

PAIDA ~ HOW I BECAME THE CULTURE AMBASSADOR

My name is Paidamoyo Chiyangwa a student from Mukombami High School. I grew up with my parents in Mabelreign and more of our people are in Mrehwa Goromonzi under Chief Chikwaka

Growing up, I was used to city life like the chores that we did, the food we ate and the friendships we had with others was just so different from what I learned when my friend Alice Dzikiti and I visited her grandmother Maria Dzikiti and husband in Mt Darwin which is very far from Harare and we had to stay with them for about three weeks.



Figure 1. Maria Dzikiti 67 Years old lady in MT DARWIN.

During our stay the first thing that Mrs Dzikiti taught us was how to grow some of these crops, village chores like sweeping the yard, fetching water and firewood, putting on tied cloth on our heads which we call HATA to reduce the pain our heads.

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We also got a chance to grow and water vegetables in her garden where she had designed some pits to harvest water and used manure from livestock waste to feed her crops instead of using chemicals and fertilizers which she explained how health it is.



Figure 2. Paidamoyo Chiyangwa from Murehwa Goromonzi representing Fambidzanai

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Figure 3. Paidamoyo Chiyangwa from Murehwa representing Fambidzanai

We were also taught to grind and crush peanuts to produce peanut butter using maduri and huyo as well as marusero to sieve grains, which was indeed interesting although not easy.

Most interesting Mrs Dzikiti would have time with us as girls mixing us with the other village girls and counselling us to have good morals at times we would even eat in the same plate which was meant to teach us to love one another and remove bitterness.

Honestly my visit to Mt Darwin was indeed a great and amazing experience for me as I learned what it is to be called a girl child, especially what I am expected to do as a girl child which has built the person I am right now. I am now able to create my own garden and grow something tangible at my place I have implemented the ideas Gogo Dzikiti taught us. Now I am an expert in cultural things I am able to prepare cultural dishes, mould cultural pots and some other stuff which is the greatest change of my mindset as well as me physically thanks to that three weeks visit it changed my life forever.

And yes, it is indeed having a great impact to the process that we are going through in the organisation that we have joined called Fambidzanai where we are taught some of these skills especially farming, designing beds that have high water holding capacity which is making the processes more interesting.