Topic 1: Governance and its Effects on Education

Governance can be considered the use of political and administrative authority in order to manage a country’s affairs. Poor governance is at the source of lack of education and lack of literacy in many nations. As the world progresses and develops, the need for proper education increases. Unfortunately, many people do not have the benefit of receiving it, because corruption hinders the government from properly distributing money to necessary aspects of the economy. The UNCAC is the first step for the United Nations to prevent corruption.

Botswana is relatively free of corruption and is one of Africa’s most stable countries. It is relatively free of corruption due to the fact that Botswana has a system in order to battle governmental corruption. Botswana’s Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) has a three-pronged approach to fighting corruption: corruption prevention, investigation, and public education. It reduces circumstances for corruption in government departments and public bodies. It advises private sector organization on corruption prevention. This is a crucial examination of the systems and procedures (policy, legislation, organizational procedures and instructions), involved in a defined area of activity within an organization. The purpose is to identify existing weaknesses in the system and to recommend ways to improve it. This can be used as an indicator for the country as to how corrupt its government may be. Botswana has also discovered diamond deposits, which has increased revenue for the government. This diamond trade has molded it into a middle-income nation. Its increase in government revenue benefits its educational provision because Botswana is allotting a large percentage of this revenue towards education. Botswana has a literacy rate of over 80% and it has been growing. It is for these reasons that Botswana is relatively free of corruption and is stable.

Topic 2: Preservation of World Heritage Sites

World Heritage sites are areas of eminent international importance and because of this require extensive protection. The World Heritage Convention of the United Nations designates these sites. The process involves member states applying for sites to be designated as World Heritage Sites. Then they are placed on a Tentative List before being placed in the Nomination File, where they can be considered, and voting happens once a year. There are obstacles placed in the way of this process, namely war, climate change, and private interests.

Botswana has two World Heritage Sites: Okavango Delta and Tsodilo. Tsodilo was designated in 2001, and Okavango Delta more recently in 2014. Okavango Delta is an area of swamps and flooded grasslands, whereas Tsodilo is contains over 4,500 cultural rock paintings and it holds unique spiritual and religious meaning to locals. This illustrates the diversity of these sites, and therefore the importance of protecting them. Botswana has seven sites submitted to the Tentative List to be considered for nomination. A potential problem for the country is that private interests in Africa have had negative impacts on ecosystems and cultural sites.  A possible threat to the Okavango Delta is that the Namibian government has plans to build a hydropower station, which would control the Okavango River’s movement to some extent. Environmentalists predict that this could destroy the wildlife in the Delta. Another threat to the Delta is local human intrusion and extraction of water in both Angola and Namibia. These private interests and government plans can infringe on protective measures. This is why it is important to more extensively protect World Heritage Sites.

Topic 3: Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030

It is necessary for education to improve for everyone, and Education 2030 focuses on expanding access and including all people. Funding is crucial for this movement. The Incheon Declaration advises that every country should spend at least 4-6% of GDP on education. The predicament with this is that all countries possess different circumstances. Countries with weak governments will have a more difficult time implementing this. The declaration intends on providing twelve years of free education, but this will inevitably vary from country to country due to the aforementioned circumstance differences. Because of this, it is challenging to evaluate education systems across the world.

Botswana is ahead in dedicating government revenue to education. Botswana spends a higher percentage of GDP on education (over 9%)  than the recommended amount by the Incheon Declaration. The country has discovered diamond deposits, which have increased revenue for the government. This diamond trade has molded Botswana into a middle-income country. This benefits its educational provision because Botswana is allotting a large percentage of this revenue towards education. In terms of guaranteeing free education, Botswana has achieved ten years of free education that is provided. Then about half of the people attending this free primary school go on to an additional two years of secondary schooling. However, secondary education is neither free nor mandatory. Because Botswana provides ten years of free education and spends a large percentage of its GDP on education, educational development in the country has been on the rise. This is why its literacy rate is over 80% and is climbing. After primary and secondary schooling, there are various universities that can be studied at. For these reasons, Botswana has made many quantitative gains in terms of education.