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For assignment Two

Topic Two. Goal Four: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

1. What do you think are the entry points for achieving this goal in your host country?
2. What recommendations would you make for achieving this goal in your host country?
3. How do you believe that goal four relates to goal five, "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"?

Length: Approx 500-1000 words

Due Date: March 31st, 2016

In order to look at possible entry points for achieving inclusive and equitable quality education in Tanzania, I think it's important to first celebrate the recent successes Tanzania has achieved. John Magufuli, who is Tanzania's newest president, has promised children free education from kindergarten to secondary school. He has promised to overhaul the education sector and double the allocation to schools. Tanzania abolished annual fees for primary schools in 2002 and will do the same for secondary schools this year. Clearly, student fees are a major stumbling block preventing many students from accessing education and this will obviously encourage and increase enrolment rates.

Since being in Tanzania, I have talked with neighbors, coworkers, and community members and it has become apparent that education is well recognized as a tool to improve livelihoods, economies, and health. But school fees are not the only barriers that families face when deciding to send their children to school. Some other factors that I see that can be major barriers for families here in Tarime are place of residence, quality of education, the gendered division of labor, and the opportunity costs of time spent at school. Even when school fees are paid for by the government, it becomes clear that poverty still has major implications on families and the accessibility to formal education. Working towards the eradication of poverty amongst families is part of the process, you can't just provide free education, you need to provide support systems for families so that they can get their children to schools without feeling a huge burden at home.

I believe that part of that support could take the form of adult education, which is commonly a demographic that gets forgotten about in the education sector. Yes, it's imperative that we think about the future but what about the people that are raising these future leaders, teachers, and entrepreneurs? I think it's important to note that not all education has to be in a classroom; formal education though important might not be a solution for the pressing immediate socio-economic problems families are facing. For adults, there is a need for more investment into diversified programs that address other aspects of people's lives like agriculture, health, HIV/AIDS, leadership, and income generating skills. The only way to bridge this critical gap is for communities, organizations, and governments to work together to pool resources and implement creative, innovative, productive programs to educate the people that are raising families.

Research has proven that education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth, combats diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and reduces child marriage. Great progress in Tanzania has been achieved by eliminating school fees in state schools. Though a special focus needs to be given to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups which include women for Tanzania to reach its full potential. Just like in most places around the globe, in Tarime, Tanzanian girls are at much higher risk than boys of dropping out of school for a number of factors. The Children's Dignity Forum, the organization in which I am working, is a human rights organization that advocates on issues around child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). In learning about all the great work the organization is doing out in the field it has become so obvious how education and those issues are so intrinsically connected. In order for girls and women to reach their full potential they must have access to inclusive, quality education which is a very powerful tool in the fight to eradicate child marriage, FGM, and gender based violence.