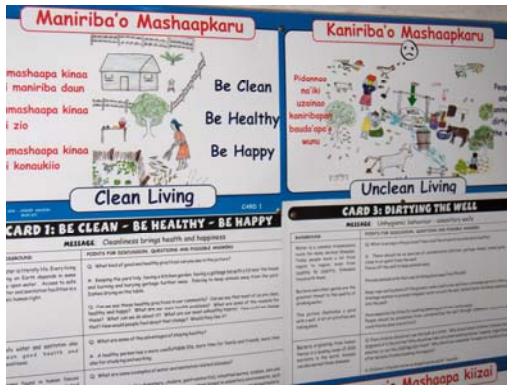


UNICEF and the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES), University of Guyana Team Up to Observe World Water Day 2007



“Children as Advocates for the Promotion and Conservation of Safe Water and Environmental Sanitation” was the compelling theme of the UNICEF funded WES in schools project to commemorate World Water Day 2007.

During a well structured programme using a power point presentation, exhibits of their in-school work, poetry and directing university students in testing for safe water, the 8 – 10 year old peer educators, together with their teachers and parents gave a convincing presentation to the academic community of the University of Guyana on the effectiveness of children advocates for instilling positive attitudes and practices in the society.



Utilizing the core of UNICEF Executive Director’s message for World Water Day 2007, the presentation skillfully highlighted the children’s achievements since UNICEF introduced the WES programme in their schools in 2005 and stressed that - advocacy; capacity building in school, home, community; water quality monitoring; regular monitoring through KAP studies; and genuine involvement of children - must be the requisites for the promotion and conservation of safe water.

The children and their teachers were extremely pleased that the SEES, University of Guyana had recognised the contributions they had made to their schools, and by extension, their communities. They were even more thrilled that the University of Guyana, by its gesture of making them the examples of change for the university community, was indeed contributing to changing the world with children.



Below are excerpts from the children’s compositions:

- ✚ An acrostic poem on water
- ✚ The head teacher’s impressions and a parent’s testimony of the impact of the project on the lives of “ordinary housewives”.

A group of secondary students who attended the project workshop



W is for water in its shining splendour
A is for the amount we use, abuse,
 waste at man's pleasure
T is for testing and examining before
 use
E is for ensuring that we dispose of it
 properly
R read instructions and get ready, use
 safe water steady

Water is Life

Don't waster the water it's running too
 fast
 Turn off your pipes so it will last
 Water pollution can kill you any day
 If you pollute the water a fine you will
 pay
 Water should be purified before use
 Boil, bleach, filter do not abuse

We like to drink water it is good for our
 bodies
 So sterilize it and get it ready
 We must drink water at least eight
 glasses a day
 So handle it properly without delay
 We have to do many things with water

So let us not falter
 We cook with water and clean almost
 everywhere
 So before we use it – learn precautions
 or beware



From the Head teacher

Benefits derived from the Children Advocates
 Children Advocates:

- Speak to their peers on aspects of water and sanitation management at Assembly once a week
- Ensure that peers turn off taps after use
- Report to the administration any leakages found
- Ensure that proper sanitary habits are adhered
- Advise parents and members of the community how to conserve water
- Responsible for water purification of the school
- Remind administration when water storage tanks in the yard need to be cleaned and when bleach should be added
- Responsible for placing posters about WES at strategic locations around the school
- Involved in essay, poetry, art and song writing competitions

From the Parent:

- The children showed us how to make the water safe
- Remind the rest of the family about good habits