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Tanzania, Factor 16: Education

### **Education Affecting Food Security in Tanzania**

Tanzania is a beautiful and bountiful developing country with the wilderness of the Serengeti National Park and the prestigious honor of having the second largest mountain in the world in their backyard. With over 49 million people living within the country, education is needed to assure that the population is fed with nutritious food. Tanzania is a colorful East-African country filled with tribes such as Sukuma, Masai, Chaga, Swahili, and Gogo along the Indian ocean coast. With its gain of independence from the British in 1961, Tanzania (as it was earlier known as Tanganyika) bloomed into a self-governing nation under the power of Julius Nyerere. By Julius the people were led down a path of socialism rather than communism. He was the leader who set out a path that many Tanzanians followed and respected coming out from colonial rule. However while governing, Julius realized that the country in whole was not educated in the knowledge of academics or work skills. He then resigned and made a huge step forward for the progression of education for all. He became a teacher for the whole nation. Though his intentions and motives were in the right place, education for Tanzania progressed at a slow rate especially for girls (Tanzania). The lack of textbooks, overcrowding of classrooms, and lack of qualified teachers were the major causes that affect the slow progression of education. Education is one of the main factors that affects the food security in Tanzania. Without the knowledge of what adequate food is or skills sets for jobs to provide adequate food, the innocent people of Tanzania are victim to malnourishment and hunger. Nevertheless, there are things that can be done in order to help. There needs to be more funding not only for more schools for more children, but for more books, and easy accessibility for teachers to train before entering a classroom unprepared. The beginning of any change starts with knowledge, and with that knowledge Tanzania can become a more developed and nourished country.

### **Life in Tanzania**

More and more people in Tanzania are moving and making a living in the urban cities rather than the village life in the rural countryside, due to an increase in job opportunities and exposure. In the five decades after independence the population in Tanzania has quintupled. Most of this population are innocent people who with the limited education they have, are trying to support their families. One of the most crucial keys to success is education, yet in Tanzania this is becoming a new issue, not only affecting their success, but their food security. Most educational lives for young students ends after primary school and does not continue. Only about half of the population that finishes primary school will be eligible to go to a low-secondary school let alone a higher one with better education. Most students in Tanzania want to pursue the best, and the most education as possible in order to get a job and help support themselves and the family they later on plan for. Tanzania has tried to make the development of education a very prominent and important key component to in their government. With equity in primary education, and girls enrollment at a close proximity to the boy's enrollment. They are still working on the quality of their education, the actual learning outcomes and the relevance of skills that graduates bring to the economy. In other words saying, if they are taught a specific skill or learn something useful how will it help and

improve the modern economy. However, with the lack of education families are not educated enough about nutritious foods leaving them malnourished. Also the lack of education means the less of a chance of students growing up and getting into better paying professions that could help pay for good food. Instead children and families are starving and it is primarily do to education, mainly the lack of.

### **Education Affecting Food Security in Tanzania**

The amount of books in Tanzania is approximately 1 for every five students ( Textbooks for Tanzania). That is an incomparable amount considering that here in America students who go through grades K-12 have free unlimited textbooks along with access to the internet and database sources. This is one of the many factors affecting the food security in Tanzania; lack of books. Textbooks play a huge role in a student's life. The amount of books a student reads has the power to expand their reading level and pave a way of success on standardized tests (The Importance of Providing). If a student scores well on tests such as the SAT, or the ACT, they can move on to accomplish a higher knowledge and understanding that could make them really be successful (The importance of Providing). With textbooks, students can Increase their knowledge to get a successful job to pay for good nutritious food. However, with books they can also learn what to eat and what not to by differentiating between a balanced and unbalanced meals. Textbooks are one of the major keys to a good education. Students with books go a lot further in school than students without ( The Importance of Providing). Those students with books then go on to accomplish so much and gain a profit that can help them afford nutritious food for themselves and their family. Textbooks are the essential learning blocks for a young student's mind and life, that will help them in every and any aspect. With the addition of textbooks to the schools in Tanzania, not only will education soar, but also the knowledge and the affordability of food for families in a developing country.

The second leading factor in the decrease of food security is the overcrowding of schools. This isn't due to the booming rise of students entering numerous schools. This is due to the increase of children with a limited amount of schools. The main concern is that there is not enough schools for the students to attend, and even the one they do attend they are all poorly repaired and in bad shape. The document “ Dar es Salaam Classrooms” states that an average of 81 children are slammed and pushed into a classroom that is only supposed to hold 40 students. Therefore most of the students sit on floors because there are not enough desks. Making it easier for disease and bacteria to flow through the children and also through what they eat. Students could bring those diseases home and infect what they eat or what their family eats. Students who go to schools sick could then infect the lunch served, by sneezing or coughing when near. From that it could spread to the food due to the reluctance to put chemicals and preservatives in the food. The pathogen or bacteria can then go on and pass it along to other students and their food. This causes a major concern seeing how it is affecting the food security in in this country. The overcrowding does not just affect food security through the spread of disease, but also through the lack of education the students receive. If there are over 40 more students exceeding the maximum capacity than certain amount then the amount of attention a teacher could give, or the amount of textbooks they could share is limited. This furthermore limits their education and their chance to succeed in life and be able to afford more nutritious food.

