

Tanzania

School Classes

In Tanzanian schools, students remain in one classroom throughout the day while the teachers rotate. Tanzanian schools evaluate student grades based on performance on tests and exams. While homework may be given, it is not compulsory for the student and it will not contribute to the overall grade. Class participation is not encouraged nor regarded when grades are calculated. Muslim schools separate girls from boys while Christian schools are co-ed. Many Tanzanian parents are in direct contact with their children's school and are kept aware of their academic progress.

School Relationships

Students have a friendly but formal relationship with their teachers and address them using a title and last name.

Extracurricular Activities

Tanzanian schools may have a few extracurricular activities, and students will participate and often make friends through these activities.

School Rules

In Tanzania there is a "no cell phone policy" in schools, however the policy is not well enforced. Fighting is prohibited and punishment is strictly enforced.

Return

Returning YES Tanzanian students may have to take their national exam a couple of months after their return.

Family Life

In Tanzania, both the nuclear and the extended family live in the same house. It is very rare to have a household composed of just the parents and their children. In urban areas, both parents may work and may be mutually responsible financially for the support of their family. However, as a general rule, in most families the man works outside the home and the woman is a homemaker.

The father has primary authority in the Tanzanian family. In urban areas, or less traditional families, the mother may comment on family issues, but the final say still rests with the father.

Families usually eat together in Tanzania, however sometimes the father is served the best food before others are served. Teenage girls sometimes cook for themselves and for the family, but boys are generally not allowed in the kitchen and would not be allowed to cook.

Teen Life

In Tanzania, sharing is encouraged amongst teens as resources in most families are scarce. It is not always necessary to ask before using anything that someone else has. Individuals are encouraged to pursue their own activities in Tanzania, but tribal customs and the importance of family mean that students will typically spend the majority of time with their family and contributing to family activities.

Responsibilities

Some families assign duties to members of the family including the children, but not all. A lot of the work at home is done by a housekeeper or guard and the mother does most other work. Very few men do any family chores.

Parental Involvement

Teens tend to be very dependent on their parents in Tanzania. Most teenagers get their money from their parents and a very few teenagers earn their own money from petty trade. Some YES Tanzanian students are not used to managing their own money, and often struggle in budgeting. Most parents cannot monitor what the children do on the computer as they are not computer literate and very few families have an internet connection in their homes. Most students access internet services in internet cafes.



COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital: Dodoma

Population: 41,892,895

Area, sq. mi.: 365,755

Real GDP per capita: 1,400

Adult literacy rate: 78% (male); 62% (female)

Ethnic make-up: mainland - African 99% (of which 95% are Bantu consisting of more than 130 tribes), other 1% (consisting of Asian, European, and Arab); Zanzibar - Arab, African, mixed Arab and African

Religion: mainland - Christian 30%, Muslim 35%, indigenous beliefs 35%; Zanzibar - more than 99% Muslim

Pets

Very few families keep dogs and cats and they are not allowed into the house. They are fed outside the house and not close to people.

Personal Interactions

Mixed Gender Socializing

Girls and boys are kept apart in schools and mosques in Tanzanian Muslim culture. Co-ed socializing is accepted in Christian culture. As a general rule, though, students tend to socialize with students of the same sex.

Friendships

Tanzanian teenagers make many friends through families, schools and religious meetings. Sharing is encouraged and students even lend each other pocket money. Even a casual acquaintance may be considered a friend.

Communication Styles

Communication is typically indirect in Tanzania. Students typically will not show negative feelings to their parents but are freer around their peers. Teenagers sometimes communicate to their mother through aunts, uncles and grandparents, but typically not directly. Communication to their fathers may occur through their mothers.

Eye Contact

Eye contact is considered rude and disrespectful other than for some few modern families.

Personal Hygiene

It is generally thought to be unclean in Tanzania to wear the same clothes two days in a row or to wear them twice without washing, however many students do not have many clothes and some may repeat their clothing throughout the week. The school uniform must be clean and pressed every day for school and students will change clothes immediately upon returning home.

Students in Tanzania typically shower at least once a day if not more if they are from a hot and humid climate. Most teenagers do not have towels and rather they air dry. Keeping the bathroom clean and dry is not expected of teens in Tanzania.

Religion

Religious events can be a family and community event, or a personal one. It is not uncommon for family members to belong to different denominations or religions entirely. Muslim men typically go to the mosque every Friday.

Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are celebrated by both Muslims and Christians. Muslims go to the mosque and Christians take a bank holiday. Muslim students fast during the month of Ramadan