

Welcome

As-Salaam-Alaikum!! This is an Arabic greeting which literally means peace be unto you. As you are aware this month on the 25th we celebrated Africa day and looking at Africa we see a lot of strife, hence we pray for peace. We are not African because we were born in Africa, we are African because Africa was born in us!! As Mai Charamba sang, it's time for Africa to restore her identity and be counted among the jewels of the world. All it takes is our collective efforts in making this continent great again! There is a great Ugandan proverb which says, "Parents give birth to the bodies of their children not necessarily their character!" Our question to you is who is molding your child's character? Where? How? Well we are not paragons of virtue but the Library sure is a great place to start wink wink. Cheers!!



Our newly re-designed child friendly reading areas.

STORY OF THE MONTH: Still a long way to appreciating Libraries

She rushed into the library in a huff, yanking a small boy by the scruff of his neck. She pulled open the door which was closed on account of weather and stood in the doorway glaring at us, her face a mask of anger. We exchanged glances and my colleague shifted uncomfortably on his chair (I'm sure he was calculating his escape route) another lady pushed her way into the Library another boy being pulled by the ear.

"Who is the owner of this Library?" She asked in a voice almost a shout. We looked at each other. It crossed my mind to name our patron, who by virtue of being the farthest in geographical terms would be the safest from the women who seemed eager to unleash hell.

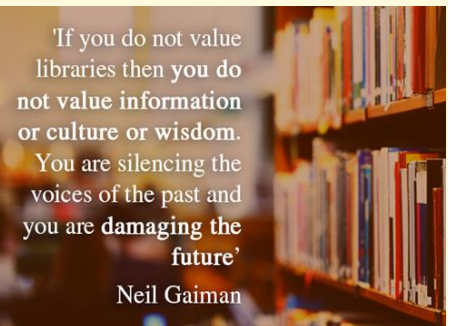
"How can I help you *vanamai*?" I asked, standing up, (just to be on the safe side).

"Hoo ndimi?" I nodded slowly. "Yes"

"Nhai munobvumidza twuvana twakadai kuuya pano-(do you allow such kids to come here)" This was around three in the afternoon and I saw nothing wrong but I did not communicate this to them.

"What exactly do you mean?" I asked, not sure I had understood them. "These boys have not come home yet and we thought they had been kidnapped, only to come and find them here. All of their classmates are home but they are still not home!" As part of the drive to improve literacy we launched a program where pupils can come, read books and do their homework after school, at no cost, only paying a minimal fee when they wanted to borrow books

The women explained to us that under no circumstances were we to allow their children at the library. "*anotsvagei pano?*" Ndakamutengera *matextbook ese egrade 3*" (What do they want here? I have bought them all textbooks), they shouted angrily. In a small voice, one of the children said "We come to read other books. mama."



'If you do not value libraries then you do not value information or culture or wisdom. You are silencing the voices of the past and you are damaging the future'

Neil Gaiman

The women left with their children. Our hearts bled for the children who had been deprived the chance to broaden their literacy and worldview through reading the amazing books we have at the Library. Providing books to children goes beyond just giving them textbooks for "grade 3" What about story books? What about character building books? What about interacting with others? Playing intellectual games? Explaining to them the real benefits of Library to their children was not possible as they left in a huff, just like they had arrived.

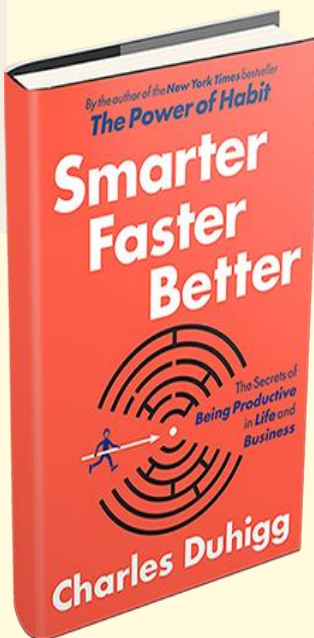
Evidently it showed us that we still have a long way to go before everyone starts to appreciate the privilege of having a library in their community.

Book Review: *Smarter, Faster, Better*- Charles Duhigg

One of the main reasons, I enjoy reading Charles Duhigg's books (well he only has two) is his use of stories which are cleverly written in a detective kind of suspense inducing way. And the icing on the cake is that these stories are not fiction or hearsay. They are real factual stories. You almost feel one with the victims of a plane which crashed as Duhigg takes you through the processes that took place in the cockpit minutes before the plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean.

The book is broken down into eight distinctive chapters which make up the concepts Duhigg believes are key to making someone both individual and/ or company more productive. Drawing on the latest findings in neuroscience, psychology, and behavioral economics—as well as the experiences of CEOs, educational reformers, four-star generals, FBI agents, airplane pilots, and Broadway songwriters—this painstakingly researched book explains that the most productive people, companies, and organizations don't merely act differently. They view the world, and their choices, in profoundly different ways.

Like any other self help book, it is also not immune to the practice of overemphasizing the obvious. Like on the story of imagining uncertainties, well we all know we live in an uncertain world don't we? I have to confess I like his first book *Power of Habit* better, but once again *Smarter Faster Better*, delivers everything it promises, it really reveals the secrets of being productive in life and business



The people in the stories all exhibit certain clear tenets; they know that productivity relies on making certain choices. The way we frame our daily decisions; the big ambitions we embrace and the easy goals we ignore; the cultures we establish as leaders to drive innovation; the way we interact with data: These are the things that separate the merely busy from the genuinely productive. To add to the stories, Duhigg also gives frequent quotes by professional psychologists and other eminent authorities in the field of how the human mind works, which adds the much needed scientific base to prove that the people in his stories were not just flukes.

In one of the stories, A Marine Corps general, faced with low morale among recruits, reimagines boot camp—and discovers that instilling a “bias toward action” can turn even the most directionless teenagers into self-motivating achievers. This was one lesson I found particularly engaging. Motivation is one of those well beat paths by many researchers but often it gets mired down in abstruse theories which then are as good as the paper they are printed on.

March Highlights



Our reader of the month is Panashe Gomba who read 5 books

Pupils at Shining star ECD center during the Library free reading session. (Left)

Reading to children has proven benefits. As Jesus said, “Let the little ones come to me” So too do we say at the Library (Right) Ruwa reads to children during the Saturday reading club



Thank You!

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