With overcrowding and lack of textbooks, the students of Tanzania cannot afford to have another loss against them. However, they do. There is a massive teacher shortage throughout the entire country that is

a factor of low education and decrease in food security. This is not stating that there are a lack of teachers due to non-interest, but is to point out that children who don't get a good education, and go on to a higher school of knowledge, will not be able to get good jobs as teachers and be able to help others. Without teachers there is no one to help inform and teach students about nutrition and the other health regulations. Chances are that the students' parents do not even know, and are oblivious due to the lack of education. There is a lack of teachers primarily in the primary and secondary schools. This has been the main cause for poor performance in school. However with the overcrowding of schools, and the lack of textbooks it is not hard to see that the lack of education affects the number of teachers produced which therefore affects the food security of the country.

### **Resolution to Education Affecting Food Security**

The only way for Tanzanians to help increase their education and their country's food security, is by solving the factors that are causing the decrease of education. Ways to provide more textbooks and learning materials for students is for the government of Dar es Salaam to distribute more funding towards the schools in the country. By taking unnecessary funding out of other projects such as the Serengeti Park or the preservation of Mt. Kilimanjaro, we can put those funds into the schools' libraries and internet access for online textbooks and databases. They can in turn receive funding for those other projects by tourism and fundraising. Plans to reform the budgets and bills of the country will help increase the amount of books and resources available for the students to learn. They can also arrange book funds, or free will donations in order to achieve this goal. An act put in motion by the USAID called let's read together helps improve the language and literary components to young and eager to improve students. Therefore, already trying to help and endorse the academical fund of Tanzania. Here in America we can help by bringing awareness and funding programs to help pay for more books. By creating more funds for the textbooks in schools, students will be able to learn more about food and how it benefits and helps the body.

Another factor that needs to be solved in order to help increase education is the overcrowding. One of the solutions to this is different session times. By having different class times for different grades, we can cut the amount of children in classrooms down. Instead of having one giant class in the morning or evening, having two to three separate classes a day can help reduce the amount of kids in the classroom at a time. This method also give each student a higher rate of success due to the higher level of individuality between themselves as the student and the teacher. If the teacher doesn't have to deal with as much kids at a time, they can then point their focus on the few student who they teach and help improve them better on a one on one basis. Also, by doing this the spread of disease through children and through food will be cut down. If there are less children that means bacteria and pathogens will affect less students at a time rather than if there were more students. If diseases are not being spread through food from household to household, the food security will continue to increase. If students and their families cease to be getting sick all the time, then the amount of money being put towards medicine and doctor visits can be put towards nutritious food or the student's education. Another solution would to be to fund more schoolhouse buildings in order to house for more students. Also, to fund for more desks so students do not have to sit on the floor and pick up diseases that will hurt their health and the health of students around them. The more schools that are built, the more students will attend school and learn about their food security and help increase and protect it.

The last factor to solve is the lack of teachers in Tanzania. By creating more funds for textbooks and more school housing, the better the education will be, the better the education is, the more students go to school and graduate. The more students that graduate can then go on to University and become teachers or professors or even agriculture specialists. All of those people who can help increase the education and food security in Tanzania. By helping solve the other two factors in turn we can solve this one without too much trouble. Also, by having teacher conferences or training sessions, more people seeking to become teachers can come together and receive proper training. By doing this all teacher will in turn have a unified teaching regimen that can include nutritional health and agriculture. This will help the students learn more about the risks of malnutrition and the sicknesses that can come from that. In turn helping to increase food security and awareness in Tanzania.

In conclusion, education is a factor in Tanzania affecting their food security. This means students are not receiving the correct academic learning, therefore hindering their knowledge about food and its nutritional value. There are three major factors affecting the decrease in adequate education in Tanzania: lack of textbooks, overcrowding in schools, and lack of teachers. However, there are many ways to help fixate these issues. Funding and overall awareness seem to be the key to help improve all of these three factors. By funding and raising awareness, more money and resources can be put into more textbooks, schools, and teachers for the students. Therefore raising their chances of students graduating and becoming successful. Also, by creating a better education, students can become more Knowledgeable and aware of the food security and help attain it. If children are educated more about food and the importance of where it comes from and how it helps their individual bodies, the increase in food security will be fast and promising. Here in America helping by ads, funding, and awareness can really help improve their education status. Also free will donations along with governmental support from one country to another in an extent of friendship and kindness. Tanzania is a beautiful country filled with rich culture and nature, with help from the other countries and their government they can help improve their education in turn helping families receive nutritious food.

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