

SUFFERERS OF THEIR OWN DEEDS



Kondwa was an eleven year old girl. She was not happy, but ten years later she is always looking happy. “The weather has changed and it is cold in the month of August” she tells her friends. This is good news!

Ten years ago In the village, named Kazimbe, where she lived, women had always suffered when the time came to fetch firewood. “Mum has gone to fetch one bunch of firewood very early in the morning. It is one o’clock and mum has not yet returned”. Kondwa kept worrying about the problems in her village. Women could work all day long to get a single bunch of firewood. Water also was a problem as many wells were drying up in the summer. Irrigation was also needed in the dry season so we had to wake up very early to draw water from the wells.

Farmers in Kondwa’s village travelled a very long distance to Namanda River for winter cropping. They grew cabbages, tomatoes and maize (corn). Many had to wait in a long queue to wet their nursery beds and crops.

Kondwa had a very helpful teacher. Whenever she had a problem her teacher was responded to her questions. She told her teacher what happened in her village, the water shortages, travelling a long way to fetch firewood.

Kondwa’s teacher smiled at her. He told her that chiefs and their subjects suffer for their own deeds. They cut down trees ruthlessly, burn brick kilns, burn charcoal around the village and along river banks.

He told her that the current problems had come as a result of people's bad deeds. Kondwa asked her teacher if there was something they could do to solve the problems.

She was told that her community had to plant more trees than they cut down. Kondwa was happy with this. She knew that her poor mother would have not to toil for firewood so much. She told the chief and convinced him to make changes. The chief asked his subjects to plant some trees.

Ten years later Kondwa's village was back to what it used to be. Women were not waiting in long queues and firewood was fetched within the woodlots families had planted. Water could stay for the whole year without drying up the wells. There were happy faces!

Moral of the story:

Do you know some of the problems that people are suffering due to their own bad deeds?

The story teaches us to take care of Mother Nature.

Kondwa acted as a concerned citizen who managed to raise awareness of how to change the community.

Do we take part as concerned global citizens to protect and sustain our beautiful earth?

What other ways can we do to protect nature?