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An Introduction to the Sustainable Developmental Goals through the lens of Dewroze

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Introduction

The following interactive discussion questions are based on a fictional animated storyline by Chapter 1 of the third edition of *An Introduction to Global Health*. The animated storyline and questions are intended to provide students with the opportunity to understand global health, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and barriers related to the social determinants of health, in the context of a developing country.

Students will be introduced to the fictional village of Dewroze where they will learn how poverty shapes vulnerabilities that lead to health inequities. In this village, students will meet Ada, Ada's father, Ada's mother who is pregnant, Zaineb, and some of the health challenges they face.



There are questions for each of the five modules of the storyline as well as general reflection questions at the end. To answer the questions associated with the animated storyline, students will be required to explore external resources linked in the questions and integrate the acquired information with that available in the storyline. In some instances, students may also need to conduct independent research to learn more about a concept or topic to answer the questions adequately. Before watching the video, students are encouraged to read Chapter 1 of *An Introduction to Global Health, 3rd edition*.

Module 1: Introducing Dewroze



Dewroze is a small village in the north east of Saharanza, it has a population size of approximately 5000 people. A large number of the villagers moved to the nearby city of Karadan, to escape the high poverty rate of Dewroze. Most villagers in Saharanza are small holder farmers, Dewroze is among the most underdeveloped villages in Saharanza.

With one United Nations operated clinic and two primary schools built by an international aid organization, the clinic and the schools are highly understaffed, with a scarcity of resources. The clinic runs every day from 9 am – 5pm, there is only one doctor who visits the clinic but only twice per week. The remainder of the time the clinic is run by two members of the village, who received training from the doctor, but they cannot treat serious cases.

Patients with serious cases have to wait until Wednesdays and Thursdays, when the doctor from the nearby city visits the clinic. The school is run by trained local villagers, who teach children from the village, mathematics, reading and writing.

Ada asked her mom when she could go back to school and her mother, Zaineb said she could not go back to school as she had heard the other women in the village talking about a little girl who was kidnapped by the rebels on her way from school. This resulted in the headmaster closing the school and warning the parents not to send their children to school anymore as it is not safe.

Questions

1. Dewroze only has one United Nations operated clinic, which struggles with understaffing, scarcity of resources, and limited operation hours. The lack of proper healthcare is negatively impacting the health of Ada's family and the citizens of Dewroze. The Political Economy of Health framework enables understanding of the political, economic, social and historical factors and processes that shape health and illness. The interconnected determinants of health operate at multiple levels, like individual, household and community, and national and global. Outline how the determinants of health at each level can be leveraged to address healthcare challenges and barriers in Dewroze.
2. Ada's inability to attend school (SDG 4) is closely related to the political unrest in Dewroze (SDG 16). Interactions between SDGs can be positively correlated (i.e., progress or limitations in one SDG are associated with progress or limitations in another SDG) or negatively correlated (i.e., progress in one SDG can hinder progress in another SDG).
 - a. How does a negative change in peace, justice and strong institutions impact the quality of education in Dewroze? (Hint: Feel free to refer to the SDGs here <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)
 - b. How do you think Ada's inability to attend school may impact her in the future?
 - c. In Dewroze, do you think the interaction between SDG 4 and SDG 16 is positively correlated or negatively correlated?

Module 2: Ada and her family in Dewroze

Ada is a twelve-year old girl living in Dewroze, she lives in a small tin house, with her mom, dad, one brother and two sisters. Ada hasn't been to school for the past 12 months, as a result of school closures in the village. In 2016, an interstate conflict took place among rival gangs, who were fighting to get control over the government. the country has experienced political unrest and gang violence for over a decade now.

Since the school closed down, Ada had been faithfully staying by her mother's side, assisting her with household chores and cooking. She approached her mother with a hopeful request, "Mother, could we please keep the lamp on after dinner so I can read to Layla?" Ada pleaded.

Zaineb, Ada's mother, gently shook her head and responded, "No, my dear. We need to conserve the kerosene so that we can rely on the lamp for the rest of the month. Your father mentioned that things are becoming increasingly expensive, so we must be cautious."

Ada's eyes shimmered with curiosity as she continued, "But Mother, last year at school, I learned about something called solar power that the city people were planning to bring. My teacher told me that we wouldn't need lamps anymore. What do you know about solar power, Mother?"

Zaineb sighed; "Ada, I don't believe we'll be receiving any assistance from the city anytime soon. People are reluctant to travel here due to the ongoing conflicts. There's just too much fighting. We'll have to patiently wait for the war to end, and perhaps then, the people from the city will come to our aid."



Ada's mom Zaineb, is six months pregnant, she married Ada's father Chido when she was fifteen years old. Zaineb was not able to go to school, as her parents did not feel safe sending her to walk five kilometers to school. Lately, Ada's mom has been feeling weak and tired due to her anemia, she has been skipping meals in order to leave enough food for her children and husband, who is the sole breadwinner.

The clinic has been closed for the past five months, and village nurses used to open the clinic for three hours during the day, but five months ago, the clinic was attacked because a rival gang member was hiding there during a conflict between two groups. As a result, Zaineb has not received any antenatal care since her pregnancy.

