



A Guide for Parents,
Educators, Caregivers,
Governments and all Adults

Involving Children from the Global south in Climate Action

Developed by Artslounge Literary Magazine, as part of
The Green we Left Behind Project
in partnership with parents for Future Nigeria

Introduction

According to Ann V. Sanson and Susie E. L. Burke in their online essay, *Climate Change and Children: an Issue of Intergenerational Justice*, ‘young people, especially disadvantaged children from the global south, are in double jeopardy and are at greater risk of climate change effects. The sadder thing is that these children are seen globally as victims of environmental threats, and less as powerful actors for change.’

These children have over the years been objects of pity, and have not been given adequate rights to contribute to climate change, fossil fuels eradication, and environmental preservation.

Children, especially children from the global south must be given the right climate change education and orientation, to help them manage their climate anxiety, while working towards climate mitigation and adaptation.

As young people who are to be guided, they sometimes rely on information from adults and their peers. It is therefore important that adults project the right information that will inspire children to act and speak for the climate.





**Here is a list of
what to do**

Get the Right Climate Education

Before you engage children on climate change issues, make sure to equip yourself with factual climate change education. Do not make assumptions or rely on what you think you know. There are thousands of people spreading the wrong information on climate and environmental issues, and you must be wary of propagating or becoming one of such people. Make your research and follow the right climate change spaces.

Initiate Climate Conversations

Don't assume that children anywhere in the world are unaware of climate change. They don't need to hear about it in a movie, or read about it in books before they become aware of it. They are core members of all human communities and they are aware of events happening around them. So, whether you are in an urban or rural settlement, you should initiate climate conversations. This will avail you the opportunity to know how much they already know about climate change, so that you can build upon their existing knowledge.

Model Positive Climate Behavior

It is easier for children to do what they see you doing, than it is for them to listen to, or practice what you say. Be a climate ambassador yourself. Adults in rural areas have more greenery to preserve and they must show a great level of commitment to protecting them.

Adults in more globalized spaces can plant trees, tend gardens, recycle things instead of turning them to trash, try to eradicate the use of fossil fuels and plastics, observe and protect their environment. It will help the children to take climate advocacy seriously, if they see that their parents, teachers, and other adults that they look up to are able to make time and prioritize keeping a healthy and safe environment.

Listen to Them

It is easy to overlook the contributions of children from underprivileged communities, or consider their experiences inconsequential. We might also be tempted to be too protective of them, since they are not the cause of the problem. However, ignoring them or what they are willing to contribute will only make them grow into adults who are irresponsible, who believe that their voices do not count. To take responsibility as adults, we should seek out their individual and collective voice. Ask random climate related questions and listen to them speak. Encourage them to share their stories, suggestions, opinions, recommendations, musings, prayers, desires, aspirations, inspirations, etc, on climate change, fossil fuel, nature and their environment, through whatever medium of expression is most adequate for them.

Involve them in Climate Advocacy

Whether it be in the rural or urban area, children should be involved in climate change advocacy. If campaigns and conferences are child friendly, take your children along when attending, and encourage them to participate in their age suitable activities.



Include Climate Oriented Programs in the Core and Extracurricular

curriculum planners and teachers should include climate change education in all suitable subjects, not just Geography. Schools can also infuse climate literacy and advocacy in their extracurricular activities. For instance, the school can hold a climate change themed debate, drama or sports, speeches, quizzes, competitions, etc. Schools can also go as far as introducing climate advocacy week, and tailoring the activities to what will interest and engage the students.



Involve them in Policy Making

While we involve children in climate advocacy and treat them as individuals who should take climate responsibilities, we should also remember that there's just about so much that individuals can do in influencing climate decisions. This is where policy making comes in. Governments of countries in the global south should involve children in policy making. Children might have certain policies that they wish would guide and affect the environment they live in. Such policies should be adopted.

Donate to Climate Change Programs and Campaigns

Because financial resources are insufficient in the global south, a lot of people cannot sustain or initiate certain climate friendly projects or campaigns. This affects the awareness and involvement of people in climate issues. The lesser the campaigns and projects, the lesser the number of children to be reached. Donating and sponsoring climate themed projects from the global south can be of great use to organizations and groups that engage children in climate activities.





Don't Do These

Act indifferent about climate change issues. Climate change issues are collective issues and we must all take responsibility.

Ignore the contributions of children.

Belittle the efforts of climate activists.

Overwhelm Children

As daring as climate change is, the world is not completely lost. There's so much we can do to save the planet and we should let them know that. The aim is to involve them in climate change mitigation and adaptation, not to induce climate anxiety in them.

Tell Lies About Climate Change

Avoid sharing false claims about climate change. Telling lies such as:

Climate change is a Western problem that should be handled by the West alone.

The world necessarily has to change and there is nothing we can do about it.

Climate change is God's punishment to mankind, and things similar to these can be damaging to the entire effort to curb climate change. Only say what is true and leave the rest.

In Summary

Don't just be a climate ambassador, make a climate ambassador.

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About Artslounge Literary Magazine

Artslounge Literary magazine limited is a literary outlet in Nigeria, that uses Literature and the Arts as tools of advocacy and activism. It has founded and organized numerous awards and prizes, as a means of promoting creativity, activism and literacy. It houses The Green we Left Behind, a climate mitigation, adaptation and awareness campaign that is based in Nigeria.

About Parents for Future Nigeria

Parents for future Nigeria ia an arm of Parents for Future Global. They amplify the efforts of parents and grandparents to see that Earth is condusive for children.

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