Name: Andrew Meng Period 6th Date 3/7/23  
**Topic 7.4 Women & Economic Development  
Girl Rising Documentary Reflection & Response**

**1. Girl Rising: (Suma from Nepal, Ruksana from India, and Azmera from Ethiopia). You can read through these questions before viewing or complete afterward. There is a chart provided on the next page for any notes you may want to take during the videos.**

1. What was your initial reaction to the film?

My initial reaction to the films were very emotionally empowered and I felt a sense of sympathy towards the girls through their struggles and their triumphs.

2. Which 1 story resonated with you the most, and why?

The story of Suma resonated with me the most because she had many limitations in her life that ruined her potential as a person. Even though the scale is unscalable, during covid I was depressed and lost in life. I felt like I couldn’t do anything, but with my family supporting me, I pushed through each day until I returned to my normal state of health. This really resonated with me due to the resemblance in struggles Suma had as being a slave and my depression.  
3. How does that specific girl inspire you to achieve your own goals as a leader and citizen?   
Suma inspired to achieve my goals as a leader and citizen by the way she kept preserving day and night. As a slave, she worked ruthless hours and struggled a lot. She kept motivating herself while singing and this shows that no matter what the obstacle is. You must keep pushing and working with others and lead others to your own success and in her case freedom. It really touched me as a story to see her escape from the masters!  
4. Did you find yourself getting lost in the stories? Why or Why not?   
Yes, the stories show a lot of problems in different perspectives around the world. It makes me feel lost on how much information and struggles these girls went through throughout their lives. The motivation to push on and achieve their goals really touched me.  
5. Are you able, through the storytelling, to relate to their lives in a way that lets you empathize rather than sympathize? Why or why not?

No, these brave, strong women go through way more difficult challenges that society gives to them, compared to me. I can only sympathize because the struggles I go through compared to them is like a fish in the ocean. However, I can learn from them and utilize their mentality that can aid in my life struggles like school.  
6. Even if you are a male, were you able to see yourself in any of these girls? Why or why not?  
Depends, if the question is asking about me personally, then no I cannot imagine the scale of difficulty the girls experience. However, if the question was asking if males around the world experience this struggle. I would say yes but not as much. Women usually have a lot of expectations and norms that limits the women’s power in society. Men just doesn’t have the natural norm like woman do.  
7. Do you think education is a legitimate and sustainable solution to the barriers that girls face in the film and around the world? Why or why not?

Education is a legitimate and sustainable solution to the barriers that girls face in the film and around the world. By providing girls with access to education, they are empowered to create better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. Education helps defeat the cycle of poverty and provides girls with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in life.  
8. Why do you think girls are undervalued in the world?

Girls are undervalued in the world because of societal norms that lead to gender inequality. These norms often limit girls' opportunities from reaching their full potential which causes them to become undervalued.

9. What role do men and boys play in the movement for girls’ education and women’s empowerment?  
  
 What impact did Azmera’s brother and Ruksana’s father have on their educations?  
 How did they defy the norms in their societies?

They supported the girls’ aspirations which defied the norms in their society. However, their impact was great, and that men and boys do play a role in movements of girls’ education and women empowerment. With the help of the males, they can help break down inequality and create a more equitable society for both women and men.  
10. Do companies have a responsibility to address the issue of unequal access to education for girls?  
 Why or why not?

Yes, Companies have a responsibility to address the issue of unequal access to education for girls. They can help provide resources and opportunities that support girls’ movement in education, and with the help, they can break down inequality. And give the same opportunities to all girls and boys around the world.

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| **Suma** | **Ruksana** | **Azmera** |
| A woman who was once younger, was a slave for 3 masters in different parts of Nepal. She worked from 4 am all the way till bedtime, cleaning dishes, gathering food, and helping clean the house in general. However, in her 3rd master’s house, she was enrolled into a night class from the teachers in the community. They believed her potential as a student and forced the master to liberate her. After denial, she escaped with help and now went back to her parents, she helps other young girls who are slaves and need freedom by singing and believing that hope and songs will help girls from trafficking. | A woman in India who when younger as a little girl, was a troublemaker in school. Later her dad created her best memories of buying school tools and began to become a good student and motivated to draw art and envision her future of success and animals she wants. She was bullied on the streets however from boys and shows that Girls get mistreated, and sexism is shown in this video. Dad protects her though. | 14-year-old girl in Ethiopia, she has a single widow mother whose husband died along with her elder sister. Has 1 elder brother that will sacrifice anything to provide a life and education for Azmera. Anyone can fly away to freedom with hope and determination. Use the wings and fly away and never melt from the sun myth used. |

***Written Essay Response: (write in paragraph form, integrate answers to #’s 2-6 into you writing in any order you wish. Use information from chart above as needed to compare/contrast the lives & struggles of the 3 girls.   
Your essay response will fill the rest of this page. May add another page if needed.***  
The story of Suma resonated with me the most because I also experienced setbacks and limitations that ruined my potential like Suma. Suma was limited by many masters that kept her as a slave and made her work ruthless hours for nothing. Like me, I experienced depression during Covid and that really ruined my potential to learn. Even though the scale is completely unscalable I persevered and had motivations from my family like Suma did with her singing. I comeback and was free from my mental health just like Suma was from her masters. Suma really inspires me to achieve my goals as a leader and a citizen because she persevered and had dedication to strive towards her freedom. This shows me that to be a leader no matter what obstacles you may go through you must keep pushing along with your peers and support them as well. This is also how you become a citizen helping others for mutual benefits and for the love of each other. Suma really represents this goal of becoming a leader and citizen. Like with every story, they all touched me and all resonated with me whether it be a little bit or a lot. They made me feel lost in the amount of sorrow and pain that these girls went through in their lives and all the obstacles that truly hurt their potential. I felt a lot of sympathy and happiness once they were successful in their own lives. There is no way I can empathize for them, there amounts of struggle compared to mine is like a fish in the ocean. I would never be able to compare with them, as they went through so much. However, I will sympathize for them because I believe what the masters and setbacks, they had with gender inequality is unfair and I support them for their actions and beliefs. If it were a male the difference would be day and night. The norms of society are completely different between the two genders and that no matter what country each person is in they cannot compare. However, that doesn’t mean males can’t experience struggles. They will just not compare to the average woman around the globe. These are my opinions on why Suma resonated with me the most!