



Safari Compass Adventures Ltd.
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CONSERVATION, CAREER AND LIFE SKILL PRESENTATION IRKEEK AARE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Date 28th of February 2019.



We began our meeting with opening remarks from the Head Teacher and a the pupils where very excited because they had been told about the meeting in the beginning of the week and were looking forward to learn.

We had a session for both boys and girls and we looked at **Child Rights** and **Self Esteem**. We later on had another session with girls only where we looked at one of the major challenges in the community which is female genital mutilation (FGM), teenage pregnancy and early/forced marriage.

CHILD RIGHTS



- i. One's right to education,
- ii. Right to parental care,
- iii. Right to name and nationality,
- iv. Right to religious education,
- v. Protection from child labor
- vi. Protection from harmful cultural practices,
- ii. Protection from sexual exploitation,
- iii. Right to play.



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The pupils highlighted some of the rights that are denied to them i.e.

- a) right to education and that leads to many today children dropping out of school.
- b) The other challenge faced was harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation which leads to young girls dropping out of school. This is because after they've undergone through the cut they're told that they've now become women where sexual activities is tolerated leading to teenage pregnancy and forced marriage.



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SELF-ESTEEM



Self esteem is confidence in ones own worth; how one views him/herself. Self regard, whether someone likes them or not.

Children need to believe they are valuable and importantly; make good decisions about themselves. We did an exercise where every child spoke something positive about themselves and that helps raise their self-esteem.

Our last session was for girls only and we looked at one of the harmful cultural practice i.e. FGM. We had a model that made it easy for the girls to see the types and effects of Female Genital Mutilation.



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TYPES OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

1. Clitoridectomy
2. Excision
3. Infibulation
4. Unclassified

Effects of FGM

The participants brainstormed and named the effects known to them. Namely:

- ✓ Painful cut.
- ✓ Infections due to unhygienic conditions
- ✓ Urine retention leads to urinary track infections
- ✓ Shock and damage to other organs caused by resistance.
- ✓ Death caused by excessive bleeding and infection
- ✓ Difficult and painful delivery because the scar does not stretch.
- ✓ Hemorrhage caused by severe bleeding.

CAREER AND MOTIVATIONAL TALK.



The pupils after the first session dispersed for their dinner and soon they came for the lecture. I started introduction and icebreaker. I gave an account of my upbringing in a humble and rural setup that related very much on their own. Like I have always told this story, I grew up in a countryside together with my grandfather and seven (7) grandmothers. It was easy for the pupils to relate my story to theirs since most of them if not all got much the same traditional lifestyle.



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I proceed to highlight what I do, in this case I am a Travel Agent, having received most of training in the field, as a young boy looking after calves and chasing hares and giraffes in the open fields. I was taught a lot of life skills by my grandparents, Lions stories, warrior tales and how to survive in the bush.

I moved to how I do tours. How a hotel is ran, what staff and jobs are available in a hotel. I was able to convince the pupils that chef is a lucrative and highly paying job, so is guiding tours and safaris and drivers in relation to tourism.



I showed the pupils some documentary that I had made when I worked in the mara. In the documentary is several sections. One of the main one is how to run a camp in an environmentally friendly manner. It was important to let the pupils understand alternative lighting i.e. Solar. Conservation of plants and animals for future generations was featured during this section.

I also introduced wild animals in pictures. I talked about their behavior, longevity and names in English and Swahili.

In the same documentary, the pupils enjoyed the different songs and dances performed by traditional Maasai Warriors from the mara. They had lots of fun laughing and sometimes singing to the tune.



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MAASAI MARA DAY TRIP.



The buses arrived around 4am, but we departed around 5am. We made our first stop in Narok town. It's amazing that some of the pupils have never left Suswa, let alone being in Narok town. They were really shocked to see such a big city! 😊

On the way we begun by spotting different animals, many of them for the very first time. Each and every pupil was encouraged to have a pen and paper that they used to write down notes of what animals they saw. We arrived Sekenani gate for washrooms and breakfast in the small town of Sekenani. We soon on the road, and about 15 minutes from entering the park we spotted Lions, Elephants and buffaloes in the same place!



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We proceeded towards the airstrip located in the Park. Luckily there were so many planes on that day. The airstrip was full of tourists and tour guides dropping them off that day. That really helped explain the different roles and levels of employment there is in tourism. We spent a great deal of time watching dropping and boarding process.



We visited Keekorok lodge, one of the very first hotels in the mara, opened back in the 60s. They have a hippo pool and a watch tower to view animals from. The hosts took us around showing the swimming pool, and many hippos in mud pool within the hotel premise.

It was soon lunch and we drove off and found a lonely tree in the middle of the savanna. We enjoyed bread and sodas, yoghurt as well as

fruits.



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We also had a privilege to visit Mara Simba lodge, which has been managed since its opening by Mr. Koileken whose piece of land borders Irkeek Aare. He was very hospitable and we were shown different areas within the facility. Tourist standard accommodation, including ensuite rooms, king size beds and the dining area.



We were offered a bite and a drink courtesy of he manager.

Departure was beckoning and we left. It was a long drive back where children really sung and danced in the bus. We arrived back to school around 10pm.

OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Children are born curious. They are interested and excited to know about the natural world and what happens in it.

It doesn't matter what age the pupils are, there's something Thor can do to help conserve our environment. I briefly taught them not to litter and collect litter around their school and how to apply this knowledge back at home.

Tree planting by the pupils should be encouraged at all levels. The name of the school IRKEEK AARE (two trees) a lone tells how poor tree cover is within the whole area. Hardy and drought resistant trees like most acacias can be grown especially during rainy season.

Annual/regular excursions for the pupils could be encouraged. Maasai Mara is a classic wildlife destination to go, but there are plenty other less finance demanding places to go, Mt. Suswa being just next door.



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