

## CHAPTER THREE

### PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN KIBOSHO VILLAGE



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International call for 1997 Environment Day is:  
**MAZINGIRA NI UHAI (ENVIRONMENT IS LIFE).**

This chapter will dwell on day-to-day activities of a family in Kibosho and also will mention something on how they unthinkingly destroy the environment.

The community here in Kibosho is composed of:

- 1) Agriculturalists,
- 2) Practitioners of animal husbandry,
- 3) Technicians,
- 4) Businessmen, and
- 5) Civil Servants.

#### **AGRICULTURISTS**

There are two types of agricultural production, namely cash crop and food crop agriculture. Coffee (*coffea arabica*) is the main cash crop in Kibosho. The pruning and spraying is done mainly by men twice a year. The picking of coffee is done by the entire family. The crushing, which is a process of separating the beans from the outer cover, is done manually by a special type of machine. The peeled beans are then soaked in water for two days, and on the third day when all the sap is gone,

they are washed and dried and taken to a local cooperative marketing society to be sold. The money so obtained runs the affairs of the family. All the money is given to the head of the family, who has full control over it. The recent coffee disease has drastically affected output, and so proceeds from the sale are meagre.

It is the duty of the men to prune trees and banana (*Musa sp.*) plants. They usually start this job early in the morning before the sun becomes too hot, and in the afternoon they retire to their homes or go for a walk. They like to visit local pubs, where they mingle with others while sipping a local brew known as "Mbege". They sometimes take their wives along or go alone.

The women's duty is to do all household chores, clean the cow shed, and make sure the animals are fed well, as here zero-grazing is in practice. They also look after the farms. Each household has two farms. One is next to the residence, and the other in the lowland, far away from home. The farm away from home is tilled once a year, and only maize and beans are grown. The one next to the homestead is planted in bananas, and during other times of the year, depending on the rain, maize and beans are grown. There are also vegetable gardens. Once a banana plant reaches a certain height, it has to be supported by a special type of wood support which is branched at the top (nshii). This job is done by men. In Kibosho there are twenty five types of bananas, namely: mchare, mkonosi, ndishi, mnanambo, kitarasa, mlali, kisukari, mzuzu, matoke, mbowo, kiukanda, and kimalindi, etc. All these types of bananas grow together with coffee plants and yam plants known as 'nduu', 'shia', etc.

This type of mixed farming thrives well because there is plenty of water and cow dung which serves as natural manure. The bananas are for food and commercial purposes. When ripe they are sold. The ripe bananas are the main ingredients in making the local brew. During the dry season, the ripe bananas sell like hot cakes as they are scarce, and so the prices soar, but during the rainy season they are in abundance and the price goes down to the extent that they are even used as manure.

In order to subsidize their income, the men fell trees for timber and women collect firewood in the forest, thus destroying the environment without knowing. It is the custom of Kibosho women to rest completely for three months after delivery and eat a special diet. The men do all the household chores, assisted by other members of the family.

### **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

Animals that are reared are: cows, goats, sheep, and pigs. There are no open grounds for them to feed, so the livestock keepers practise zero-grazing. The milking is done by women and feeding is shared by both. The by-products obtained from these animals are first used by the family and the excess is sold to augment family income. As this is sometimes not enough, the men resort to petty business like carpentry, masonry etc. On the other hand, the women do tailoring or weaving. All this is done to subsidize their income. A few have butcheries, shops, or own pubs. However, this type of venture needs a lot of investment, which not many can afford.

### **TECHNICIANS, BUSINESSMEN, AND CIVIL SERVANTS**

This category of people usually comprises the elite class. They normally work in towns and cities and come to visit their families only during holidays.

### **CHILDREN'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN KIBOSHO VILLAGE**

The children in this Division are taught good manners, language, and culture while still very young. As they grow up, they are taught small household chores and sent on errands, as there are no means of communication in the village. They are sent to school at a tender age, and after finishing primary education they either remain with their parents and get married or are sent for further studies to secondary schools. After finishing secondary school, they either take vocational training, or attend a University, depending on their ability. Sometimes those who are not lucky enough to go for further studies, are either employed as housemaids or run petty businesses.