exist.

The disease has made our country shut down public places like schools, churches and borders of Kenya too have been closed. Candidates like me were heartbroken because we were waiting to sit for the national examination. Schools were closed abruptly before our end of term exams. I really felt bad because I had prepared for it.

My mother used to come back home at nine o'clock but now at exactly seven she's at home because of the curfew which was set by the government to curb the spread of the disease.

I am thankful because my friends and I can study online because our teachers formed WhatsApp groups for learning. With that we can still study and stay at home safe.

My mum's income has gone down due to the pandemic. She had to use the little savings she had kept for my sister and I for studies in future. I love my mum's toughness because she is really trying her best to put something on the table. The news about the disease isn't good but we are grateful that some patients have recovered.

I really miss our previous life but we can get it back only if we follow the directives given by the government. I really miss going to church, to recreational places and visiting friends and relatives but mostly I miss going to school. I am not coping well with the current situation but am grateful for everything.

I am following the directives of the ministry of health which are; washing hands regularly, wearing mask, keeping distance, not touching face and staying away from crowded places. By following all this I believe we will flatten the curve.

Our parents always remind us to observe the rules so that we do not get the virus. We receive few visitors unlike before. At the gate of our house there is a bucket of water and a bottle of soap so that anyone coming in washes their hands.

By Mary Valma, Class 8



Covid-19 is a pandemic disease that spreads like bush fire. The virus can cause a range of symptoms such as fever, cough, pain in the joints, tiredness, headache, body ache, difficulty in breathing.

When the first covid-19 patient was reported in the country, the government took immediate measure. The president announcement that over eighteen million students will not report to school as from 16th March 2020 until further notice. When I heard this announcement, I was shocked beyond words.

With school closure came cancelled school games, sports matches and activities we love most, leave alone class learning. I am deeply disappointed about missing all this because of the coronavirus disease. The role my parents play changed to that of a teacher when the schools were called off to avoid spread of the virus.

In the first weeks I found it difficult because very little learning took place. I mostly helped my parents with house activities like washing utensils, fetching water and sometimes cooking.

However, there shone a light from the tunnel when the administration and the teachers came together and joined heads to come up with solution. They had formed a WhatsApp group for each class. I really find it beneficial. Now I learn more than I used to. I have my assignments which the teachers send to my brother's phone every day. It keeps me busy and occupied instead of relaxing.

Moreover, we used to do things normally but now things have changed there is partial lockdown. Due to this pandemic, all public gatherings were cancelled.

Our economy has dropped because of the pandemic. People from home, others are jobless while some work for twelve hours due to curfew measures.

Feeding has not been a big challenge because my parents received food given at our school by the director, from our DGS sponsors. My mother also gets a few coins from the ladies who come home to have their hair plaited. However there has been a challenge because social distance is required and the customers need to be in contact with her.

Before we did not find it interesting learning at home but since we fear the virus, we have gotten used to that. Our parents encourage us to stay indoors. They always ensure that we have something to keep us busy so that we do not interact with other people.

I have missed travelling because every holiday we travel upcountry to visit our grandparents. This year, things seem different, we might not visit them at all because of this covid-19 crisis.

Surely, change is real, you either cope with change and change the change or change will change you no matter the situation you are in. Being white or black, old or young, rich or poor change is real we have to accept it and move on.

Essay by Sharon Auma- Class 7



Corona virus pandemic has brought a lot of difference in life including the closure of schools and distance from friends. I have more time with my family members. I love to play with my friends but I do not go out because I fear contracting the virus. The sudden closing of schools has affected me seriously because I was depending on my teachers for better performance in my studies.

The pandemic has brought misunderstanding in many situations like, when will the we sit for the national examination or how am I going to study for it?

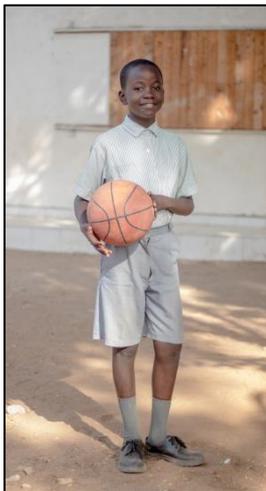
Lifestyle at home has also changed whereby I wear a face mask wherever I am sent to the shop, then wash hands with soap after coming back home from the shop. I do not shake hands with neighbours but we wave hands when we meet. I also observe social distance whenever I am out on the road.

Learning has also changed but not that much because I am able to get assignments from my teachers. Sometimes I do the work alone and sometimes my brothers or sisters help me. I have a timetable which my brother wrote for me. I make sure I learn at least two subjects per day. The pandemic has somehow helped me realize that am a good self-learner, making me be more independent because I study on my own at home.

I help at home with the house work every day before I start learning. We have duties so I make sure I finish my work very fast. When the school reopens, I will discuss with my friends the new things I have learnt away from school.

I have faith in God that the pandemic will soon be over and we can go back to normal life.

Essay by Ronald Chacha – Class 8



The schools were closed suddenly after my mid-term examination which I was depending on, but due to the pandemic all the schools countrywide were closed.

I was shocked by all that and feared the virus because it spreads like a bush fire and the dawn to dusk curfew to reduce the spread of the viral disease because it has neither cure nor vaccine.

Every time I have been staying at home, washing my hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds, also focusing on my books and work sent by the teachers.

The pandemic has affected my education as a candidate and expecting to do my national examination this year but because of the disease it has been put off until next year on the month of February.

Education at home without teachers is quite hard because I cannot tackle some work on my own. I hope that everything will someday go back to normal.

Essay by Ali Tumsime, Class 8



The corona virus pandemic is giving me such a hard time because while in school I used to wash my hands often with soap and clean water but it's a challenge for us now at home because there is scarcity of water and soap is expensive.

The virus has no cure nor vaccine, mask and sanitizer are a challenge for us because they are quite expensive. It is a hard time but I am trying my best. Here in upcountry with my grandparents, things are tough with the police very strict but I hope all with be ok.

There are people who do not follow instructions from the government. Others are saying that there is no corona virus, it makes me sad to see them misleading themselves by not following instructions. I follow instructions because I do not want to get the virus or infect my friends and family.

By Zulfa Wairimu, Std 5
