

### Youth Voice in Development Assignment #3

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Choose two or three of the Sustainable Development Goals and discuss, based on observations you've made during your internship and other experience/knowledge, how they interconnect with one another, and how this impacts how the goals should be addressed.

Length: 500-1000 words

Due date: August 31st, 2016

Based on the understanding I have gained pertaining to Tanzania's economy, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to "promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all" (Goal #8) is complex and highly interconnected with gender inequality. The SDG to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" (Goal #5) directly ties in with the aim to see inclusive economic growth, ensuring women and girls are given equal opportunities to earn, contribute to their local economy and improve their livelihoods.

Tanzania hosts a large informal sector, which is characterized by instability, vulnerability, insecurity and inequality. In comparison to the number of men that make up the formal economy, women are highly overrepresented in the informal sector. Also in comparison to men, women are largely burdened with lower-earning, lower-skilled, unstable work activities, making them more vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation, poverty and Gender-based Violence. Women receive less education opportunities than men, which is part of the explanation for this disparity. Another factor is found in laws that inhibit a woman from inheriting land and claiming assets after her husband has passed away. In response to these issues measures must be taken to incorporating proven approaches that successfully break down harmful cultural norms that value male education as a higher priority than female education. Moreover, men and boys must be engaged in women's rights education to become advocates for girls and women and upholders of ensuring women are granted equal treatment in education and employment opportunities.

Efforts that are proven to increasing women's collective power to advocate for policy and law changes that protect their rights to access land, resources, capital and assets should also be a key approach to ensuring inclusive economic growth.

And despite the recent assertion by the country's president that encouraged population growth for the reason of free education, sustainable economic growth cannot be actualized unless reproductive rights of women becomes a forefront action on the country's agenda. Already failing to meet the health, education and employment needs of a population of over 50 million due to limited resources and capacity of services, Tanzania must meet its growing population head on to ensure a sustainable future.

Reproductive education and access to reproductive rights represents a huge area of opportunity to improve the country's conditions across levels of economic growth, human rights and sustainability. Issues currently facing the country such as lack of health resources, food insecurity, poor quality education are only exacerbated with increasing population pressures. And despite the impressive current economic growth rate of the country, this incline will not last long when the population burden inevitable catches up if measures are not put in place to ensure women are afforded their reproductive rights. The spread of reproductive rights education and access would not only decrease the population burden of the country- increasing food security and distribution of services- it would also allow women to receive more education and contribute to economic growth as women represent a major source of human capital power.

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