

USE FACE MASKS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS



Staff members at DAPP Dowa Teacher Training College are producing protective cloth face masks to be distributed to staff members and their families at the institution.

The development comes amid the viral Covid-19 pandemic which is spread through contact with droplets from mouth or nose of people who contracted the virus. As such, as one way of reducing the risk of contracting or spreading the virus, the use of face masks is being encouraged.

“As of 25 May 2020 we have managed to sew 687 pieces of facemasks. The materials are being supplied by DAPP National Headquarters Office and we will continue making the masks for all staff members and their families. So to make these masks we are using cotton cloths with a breathable stiff material inside,” explained Martha Mustafa a Tailoring Instructor at under DAPP



Dowa TTC Tailoring Satellite Centre.

Apart from encouraging the use of face masks, the institution has also secured placement of hand washing facilities around the premises.

The college is currently closed with student teachers at home following the closure of schools and colleges by the Government of Malawi after the World Health Organisation declared Covid-19 a pandemic.

CASE STORY - ELIZABETH MAKHAYA

Elizabeth Makhaya is one of the student teachers undergoing the training at Chilangoma Teacher Training College.

“I have been affected by the closure of the education institution following the Covid-19 pandemic. When the schools closed I was in my teaching practice semester at



Nasonjo primary school for 3 months where I was teaching in standard 5 with an enrollment of 72 learners.

Nonetheless, the closure of schools did not stop me from continued learning. I have been revising and solving tasks from our previous term at the college from the School Experience Journal. Back in school we were trained to be drivers in our education that is why I am still able to solve these tasks without a lecturer’s supervision.

Apart from working on my academic work, I have also taken the role of sensitizing the people around my village of the risks that the coronavirus poses and also the preventive measures.”

PASSIONATE FOR HER LEARNERS - TEMWA

Temwa Chilenga is a teacher at Chambu Primary school in Dzedza education zone in Lilongwe rural district who was trained at DAPP Dowa Teacher Training College in Dowa district.

She joined the teaching profession in 2015. Since taking her career path she has been actively involved not only in teaching but in community engagements while targeting school going children.

“I am a teacher at Chambu school and during my teaching career, I identified 53 learners from and around Ndadani village in Traditional Authority (T/A) Chitukula who dropped out from school due to lack of learning resources and money to pay as school development funds contributions” said Temwa.



Following the closure of schools by the Malawi government due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Temwa took an initiative to follow up on the learners she helped return and remain in school.

“I took it to myself that I need to keep these learners busy while they stayed home. Usually they go around in

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the township collecting plastic bottles or whatever they can lay their hands on to resale and make money,” she explained.

In order to keep the learners busy, Temwa decided to engage them in school work through delivering lessons to the learners three times in a week, then using the other two days for assessment and marking their work.

“What I have been doing is preparing lessons and tasks which I go around pasting in walls around the village for the learners to come and copy the work then I collect their work the following days to mark. I have seen this to be effective and eventually more children from the area started showing interest to join the sessions. You would notice there are five of us supporting these children now, two of them are my sisters who are in secondary school while the two others are my fellow teachers from the school,” she added.

Temwa started her initiative for the 53 learners which she took under her care. Fast forward with other learners showing interest in the learning exercise, there are over 170 children that have been coming to join the lessons. “I never expected that there would be so many children flocking to this place for the lessons, that is why I asked my fellow teachers and my sisters to come in and lend a hand. So basically what we are now doing is to have short learning sessions under the trees for shelter” she said.

Temwa and her colleagues prepare lessons which are presented on flipchart papers and pasted around the village for the learners.

She says it is her desire to keep the children busy while schools have closed other than idling.

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