



How the lockdown affected my personal life and my education?

Essay by Emma

This pandemic has affected our lives and paused Ugandan students, me inclusive.

My name is Mfitundinda Emmanuel MUHIIRWA. I am currently studying Cartography at the Entebbe institute of survey and land management. In Juli 2021 I started my first semester.

In 2020 the lockdown lasted for over ten months. Starting from March 2020 and until January 2021 we were not allowed to leave our houses. In May 2021 we started experiencing a second wave of the pandemic. In response to that our president Museveni put Uganda under a sweeping lockdown that included shuttering of nearly all businesses, closure of schools and halting of traffic. This second lockdown was declared to last only 42 days. It seemed not be so long as the previous one. In September 2021 the president finally announced the general reopening of the markets, universities, churches and tertiary institutions.

For me this was a nightmare. My plan was to graduate within two years and then go for a bachelor in surveying. I wanted to start working and earn some money on my own as quickly as possible. As a young person I was excited to start my "university life". I hoped to enjoy being a student. I was looking forward to this new chapter of my life. Instead learning at the university and having fun with friends I was captured at home. My dreams were put on hold.

During the lockdown I have had enough time to refocus and consider how my life should be. I have thought about a lot of matters. For example: what is my place in the society, what kind of qualities in a friend am I searching for, how do I want to spend my time in

generally. I have found some answers to those questions and now I know what is important to me.

In December I am going to have my first exams. Until then I am trying to learn as much as possible. The subjects I am having in the first semester are mathematics, physics, cartography, land surveying, land valuation, physical planning, computer. I prepare myself for the exams by reading special books and handouts provided by the teacher, discussing with study colleagues or researching online. In November we should will be back at the university and will be attending physical classes. Then we will be having the assignment and exercises that were given to us from the lecturers corrected.

Also, I am having a lot of time with my brothers and sisters in Smile home. It has been fun being together during this whole time. We've got to know more about each other, even about our weaknesses. And we still love each other.

I would like to thank to all sponsors who raise money for us kids in Uganda. Because of your giving our lives are lightened up, our hopes are answered.

Dankeschön,
viele Grüße,

Emma