**Capstone Two -- Project Proposal**

In out-of-school rates around the globe, the issue of student retention is more acute and deeply felt in the developing world. While both sexes are impacted by higher dropout rates in these nations, girls are even more disadvantaged and face a higher possibility of dropping out. This crisis of an uneducated population is further exacerbated for students residing in rural areas versus urban areas. A starting point here would be to close the gender gap with regards to dropout rates in these developing nations, and increase retention rates for both sexes and to also close the gap in discrepancies for retention rates among urban and rural students. This would be in Unicef’s interest and objective as they seek to address and provide social welfare for children worldwide. One area of focus that would make for a great launching pad to meet these goals is to instill the importance of education for girls and how this would benefit and foster a more optimally performing society. A further benchmark to expand from here would be to close the gap between urban and rural student retention rates and to focus on topics that will benefit rural areas. Some possible roadblocks along the way here could be a lack of priority on the local and national level for further educational enrichment, a lack of local cultural understanding that may clash with the locals worldview, and a failure to engage local communities adequately to get them actively involved. The dataset is provided by Unicef itself and will be utilized to assist Unicef in divulging the story or info the data may contain and can reveal.