

Imagining the future of a child in the developing world essay

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Life used to be simple and beautiful in the villages of Africa. Families lived together peacefully. While parents farmed, grandparents remained at home taking care of their grandchildren. Children played in the sand, while the elderly sat quietly under the trees nearby. Such was life in African villages, that is, before the reality of evil and horror in this world brought to Africa a new concept.

War, disease, poverty, famine and death. Africa is not the only part of the world that suffers from these tragic problems. Families living in countries such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Cambodia and many other parts of Asia are surviving in severe poverty, countries known as the developing world. Gone are the beautiful and uniquely cultured lives of those families.

Too many children are left alone in this cruel world with no parents, no grandparents, and left with no support system whatsoever. As is the purpose of this article - to imagine the future of these children, I must be honest and say I struggle to. I struggle because the topic is one of great tragedy, and to speak the complete and utter truth, I struggle because I just don't see a future for them, at least not future in the sense of the word that I know. If I was asked to think of my own future, it's almost a reflex that I would think of what career I would like, where I want to travel and about the possibilities of having a family.

I don't take into consideration the struggles I might come across throughout. When I'm asked to think of the future of a child in the developing world, careers and travel plans are not what comes to mind. As it is at the minute,

every day is a fight for survival for these children, battling poverty, starvation, loneliness, fear and in many cases HIV/AIDS.

I want to be positive and focus on the thousands of people working for charities to ease the suffering of these children, but it becomes more and more difficult too when I read about the mass amounts of unjust deaths of children due to poverty. Lives ended before they even had the chance to dream about their future. The ongoing wars and battles for power among the many varieties of militia are what have led to poverty being so widespread. When I think of it, all I see is a vicious cycle.

Those living in poverty often resort to crime just so they can survive on this planet, gangs can form and along with striving to survive some of the hardest conditions human beings could ever face, people can no longer feel protected or safe in any way. Murder and rape are a huge problem which can lead to an even further increase in pregnancies and/or HIV, bringing more and more children into poverty yet again, most of which have very little chance of surviving. In 2010, approximately 7.7 million children that died were under the age of 5 years. The statistical evidence I've found on children living in poverty confronts us with a stark reality: millions of children are poor, they lack access to safe drinking water, essential vaccines, education and nutrition. They are at continuous risk of being exploited and abused.

How can these children even dream about growing up to live a normal life when they've never had the chance to experience normality before?

Normality for them is suffering and hardship. No child should have to endure that, as is written in the UN Declaration on the Rights of a Child; " The child

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shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. ”

Poverty deprives millions of children of the basic necessities of life and the capacities needed to live, develop and thrive. It prevents them from enjoying equal opportunities like the rest of the world. A future for a child growing up in a developing country as I see it is not likely to change much from their childhood as they continue to suffer famine, hunger, disease and poverty despite continued help by charity organisations. Their situation in the future will be no different from the poor conditions being endured by their parents (if they are lucky enough to still have them alive), as often, with a lack of education, these children just don't know any better.

Solving child poverty in the developing world isn't a simple task and there are an incredible amount of charities working towards better futures for these children. I think inspiration is something that these children would benefit from. They need to be inspired and shown that there is more out there for them other than the world of poverty that they know of. Charities cannot deal with every individual case of child poverty and so hopefully with information and inspiration might spring some determination to lead a better life, to avoid getting caught up in the crime that is common with those living in poverty and hopefully lead themselves to a better future.