

Learning by Ear – Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea

Episode 08 “School’s-in”

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Scene	Characters	
1	1. SAM	SAM – 17, m. MARIA – 43, f.
	2. CHEMU	
	3. NARRATOR	
2	1. SAM	Edith – 40, f. EDDI – 36, m.
	2. CHEMU	
3	1. SAM	DR SALLY – 34, f. CHEMU – 15, f. NARRATOR
	2. CHEMU	
	3. EDDI	
	4. NARRATOR	

INTRO

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

01. NARRATOR HELLO AND WELCOME TO EPISODE
EIGHT OF THE “LEARNING BY EAR”
SERIES ABOUT **HYGIENE AND**
DIARRHOEA. IN THE LAST EPISODE SAM
AND CHEMU EXPLAINED TO THEIR
MOTHERS ABOUT HANDLING FOOD
HYGIENICALLY. AND TOGETHER THEY
VISITED A HOSPITAL WHERE THEY ALL
GOT TESTED FOR THE BACTERIA AND
PARASITES THAT CAUSE DIARRHOEA.

LET US NOW LEARN ABOUT HOW THEY
TRY TO DO MORE AT SCHOOL TO AVOID
THE SPREAD OF DIARRHOEA, - STILL ONE
OF THE MAJOR KILLERS OF CHILDREN IN
AFRICA.

SCENE 1: SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOOL

02. SFX SCHOOL PLAY GROUND NOISES

03. SAM (shouting over the noise) Chemu...
Chemu....over here

- 04. CHEMU** **(excited)** Sam! What are you doing on this side of the school? You should be in your compound.
- 05. SAM** **(Closer)** I came to see you... you know, I have just come from our latrines and you know... I got worried.
- 06. CHEMU** What now... Are you ok, you are shooting snakes again?
- 07. SAM & CHEMU (laughing at the joke)**
- 08. SAM** Come, don't be silly, I am a very healthy person now!
- 09. CHEMU** So, what about your latrines... me... I know what is wrong with our latrines.
- 10. SAM** Flies!
- 11. CHEMU** **(firmly)** Yes, there are flies everywhere. Flies inside the pit latrine hole, flies on the walls, flies outside.. flies on our clothes.. flies, flies and more flies. Maggots on the floor, cockroaches, all the nasty stuff...
- 12. SAM** And you know what, Chemu, those latrines are not very far from the grounds where we eat our food.

- 13. CHEMU** That is also very true.
- 14. SAM** I was thinking about what we learned from Uncle Eddi about the diarrhoea bacteria, parasites and intestinal eggs being passed on by flies.
- 15. CHEMU** We must do something.
- 16. SAM** And we must do it immediately. Am so worried for all of us in the school. And to imagine we have always being exposed to this danger and did not know!
- 17. CHEMU** I am also worried about our families, friends and all those people we encounter after school.
- 18. SAM** **(sadly)** I am worried Chemu, you never know, maybe I am the one who passed on these parasites from our toilets to my baby sister Fatu.
- 19. CHEMU** **(warmly comforting)** No, Sam, please do not think like that. Baby Fatu could have picked the parasites from ... from...anywhere, even from the fruits from the market. She could have been the one who gave it to you.....
- 20. SAM** Well.... I can't stop wondering... you know...

- 21. CHEMU** Let’s think forward. Let’s forget the sad past.
 May Baby Fatu rest in peace.
- 22. SAM** **(happier)** Let’s do this for Baby Fatu!
- 23. CHEMU** What?
- 24. SAM** Clean up the latrines.. silly you.. That is what
 we are talking about. Meet me at your latrines
 during the break.
- 25. CHEMU** Our latrines?
- 26. SAM** Yes.. let us first do a ... well... a survey of
 what needs to be done.... then...
- 27. SFX BELL RINGS**
- 28. SAM** Oh, there goes the bell.
- 29. CHEMU** See you at the break.
- 30. SAM** See you at the latrines.

31. NARRATOR WELL, FOR THESE YOUNG FRIENDS, MEETING AT THE PIT LATRINES CAN NOT BE THE MOST EXCITING THING IN THE WORLD. BUT THE TWO ARE GETTING MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE OBVIOUS NON-HYGIENIC PRACTISES THAT EXPOSE US TO DIARRHOEA. LET’S SEE WHAT THESE TWO MANAGE TO ACHIEVE WHEN THEY MEET DURING NEXT BREAK...

SCENE 2: AT THE PIT LATRINES

32. SFX: MANY FLIES BUZZING. A DOOR CREEKS PAINFULLY. FLIES BUZZ GETS EVERY LOUD AND CONTINUES

33. CHEMU Oh no.. this is a fly invasion. Look at them.. they are everywhere.

34. SAM On the floor, on the wall... on the ceiling...and on your clothes.

35. SFX: RUSTLE OF CLOTHES

36. CHEMU (**panic**).. Ooh no.. .go away.. go away you bad flies.... You will give me diarrhoea.

37. SAM (laughing) You are talking to them like they can hear you.... Maybe we should make them go away.

38. CHEMU How?

39. SAM I think we have to get help from Uncle Eddi. He is a Health Community Worker, remember? He will know what to do.

BRIDGE MUSIC

SCENE 3: SCHOOL LATRINES

40. NARRATOR SURE ENOUGH, THE FOLLOWING DAY, UNCLE EDDI ACCOMPANIES THE TWO TO THEIR SCHOOL. INDEED, AS A HEALTH COMMUNITY OFFICER, EDDI IS MORE THAN WILLING TO ASSIST.

