

The Sustainable Development Goals require a firm commitment from government to fulfil its duty to citizens by facilitating a framework for nations to flourish. The SDG's can only be met if nations are not entrenched in bureaucratic processes and rampant with clandestine dealings of political corruption, which aim to benefit an elite few, while leaving others behind. Where there is an unstable economy, vast inequalities, lack of female participation in the workforce, lack of job security, a high disease burden; sustainable development will not come to fruition and business as usual will persist. If the status quo is set to stay in place, existing social inequalities will widen and millions will be displaced because of climate change, this will inevitably bring instability, conflict and economic hardship. Government should think differently about what it means to create a socially inclusive environment for all citizens, and what incentives it can provide to members of civil society, academia and businesses in terms of how to promote sustainable growth and resiliency. Some programs to think about and implement, in Zambia, for example should be accessible and non-discriminatory educational curriculum, infrastructural development, fair law enforcement, democracy, provision of clean water and power, and social protection for the vulnerable members of society.

Sustainable Development is one of the largest challenges of our generation and preeminently requires a clinical approach for each nation to progressively achieve development. In the case of Zambia, an integrated approach towards sustainable development requires significant investment in human capital. Zambia, is a country with a wealth of natural resources and vast potential for economic growth. As such, some goals that are interconnected are goals #3, #4, the promotion of quality education and goal #8, decent work and economic growth. This is a difficult goal to reach as the prioritization system for government is more focused skewed towards infrastructural investment, rather than broad investments in human capital, which in the long term will provide the country with a host of opportunities for endogenous growth. One is lead to believe that this is a sort of "horse-before the cart" mentality (a strategy focused on quick convergence into the global economic marketplace) rather than focusing on the conditions to foster this sort of growth from within. A holistic, investment in educational advancement and good health for the urban and rural disadvantaged population would be a catalyst for reducing inequalities and promoting growth and as such can encourage decent work and economic growth and as such lead to reduced inequalities.

This viewpoint is widely acknowledged, and advocated for, by Jeffery Sachs in his novel, *The End of Poverty*. The life-cycle approach to development which is a movement towards a more inclusive, environmentally friendly and economically viable future, claims that, the abilities of individuals depends on a cumulative process of good health, access to quality education and a safe, stress-free environment for children. Early stages of life matter the most and bad health and poor nutrition can set up the conditions that will transmit for generations. Investments made early on in a child's life, especially in terms of early childhood education and proper nutrition, yield a far higher return on investment than those that are made later on. If broad investments are made in these realms, then this will set up the necessary conditions to facilitate positive and inclusive growth. Access to quality education for all, levels the playing field, so that all children will have an equal chance to contribute to a sustainable future. Investment in good health and well being for all will produce a healthy workforce, with a lowered disease burden and more opportunities for economic progress that is not stifled by a sickly population which is often taking time off because of sickness.

By enforcing and implementing policies at the governmental level which encourage children to stay in school by offering incentives, and by providing maternal and early childhood development assistance would be the greatest step towards achieving sustainable development. With a well equipped, educated and healthy workforce, economic development can surely follow, given that the government facilitates and fulfils its duties to provide citizens with proper infrastructural investments and creates the proper environment for flourishing business and foreign direct investments. In the case of Zambia, this is of particular importance as enrolment in primary education is at 100% but attendance levels tend to drop off in secondary and post-secondary school as families can no longer afford to pay the fees, or children see their potential being stifled because traditionally held values surrounding gender. Universities are breeding grounds for research, technology and development and can surely encourage the endogenous growth that Zambia is in need of.

SDG's must focus on secondary and tertiary education to equip countries with the skilled workforce for increased economic development. Herein lies the interconnectedness of two key factors for endogenous development, quality education and industry, innovation and infrastructure. When there is investment in the health and well-being of citizens and faith in governance systems to provide services for all citizens regardless of social status, then a more inclusive society will flourish.

In sum, the interrelated goals of sustainable development must see a heavy investment in Human Capital within Zambia in order for the aims of development to bear fruit and create a more equitable society. If access to quality education is fostered alongside infrastructural investment in energy, roads and sanitation, the untapped potential of the Zambian citizenry can begin to be utilized effectively and begin on a path to self-determined sustainable development that is inclusive, economically viable and facilitates meaningful work within planetary boundaries.