



4 TH COHORT OF THE TUPEPEE 2 HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**The uncertainties of Adolescent Transition from
Primary to Secondary School**

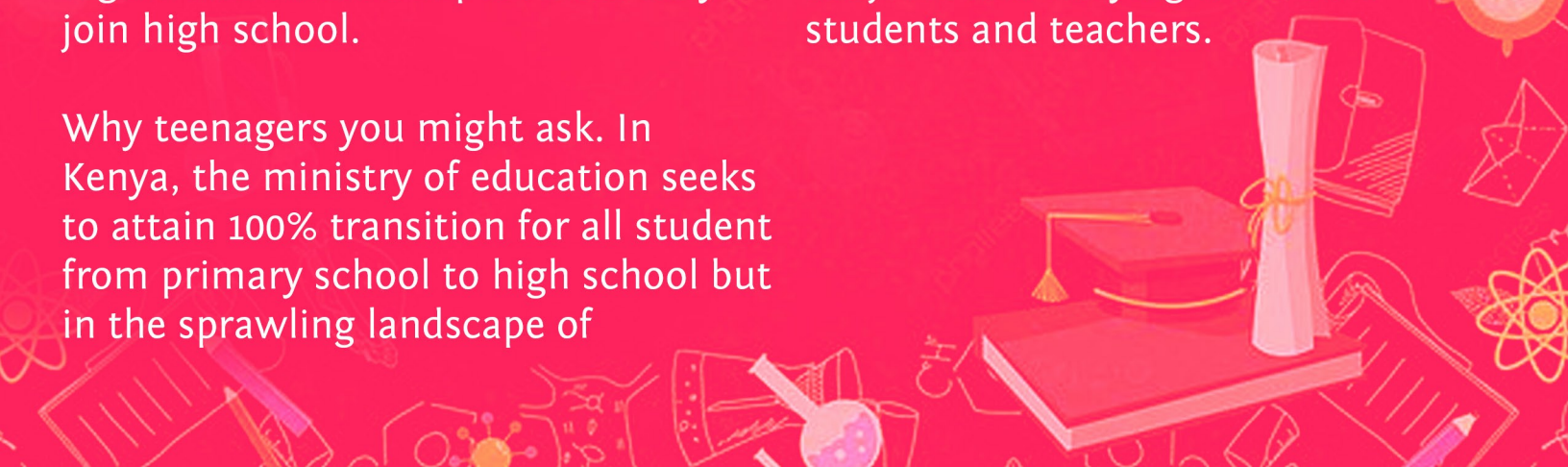


PPI just completed its 4th cohort of the Tupepee 2 High school program, a transitory one-day training for students transitioning from primary to high school held at Kagondo Secondary and Kwa Maina Thama Primary, in Laikipia 241 in-school and out-of-school adolescents.

The sessions, held on January 5 and January 6, 2024, aimed at preparing these youngsters for a seamless transition to high school and beyond. Covering crucial topics like personal hygiene, career goals, relationships, and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and what to expect once they join high school.

Why teenagers you might ask. In Kenya, the ministry of education seeks to attain 100% transition for all student from primary school to high school but in the sprawling landscape of

adolescence, the journey from the familiar grounds of primary school to the uncharted territories of secondary school is akin to stepping into a dense jungle – teeming with challenges, risks, and unexpected twists. As these young minds embark on this transformative journey, they find themselves vulnerable to many threats, ranging from negative peer pressure, exploitation and sexual abuse to the tempting allure of substance use. Students face high school ready to fail, with many biases having been imposed on them through scary stories of how they should expect extremely hard subjects and bullying from both students and teachers.



The societal expectations that come with getting initiated/circumcised for boys is also another aspect that makes them feel like showing a fear of the unexpected is a bad thing, their female counterparts too are busy handling the newly discovered attention they receive from their sudden blooming into young ladies.

Amidst the tangled vines of adolescence, romantic relationships emerge, and many teenagers may find themselves entangled in the web of relationships without fully understanding the complexities that lie ahead. The lush forest conceals the pitfalls of misunderstood expectations, possible teenage pregnancy/ early fatherhood and a possible end of their education from this that could impact their mental health and self-esteem negatively.

In this transition season, it is imperative for guardians, educators, and society to guide and equip adolescents with the knowledge and tools to navigate this terrain ensuring that they emerge from high school as resilient, empowered individuals ready to shape their futures.

PPI having recognized this gap from our interaction with in-school and out-of-school teenagers saw a need to prepare teenagers for high school. Bringing together mentor teachers, Nyandarua county children's officers and vibrant teenagers, had the students engage in fun and information packed sessions. The highlight of this cohort's sessions was the presence of Nyandarua county's miss tourism for the year 2023/24 and little miss sunshine pageant winner for 2023/24. Their presence served as a good example to the teenagers on



how talents can make careers. The students' excitement could not be hidden as they participated in a mock pageant that culminated in music and dance.

The 4th cohort of the Tupepee 2 High school sessions were climaxed with the girls receiving dignity packs containing 2 sanitary towel packs for each, to prepare them for the world of high school. The students expressed that they couldn't wait for the next Tupepee during which they promised to share the experiences they would have in high school.

Kagondo Primary

Boys	71
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Girls	66
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Thama Primary

Boys	69
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Girls	35
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My name is *Lilian*, I was in the second cohort of the Tupepee 2 high school program, and this training really helped me a lot because it prepared me for high school. I thought high school would be all about bullying and I was very scared, but Tupepee taught me about all the other aspects of high school and made me happy. I was happy to talk to the new cohort today and remind them just like I was reminded two years ago that I am important. Thank you Tupepee.

My name is *Mercy Nyawira*, and I am 14 years old. I am so happy to have participated in the Tupepee 2 high school program. I am joining high school soon and I am so happy that I learnt that when one goes to a school, they should be ready, be confident, work hard, stand their ground and have their own voice. I feel ready for high school.



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TO OPEN

https://youtu.be/znN2tltDZSY?si=_KfDkOHFkEcN0fXZ