

## **LEARNING EXERCISE 9B – SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES**

### **Question 1:**

From the list of Social Justice Issues, choose one and find out to what extent it is an issue in the Philippines. Find Out what is being done, address it, and compare it with at least three Asian countries. Please explain in not more than 500 words.

One social justice issue that is particularly relevant in the Philippines is gender inequality. Despite significant progress in recent decades, women in the Philippines continue to face significant barriers to equality in many areas of life.

According to the World Bank, the Philippines ranks poorly in several key indicators of gender equality, such as the gender gap in labor force participation and the prevalence of gender-based violence. Women in the Philippines are also less likely to receive an education and more likely to live in poverty than men.

To address these issues, a number of initiatives and programs have been implemented in the Philippines. For example, the government has introduced a number of laws and policies aimed at promoting gender equality and addressing gender-based violence. These include the Magna Carta of Women, which aims to eliminate discrimination against women, and the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, which provides legal protection for women who experience sexual harassment in the workplace.

In comparison with other Asian countries, the Philippines fares relatively poorly in terms of gender equality. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, the Philippines ranks 8th out of 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, behind countries such as New Zealand, Australia, and China.

However, there are some countries in the region that have similarly low levels of gender equality. For example, both Pakistan and Bangladesh rank lower than the Philippines on the Global Gender Gap Index. Like the Philippines, both of these countries face significant challenges in terms of gender-based violence, unequal

access to education and economic opportunities for women, and other issues related to gender equality.

Overall, while the Philippines has made some progress in addressing gender inequality, there is still much work to be done to fully address this issue and ensure that women in the country have the same opportunities as men. By comparing the situation in the Philippines with other countries in the region, we can gain a better understanding of the challenges that need to be overcome and the steps that can be taken to address them.

### **Question 2:**

What Social Justice issue you think is not included in the list? Please explain why it should be on the list is not more than 500 words.

There are many social justice issues that are not included on any list, as the concept of social justice encompasses a wide range of topics and concerns. However, one issue that I think is often overlooked is the rights of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities face discrimination and barriers to accessing education, employment, and other opportunities on a daily basis. This can lead to feelings of isolation, marginalization, and lack of control over their own lives. In many cases, people with disabilities are not afforded the same rights and opportunities as those without disabilities, and this can have a profound impact on their ability to lead fulfilling, independent lives.

One of the reasons that the rights of people with disabilities are often overlooked is that it is a complex and multifaceted issue. For example, there are physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities, and each of these can present unique challenges and barriers to inclusion. Additionally, people with disabilities may face discrimination in different forms and in different settings, such as in the workplace, in schools, and in the community.

Another reason that the rights of people with disabilities is often overlooked is that it is a sensitive and sometimes contentious topic. People with disabilities may be reluctant to speak out about their experiences or advocate for their rights, out of fear of stigma or discrimination. Additionally, some people may not be aware of the challenges that people with disabilities face, or may hold misconceptions about the capabilities and potential of people with disabilities.

However, despite these challenges, I believe that the rights of people with disabilities should be included on any list of social justice issues. This is because everyone has the right to dignity, equality, and inclusion, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. By raising awareness of the issues facing people with disabilities, and by advocating for their rights and inclusion, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.