**Tutorial 1**

“Basic Education is a right as embodied in Section 29 of the Constitution, but higher education—attending university—is a privilege.” (Nabeela Moola ,2015).

Basic education (Primary and secondary education) is a right. Every child must be able to go to school and be educated. However, university education is a privilege as not everyone is able to attend University education after they graduate high school. ‘’One of the main arguments tirelessly and repeatedly brought up is University fees’’(Nabeela Moola, Nov 2015). Higher education fees are expensive and require extreme financial preparation beforehand. Students that come from low-income households are mostly affected by this factor. Differences in socio-economic factors also contribute to how some students are privileged than others. Thery are high levels of income inequality in South Africa whereby only the privileged students that come from high income households will be more advantaged. South Africa has a large informal sector leading to more students having a tough time in affording university fees. A student might have extremely good marks but will not be able to attend their desired university or course due to the required expenses.

This then leads to a lot of students relying on bursaries and student funding. Of which not every student will get funding from the government due to several factors or how severe the situation is compared to other students. They might receive funding but will have to maintain a specific average to still be considered for the funding. This might result in more students failing to finish their degrees because of failure to meet the specific aider’s requirements. Some students may apply for loans which will allow them to study and finish their studies in university, but they would have to pay back the loan after graduation when they are working.

However, financial struggle is not the only argument that makes university education a privilege. An applicant might be financially secure and still not be privileged enough to attend university because of their results. Universities also have high admission requirements. Not everyone is able to attend university because of the high rates of competition from

applicants from all over the world with the same interests. “Enrolment in higher education has increased rapidly over the past half century” (British Journal of Educational Studies · June 2012). Universities receive thousands of applications but can only accept a certain number of applicants thereby reducing access to most applicants, even those with good marks. I speak from experience as I took an unexpected gap year last year with good marks, but no university accepted me for any of my applied programs due to high rates of competition. An applicant might graduate high school with average marks and might meet the university application requirements and will still not be admitted because they will be competing with other students with better marks, making university admission a privilege other than a right. I was born and raised in Harare, Zimbabwe in a high residential area where most children there did not have the privilege to even attend basic education (primary school and high school) therefore university was on the far end.

In conclusion, basic education is a right for every child, but university education is a privilege as not every child has the access to attend university due to some of the factors mentioned above.