Questions

1. When Ada seeks her mother's permission to keep their lamp on after dinner, her mother discourages her, so they can save the kerosene and use the lamp for the remainder of the month.
 - a. Out of the 17 SDGs, which one applies to the above scenario and why?
2. Ada's mother, Zaineb, has been skipping meals to ensure that her children and husband have enough food to eat. Having stable and reliable access to safe and nutritious food, or being food secure, is key to an individual's health and well-being.

Use these links to answer the following questions:

[The basics of Food Security](#)

[Food security: pillars, determinants, and factors affecting it](#)

- a. In order for Ada's family to be food secure, what four pillars must be present?
- b. How have the four pillars of food security failed to be met for Zaineb?

Module 3: SDG challenges experienced by Ada's family

When Ada asked her father when her brother Rabby would be coming back from the city, He sighed and turned his gaze to the wall, where Rabby's kite has been hanging since the day he joined the war.



Rabby, the oldest child, was only fourteen years old when the rival gang drafted him to join the war, he has never been seen again. There have been rumors that he was killed during a rival conflict with the gangs.

Rabby used to help their father with the farm, their father used to be much happier when him and Rabby would wake up together and head to the farm. Even though it hasn't been confirmed, Ada's father is certain that Rabby has been killed, but still prays every night for him to return home.

In Saharanza, they take the boys at a young age by force, because they are more susceptible to manipulation and let them die during their fights, those who do not die, grow up in the gang to recruit and take more boys. Ada's parents don't talk much about Rabby as it brings them a lot of pain and they want to conceal it from the younger kids that gang members drafted him.

Ada's father is a farmer, working on their small farm located near the house. He grows wheat and when he yields his crops, he travels on a bus to the nearby city to sell his grains to a local store. He uses the money to buy food and other necessities for the family on his way back from the city.

Six months ago, Ada's father injured his leg during an accident at the farm, where a rusty hoe that he uses to plow his one-acre farm, fell on his right leg. He is not able to see a doctor, because the buses which normally takes passengers to and from the nearby city were closed due to the ongoing local war. Instead, Ada's mother attended to his injury at home and it healed over time, but he has severe frequent pain in his leg.

Recently, Ada's father has not been able to yield enough crops because his injury prevents him from working long hours and also because of the recent droughts that have been occurring in the village. Money has always been an issue for Ada's family, the family's average annual income is five hundred dollars, which puts the family below the poverty line.

Questions

1. Although Chido is certain that his son Rabby has been killed during a violent conflict between rival gang members, if he were to return home, what possible challenges might Rabby face in rehabilitating back into society?

Read about the experiences of children recruited by armed forces to help you answer the question: <https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-recruited-by-armed-forces>

2. With his leg injury, seed prices going up, and recent droughts in the village, Ada's father, Chido, has been having difficulty yielding enough crops, like other farmers in the village. As a result of this misfortune, imagine a developed country offers to provide Dewroze with labour and funds to sustain their agriculture, and promises to purchase their yield. How can the developed country use this action as a means to purposely keep a poor country underdeveloped, based on the dependency theory in international development?

To read more about dependency theory, visit:

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/4039da2e926a00f581534e12d7421167/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=47510>

Module 4: SDG challenges experienced by Dewrose citizens

Most of the women in the village have not had a formal education and are solely involved with domestic work and raising children, just as their mothers and grandmothers did. Most families are small-scale farmers and males in the household carry out all farm work.

Before the war started, the government in partnership with a local business brought some jobs for women that included sewing clothes and making jewelry. Since the war started the business partner decided to outsource the labour to another village.



Ada's mom Zaineb, wished the government would do something to stop the war, she wanted to still make jewelry even though it gave her intense back pain, sitting down hunched over for so many hours a day, she was okay with it because she was able to help out Ada's father, now all that burden falls on him.

Ada's father suggested to have Ada help out on the farm, his leg injury forces him to take many breaks when plowing, he thinks Ada can help him out with that.

His wife is hesitant because Ada is only twelve years old, and she believes Ada is not strong enough to handle plowing, Ada's father also doesn't want Ada to do it as well, he wants Ada to be in school, but he cannot do it alone. They have to manage and do something, the drought has created all sorts of problems, and on top of that seed prices are going up. Ada's father really needed some help with his injury he couldn't do it by himself anymore.

Ada's mom is still hesitant and feels bad for Ada, because she likes to read and go to school, she knows Ada is doing her best by helping her at home, she looks after her little sisters, and she even takes care of Layla when Zaineb is cooking and cleaning. Due to Ada's mom's reasoning her father decided Ada can stay and help Zaineb until the baby is due, but he would still need some help soon in order for the family to eat.



Since the family does not own a private sanitation facility at home, Ada's mother has to use the public toilet, which was installed for the women in the village after a severe outbreak of diarrhea. Every morning Ada's dad accompanies his wife on a very long walk to the public toilets, Zaineb usually has to wait around 30 minutes to one hour, as there is always a long lineup of village women waiting to use the toilets.