41. SFX: MANY FLIES BUZZING. A DOOR CREEKS PAINFULLY. FLIES BUZZ GETS EVERY LOUD AND CONTINUES

42. EDDI Oh, oh. I see what you mean. This is a major source of disease. About how many students use these pit latrines?

43. SAM Three hundred from my side of the school.

- 44. CHEMU** Many more from my side. **(spits loudly)** I nearly swallowed one... let’s get out of here.
- 45. SAM** Yes, the smell is unbearable.
- 46. SFX: CREEKS AS DOOR CLOSSES. FLY BUZZ DIES OFF**
- 47. CHEMU** Now, that’s better. I can talk with my mouth open now!
- 48. EDDI** Yes, it’s bad in there. Now, can you imagine if half of the students get infected and they go home and infect their family members? How many people could be infected in say two months?
- 49. SAM** **(worried)** Tch tch tch...tch... this is disaster waiting to happen.
- 50. CHEMU** It is. Tell us Uncle Eddi, after a person gets the infection from these flies, does the diarrhoea start immediately? Can someone have the parasites but still look healthy?
- 51. EDDI** No, it is not immediate. It takes 4 – 7 days. It depends on different individuals and their current state of health, their resistance and many other issues. However, with children, it takes effect very very quickly.

- 52. SAM** Like it happened with Baby Fatu.
- 53. EDDI** Yes, like it happened with Baby Fatu.
- 54. CHEMU** Then we must stop this happening. Uncle Eddi, how do we stop these flies? We can't close down the pit latrines. The school needs them.
- 55. EDDI** We can advise the school on how to manage pit latrines.
- 56. SAM** How should pit latrines be managed?
- 57. EDDI** First the latrines must be cleaned more than once a day. The people who do the cleaning must wear protective clothing such as gloves.
- 58. CHEMU** What about when we have no water? We don't always have water at school.
- 59. EDDI** Many schools do not have a constant source of water. Then, you must get ash and spread it on the latrine floors.
- 60. SAM** Ash... ash as in fireplace..ash? This reminds me of Auntie Maria's ash bananas she wanted to feed me when I was ill! Are you sure?

- 61. EDDI** Ok, Sam, the ash bananas wouldn't have helped you then. But this time, ash is of great help. You see, some of these toilets are not cemented. The ones with cemented floors can be washed with water regularly.
- 62. CHEMU** And the un-cemented ones?
- 63. EDDI** That is where the ash comes in. You spread a thin layer of ash on the floor overnight and sweep it off first thing in the morning.
- 64. SAM** But, why ash?
- 65. EDDI** The thin layer of ash suffocates the fly maggots, hence decreasing the number of flies. But it must be cleared away before the toilets are used. If the ash gets wet with urine, it can also help germs to spread! So, we must be careful.
- 66. CHEMU** You said we should wash the concrete floors. Most of the time though, we do not have enough water.
- 67. EDDI** I suggest that the students each bring a small bottle of water. With that water you can clean the floors with long-handled brooms and mops.

- 68. CHEMU** Mops?
- 69. EDDI** Yes, but the mops should never be wringed by hand! One more thing, the pit of the latrine must be covered when not in use.
- 70. SAM** But Uncle Eddi, how do you cover it?
- 71. EDDI** We can ask the school to make long wooden-handled covers. They are easy and cheap to make.
- 72. SAM** Oh my.. Uncle Eddi, there is so much to learn.
- 73. CHEMU** My head aches with all this information.
- 74. EDDI** It would seem that way, but these are simple tasks that can be done routinely in our lives. Now let’s go talk to the school administration.
- 75. CHEMU** Right. This way then...
- 76. EDDI** But we have forgotten one important thing.
- 77. SAM** What’s that?

- 78. EDDI** A place near the latrines where the students can wash their hands with soap after toilet use. Where there is no tap water, the school can provide a container with a tap. Leaky tins may be used where containers with taps are not available.
- 79. CHEMU** A leaky container?
- 80. EDDI** Yes, like puncturing holes with a tiny nail at the bottom of a tin. These can be hung on a tree near the latrines.
- 81. SAM** But all the water will then get lost.
- 82. EDDI** Good thinking. You can use a stopper with a small pointed stick like a tooth pick to stop the water from coming out. The idea is you remove the stick stopper, wash hands and then put it back in place.
- 83. CHEMU** **(laughing)** This is so cool. Then, we can all sing the ‘wash hands’ song. **CHEMU HUMS THE ‘WASH YOUR HANDS’ SONG**

OUTRO

84. NARRATOR

IS IT NOT AMAZING HOW SIMPLE SOLUTIONS CAN HELP AVERT HEALTH DISASTERS. IF ONLY WE CAN MAKE THEM PART OF OUR DAILY ROUTINE.

DURING ALL THIS SAM AND CHEMU'S FRIENDSHIP IS GROWING STRONGER AND IT IS AN IMPORTANT FRIENDSHIP THAT WILL HELP OTHERS. THROUGH THEM, HYGIENE BOTH AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME WILL BE POTENTIALLY GREATLY IMPROVED.

THEY HAVE BECOME MISSIONARIES OF GOOD HYGIENE. AS THEIR JOURNEY CONTINUES, WHERE WILL THEY TAKE US NEXT?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND STORIES AND IF YOU WANT TO SEND US YOUR COMMENTS, THEN VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.dw-world.de/lbe . AND DON'T FORGET TO TUNE IN AGAIN NEXT TIME! BYE.