**Committee: Indigenous Peoples**

**Country: Tanzania**

**School: St. Mildred’s Lightbourn School**

**Topic #1 Health Care, Mental Health, and Wellness**

In the past Indigenous peoples have had struggles to get access to healthcare compared to non-indigenous peoples. Poverty is one main factor for this, because a quality of life that is below a non-indigenous persons standards they are more at risk to develop disabilities, die young, and endure health problems that are long-term. Many counterparts to poverty are education, destruction of their lands and economic systems, and social services. As a result of poverty and poor access to healthcare, indigenous peoples have high HIV/AIDs, malaria, tuberculosis, and malnutrition rates. For those reasons indigenous people have had struggles accessing health care that suits their needs.

Tanzania’s indigenous communities have been affected by poor health care because the people have been put at a higher risk of developing different diseases in their circumstances.(1) Many of Tanzania’s Indigenous peoples prefer to use traditional medicines because of the accessibility, cost and natural resources used. An estimated amount of 1:500 are trained in traditional medicines whereas the ratio of people trained in western medicine in Tanzania is only 1:40 000.(2) Many of Tanzania’s native peoples depend greatly on non-government organizations for medical services, but the organizations can only be access by going through harsh terrains, long distances and language barriers.(1) The Maasai people have greater chances than the other communities of acquiring HIV because of their practices and ways of life. HIV is normally acquired because of multiple sexual partners, early marriages, and polygamy.(1) As well as HIV, Tuberculosis has also become an epidemic for indigenous peoples in Tanzania. Many traditional doctors believe that the use of barks, herbs, and roots are effective ways of treating tuberculosis. That is why the poor health care is unable to support the Indigenous community with different diseases uprising.

There are ways to help solve these problems in Tanzania relating to health. Allow larger countries to help support health care and vaccines and include an interest rate so both countries can benefit. With the money, health facilities will be able to be closer to the communities and employ some of the local indigenous peoples and teach them the practices. Allowing this will be a benefit to the Tanzania’s health care strain toward the indigenous people and give people in that community jobs.(2) This would also allow a more sustainable community because the people in the community would be able to access sufficient amount of resources to help heal them. The people in these communities would also build a trust with the doctors, screenings, vaccines, and testing resulting in a familiarness with these centres.(2) Those are possible ways to help indigenous people in Tanzania have access to acceptable health care.

Resources

(1)<http://www.iwgia.org/images/stories/sections/regions/africa/documents/IW2016/Tanzania_IW2016_web_redu.pdf>

(2)<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/2015/sowip2volume-ac.pdf>

**Topic #2 Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change Impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources**

Indigenous people live in places that tend to have natural disasters and climate change encounters. Different indigenous peoples around the world rely heavily on their natural resources to supply their housing, food, and clothing. That is why, as climate change continues to increase these supplies will continue to decrease. They would have to rely on their limited amount of knowledge resulting in confusion or incapability to understand what is happening at the moment. A trouble that governments have are placing the community elsewhere to create parks. Doing this is stressful for the community because they have to adapt to their new land and be far away from their traditional lands. That is why teaching indigenous people about climate change is important so they know how to cope with climate change and such.

Indigenous people in Tanzania are defined as, original peoples of the land who lost their land because of colonists or groups of people who had arrived at a later date.(3) There have many incidences where the Maasai tribe had been evicted so a park could be put in place.(3) This is contravertal to the Tribes in Tanzania because they cherish the traditional land that they live on. It also has many sentimental values for them because their ancestors had been buried there.(4) The communities want to learn more about the effects of climate change on their communities whether it be vegetation or livestock. This would benefit the Pastoralists because their way of life is based off of wild animals, fruit, and roots. The Pastoralists have been experiencing many droughts resulting in vegetation and livestock dying.(3) That is why indigenous peoples are losing their land and fighting other problems.

Participation in government affairs and managing their resources would not only benefit the indigenous people but also the government.(4) Forcing communities to leave their homes and relocate somewhere else to make parks is unhelpful to the indigenous communities. The government should reinstate the Land Rights or allow the communities to live in the parks. This is good for the indigenous peoples because they are able to stay on traditional lands. By doing this the government can still make the land a park, only allowing indigenous people to live off of it. They want more financial gains to help pay for the schooling of climate change allowing them the knowledge of the effects it will have on their community.(4) Teaching them how the effects of climate change on their communities work, but integrating the knowledge with ideas about sustaining the traditional values would also be beneficial to the community and culture. That is why allowing indigenous people participate in government affairs allows the country to see what struggles they are going through and how people can help them.

Sources

(3)<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/2016/Docs-updates/SOWIP_Health.pdf>

(4)<http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0731_CC_Mitigation_Strategies__Eviction_of_IPs_.pdf>

**Topic #3 Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development**

Marginalization is a recurring theme for indigenous peoples. They have been placed below the poverty line and many harsh events happen to them. For example globalization, government spending cuts, and natural disasters. Indigenous people do not have enough funding to go to school and have access to health care. That is why many indigenous peoples do not have an education which would help them sustain their lives. These communities also fear food insecurity, which is very high for indigenous peoples, and housing. That is only partly the reason why indigenous peoples around the world are marginalized compared to other people.

Indigenous peoples in Tanzania have been facing marginalization, discrimination, and lack of recognition. The public perceives them as less educated, less developed, and less advanced.(3)A result of this is biased constitutional, legislative, and administrative processes for indigenous peoples.(5) Although the indigenous peoples have been included in regular voting and more governmental stands. An estimated 24 million people were registered to vote in Tanzania’s 2015 election because women, youth, pastoralist, and hunter-gatherer communities were allowed to vote.(5) This is a big step for the indigenous community. The indigenous communities will be able to face discrimination and marginalization with their growing recognition. Indigenous peoples have also faced many problems that are related to food insecurity. Food insecurity affects all of the tribes whether it be with food like wild fruit or wild animals/livestock. The numbers of these spices are decreasing with the increase of climate change affecting the world.(4)

Ways to help develop Tanzania’s indigenous peoples become known and respected as a community are as follows. Being active members in the government, teaching them how to sell their crafts and livestock, and allowing more public funding to flow through the tribes and pay for education, and ways to help them start funding themselves. Like in the previous year, 2015, allowing the tribes to vote lets them feel the pride of being included in current affairs that affect their people. This also lets them learn, give opinions, and bring back skills to their countries. Those are some ways that Tanzania’s indigenous peoples can become more involved in their country’s current affairs as well as gain the skills to improve their lands.

Sources:

(5)<http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/IA_1-2009_Tanz%20_Indig_Engagement.pdf>