Recently, Ada's father has not been able to accompany Zaineb to the public sanitation facility, as his injury prevents him from waling long distances. As a result, the family recently built a pit latrine, like a hole in the back of their small house, so that Zaineb and the rest of the family can use it. Although it is convenient, it is hard to keep clean.

Ada's father, sometimes thinks about living the village and going to the city, just like the other villagers, but his wife reminds him that the Celine family, live in a tiny hut and the husband has to travel 10 kilometres on a bike to the junkyard where he works. Zaineb tells her husband that no one will give him work with his leg injury, and that the family would be worse off, her husband agrees and blamed the government, there is too much corruption, they forget to take care of all of their citizens.

Last year, a non-governmental organization donated a lot of money to the government, but it was all used in one village, even though the village was doing better than Dewrose, because someone from that village knew a politician. Ada's father insists that they need to speak out or do something, they need to tell the world that their village is not getting the help that they are supposed to be getting.

Questions

1. The women in Dewroze experience gender inequality and a lack of empowerment, and even though efforts were made to provide them with productive employment, the efforts were not sustainable. You are a member of the government tasked with empowering women in Dewroze in a social, educational, economic, political, and psychological context. Identify which type of empowerment applies to the following scenarios. Use this link to answer the question: <https://thriveglobal.com/stories/five-types-of-female-empowerment/>
 - a. Most women in Dewroze are solely involved in domestic work and raising children, like their mothers and grandmothers.
 - b. Due to political unrest and gang violence, Ada has not been to school for the past 12 months
 - c. Zaineb, who is pregnant, has been skipping meals in order to leave enough food for her children and husband.
 - d. Before the war, the government, in partnership with a local business, brought some jobs for women that included sewing clothes and making jewelry.
 - e. Ada's mother wishes she could still make jewelry, even though it gave her intense back pain, because she was able to make some money and help out her husband.
 - f. Families in Dewroze wish somebody would hear their voice. They want to speak out against the corruption, but are afraid of the government and the rebels, especially due to the recent war.

2. Ada's father, Chido, talks about how the funds provided by the NGO were distributed in an unequal manner among various villages.
 - a. If you were in charge of the funds, which three of the twelve determinants of health identified by The Public Health Agency of Canada would you invest the funds in and how would you invest these funds?

To access Public Health Agency of Canada's list of the twelve social determinants of health and help you answer the question, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/population-health/what-determines-health.html>.

Module 5: A look to the future

In a few weeks, the latrine will fill up, and require a clean-up, which will be difficult to do without a sewage system. Families in Dewroze wish that somebody will hear their voice, they want to speak out against the corruption, but they are afraid of the government and the rebels, especially due to the recent war.



The people of Dewroze believe that there should be equal representatives in the politics from each village, so that money can be distributed more evenly, but once again the government is very corrupt and people who are powerful get all the resources.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) are responsible for recognizing the issue of inequality and hold the government accountable for making sure the money gets distributed evenly. When the government brought jobs for the women in the village, there was talk that more businesses from abroad would come to the village and create more jobs, but such efforts have been hindered by the war.

Ada's dad needs to find a doctor he can afford to get his leg checked and follow up with appropriate treatment as recommended by the doctor. Zaineb's baby will be due in a few months, so Ada's father needs to arrange for the safe transport to the nearest city, to access the hospital and find a way to pay for care. Finally, amidst all these challenges, the interstate war has caused interruption in all kinds of local services, as people don't feel safe being outside their homes, they dream of when it will be safe again.

Questions

1. The latrine in Ada's backyard will quickly fill up but Ada's family is unable to clean it up in time due to a lack of a sewage system. Using the Health Equity Framework, explain how each sphere of influence can lead to poor health outcomes in citizens of Dewroze as a result of a lack of a sewage system? (Hint: think about how the maintenance of shared latrines is influenced by an individual's skills/attitude/behaviour, social networks and support systems, and access to resources).

To learn more about the Health Equity Framework and answer the question, visit <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1524839920950730>.

2. In the storyline, Chido provides one reason why funding from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) is not distributed fairly. List and explain four other reasons why there is an uneven allocation of funding and resources from NGOs.

To better understand why NGOs may unevenly allocate funding and resources, visit <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Bridging%20the%20Needs-Based%20Funding%20Gap.pdf>

Additional Questions

1. The Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) are a precursor to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - a. Although the MDGs promoted global health and well-being, progress towards the goals was unbalanced across countries. What are some shortcomings of the MDGs that may have led to the uneven achievement of the goals internationally?
 - b. What advancements did the SDGs make to the goals established in the MDGs?

2. Many of Dewroze’s citizens are smallholder farmers and the crops from these farms are a significant source of food for the villagers. Sustainable production and consumption of food are important factors encompassed with food sovereignty.
 - a. What is food sovereignty? To learn more about food sovereignty and answer the question, visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150903143079>.
 - b. What does food sovereignty address that is lacking in the definition of food security?

3. How do you think the COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted/exacerbated the inequities faced by Dewroze? What additional challenges do you think this village had to face during the pandemic?

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