4002 EVC(Uganda) Design a children's playground in a healthy and green environment

Question: Can you design a green schoolyard with places where children can rest or talk or play together?

This assignment has been offered last year too. The school would still like your research on the matter.

Background and situation:

The John Fisher Institute is situated in Lira, a city in the north of Uganda.
The institute is a teacher's training institute and a school for primary education it was founded in 2012 after a long time of war.
The northern area of Uganda has suffered more than 20 years because of terrible cruelties by rebels under the lead of Joseph Koney the leader of a former guerrilla group.
Slowly the John Fisher Institute is expanding. The institute has built several classrooms, a library, an ICT department and a skills lab, administration offices and recently a new kitchen.
The primary school, across the high way, moved location in 2018.
The new primary school is now situated close to the John Fisher institute.
The campus of the primary school still resembles a construction site; unkept and empty.
The school building is set up as a U-form, a nice place for children to play or to take a rest.

Information about children's play

Every where in the world children play. It is their way of "being".
Playing is learning.
It is said that if children do not play, they are sick.

Playing is not just something of our time. An interesting fact is that not only children play, but also adults.
It is important for children to play. By playing children learn all kind of skills.
While playing children develop intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and they develop morals.

Cooperation with pupils in Uganda

Students and children of John Fisher but also children of the Hill City College (a college for secondary education near by John fisher Institute) are doing research on the environment in a so called "science club".
During this assignment you will work together with pupils and students of John Fisher and students of Hill City College.

<u>Desired End Product :</u>

Design a green schoolyard with places where children can rest or talk or play together.

1) Do research on the importance of play.
2) Create a design for a challenging (green!) playground and school yard.

* Before you design the playground you have to organise a Zoom/ Teams meeting in which you ask Ugandan students and teachers about their wishes.

Ad 1)
1) In this research you must describe the importance of play.
2) What type of games can you distinguish?
3) What is the psychological effect on children if they are not allowed or not able to play?
4) What does an attractive playground look like?

Ad 2)
1) Interview the Ugandan pupils about what kind of games they like to play outside.
2) Why do they play outside?
3) Which playground equipment do they like / liked most?
4) What would the student's preferred playground look like?
5) What materials are available/ affordable in Uganda? Keep in mind that the equipment should be durable.

Design a green schoolyard with places where children can rest or talk or play together. The playground has to be fun with space to play and there should be an option for students to grow their own vegetables, flowers and trees etc.

Keep the following in mind:

The schoolyard is just a sandy empty place at this moment.
There is a covered gallery in front of the classrooms.
Money is a problem.
Materials must be cheap and simple. (car tires, rope, wood, etc)
The design must be able to be being carried out by the local carpenter.
There will be a zoom meeting with pupils of John Fisher and/ or Hill City College about their ideas of a new school yard.
In case there are more assignments with good suggestions, the best design will be chosen by a jury of children of John Fisher. This design will be worked out.

Last but not least, take the sun, the tropical heat and the tropical rain seasons into consideration when you design the school yard.

Country: Uganda

City/village/region: Lira, North Uganda

Organisation: EVC

Task provider: Marja Verzijlberg

Contact: verzijlberg@xs4all.nl

Dutch School profile: NT, NG, EM, CM

Max. nr. teams: 3

Available: 2022-2023