

Doing chores should be part of every child's life

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When children are home for the holiday, many parents use the time to teach them how to handle the different house chores or send them to relatives where they learn to work. Today, we are discussing whether doing chores should be part of every child's life.

Affirmative

- Chores teach responsibility. When a child washes dishes, sweeps the compound, or takes care of their room, they learn how to look after themselves. In future, no one will struggle to teach them how to manage their own homes because they already grew up with those skills.
- Secondly, chores help children become disciplined. When you know that every morning you have to make your bed or mop the sitting room, you learn to keep time and follow routines. This discipline also helps us in school, because we learn to organise our books, keep time for prep, and complete homework without being pushed.
- Chores help families bond. In many Ugandan homes, when parents and children work together—like preparing supper, peeling matooke or sweeping

the compound—there is more talking, more laughter, and a stronger relationship. We feel like part of the team that keeps our homes comfortable.

- Lastly, chores prepare children for adulthood. We cannot grow up without knowing how to cook, clean, or wash clothes. If we avoid chores now, we will suffer later when we leave home for boarding school, university, or when we start our own families. Therefore, chores are not punishment—they are preparation.

Negative

- Too many chores can interrupt a child's education. Some children wake up very early to fetch water, cook, sweep,

and even wash clothes before school. By the time they reach class, they are already tired and cannot concentrate.

That affects their performance.

Secondly, chores can be unfair. Not all parents give reasonable amounts of work. Some children are treated like housemaids.

They do almost all the work while their siblings or parents rest. This makes the child feel stressed, overworked, and sometimes resentful.

Another point is that chores can be dangerous. Some children are asked to cook on charcoal stoves, climb high water tanks to

fetch water, or use sharp tools like pangas and knives. At a young age, these tasks can cause serious injuries. Children should not be put in risky situations just to do chores.

Lastly, chores can limit playtime. Play is important for children to relax, grow healthy, and develop creativity. If a child spends most of their free time doing chores, they miss out on sports, hobbies, and forming friendships. Childhood is short, and it should not be filled with endless work.

Rebuttal

The opposing side says chores interrupt education, but if properly planned, chores actually teach time management.

If parents give reasonable tasks, they do not disturb schoolwork. Instead, they help children become organised.

They also argued that chores can be unfair or dangerous. But that is not a problem with chores themselves—it is a problem with how some parents misuse them.

We are debating whether children should do chores, not whether parents should overload them. With guidance and age-appropriate tasks, chores are safe and helpful.

They say chores reduce playtime. But children do not need the whole

day to play. Even a short time

is enough, and chores teach us balance. Life

will not always

be full of play, so learning responsibility early is important.

