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Haiti, Factor: 16

Haitians, Human Rights

Introduction:

Haiti is an independent nation located in the Caribbean sharing the second largest island along with the Dominican Republic. Many of the ancestors in Haitian communities are of African descent, due to the fact that the island was originally used to port slaves from North to South America. Throughout Haiti's history it has struggled with many disasters such as poverty, racial discord, and political instability. One of the biggest problems might have been the slave trade with more than 452,000 slaves and a whole population of 520,000. By the mid-eighteenth century, much of the Saint Dominique society had settled into the social mind "set based on their skin color, class, and wealth".

After Haiti won its independence in 1801 the nation abolished slavery but they soon were embedded with corrupt regimes, HIV, and payments to France. The legacy of Duvalier played a really big role in the educational system of Haiti. After Duvalier (Francois and Jean-Claude) left in 1957 they took most of Haiti's educated professor's with them, which made it impossible for Haiti lay down a good foundation for the nation's upcoming educational system.

In that same year women were given the right to vote but with this new privilege arose a whole new set of problem such as the discrimination and violence that they would have to endure because of their sexual orientation and the amount of education that they had received.

The final factor that impacts Haiti's economy is food insecurity. Food insecurity is the lack of access and affordability to food. More than 34% of Haiti's population is living with food insecurity. With food insecurity you do not get the proper nutrients needed to help you develop certain parts of the brain which can affect size, height, weight, and how you process things. At this time there is no cure on how to treat this disease.

Role in their culture:

Haiti's postcolonial leaders promoted education, at least in principle. The 1805 constitution called for free and compulsory primary education. The early rulers, Henri (Henry) Christophe (1807-20) and Alexandre Pétion (1806-18), constructed schools; by 1820 there were nineteen primary schools and three secondary schools. The Education Act of 1848 created rural primary schools with a more limited curriculum and established colleges of medicine and law. Education in Haiti changed during the 1970s and the 1980s. Primary enrollments increased greatly, in urban areas. The Jean-Claude Duvalier regime initiated administrative and curriculum reforms. Nevertheless, as of 1982, about 65% of the population over ten years of age had received no education and only 8% was educated beyond the primary level. An average 64% of male and 57% of female Haitians have a good education. What is a good education in the Haitian community? I did some research and found that a primary education in Haiti is classified as Creole, math, French and reading (the most important thing that you want to learn). When they get to the 5th grade they are given a test and test determines if you are eligible to go the secondary schooling only about 5% passed this test.

The sanitation system in Haiti has a poor and inadequate nutrient system. In the Haitian community, they put a lot of respect on the word 'family.' The word family is more important to them than any

classification that they belong to. If you are in the upper and middle classes, you live in the more urban areas and have a formal marriage and high family values. If you live in the lower class of Haiti you often have something called a plasaj which are marriage and relationship customs otherwise known as the common-law marriage. In a typical Haitians household both the mother and the father have equal roles in the family and the children are considered a precious gift from God. There is no set amount of children that they can have in one family at a time as long as they have the necessary items they need to support the family, on average the normal Haitian household will hold 2 to 3 children. The last and most important member of the family are the grandparents, because they are looked up to as being full of wisdom and experience that they can pass on to the rest of the family.

The normal Haitian diet consist of several different styles used to cook in the western portion of the Hispaniola islands; the French, African, Taino and the Spanish are just a few of their culinary styles. Although their cuisines are unpretentious, they have a very bold and spicy flavor to represent the African and the French's flavor which has pushed them down to the bottom of the World Bank's ranking of the health indicators. Also more than 77% of their population lives below the poverty line. The reason why most of the population are below the poverty line is because they cannot acquire certain needs for their families like rice, corn, millet, yams, and beans to name a few and they have very little land to work with so they don't have a lot of space to have an excessive amount of food grown.

In Haiti about 66% of the population is living exclusively from the soil, and in the parts of Haiti. As a result of the malnutrition in Haiti most of the children are undersized and are categorized as 'food insecure'. No one really knows how Haiti's population got labeled as food insecure but people have speculated that it was because of the political oppression, soil erosion, lack of knowledge, literacy, and a large population with such as small country. One of the many things that people are surprising to hear about Haiti is that it was once one of many the wealthiest countries in 1750 because of slavery and exporting goods such as coffee, sugar, and cocoa with the help of the Louisiana purchase and goods. Another reason why Haiti is labeled is because they are so behind on a lot of the world's technical advantages that we have today.

The reason I chose to talk about Haitian society is that it has faced problems for many decades. Ever since the beginning of the modern states, Haiti has had been affected from the outside influences which has affected many lives on the island. One of those many effects has been the law on some women not being able to get a good education because they are needed at home. Helping their mother with chores and sexually-based violence in the country are just a few of the many things that stop many of the women from getting the education that they need. On average, at the age of seven many girls have already been pulled out of school to assist in household chores. Another thing that has put a hold on many of the women's educational needs such as tampons/pads, extra undergarments, feminine wipes, deodorant, a pouch to keep it in, and feminine shampoo. There is one organization that I know of that makes care packages like this and it is called <https://lacrossetributue.com> (just use organization name) know and it is a global partner with <https://www.daysforgirls.org> they make reusable feminine hygiene products that are safe and have been tested by girls. The way that this program works is by logging onto their website and signing up, after signing up you will receive a letter in the mail stating that you are accepted into the program and other background information you need to know after that you hold your first meeting and start changing the world. Over 550+ chapters and teams produce kits to make and distribute kits to areas in needs. They also teach woman how to hand sew and the basic business so they can go back and show other women how to start small businesses to earn a little money to take home for their families. The best way to get people aware and onboard with our idea is to incorporate it into a popular song and or a preview in a movie of some sort the other idea is to use an influential person within the world/community. Good examples of this are actual stories from some of the people that they have helped; for example, 12 year old Kgotso who is orphan in Mzilikazi. She first learned about the program when ambassadors from the women's health traveled to talk to more than 200

women. Now she is an advocate/innovator for DFG's by making panty liner from scraps PUL for her school.

About 80% of the primary education in Haiti is owned by a private organization and most of them charge a tuition that is overpriced and families cannot afford to pay it.

The next thing that has put a big barrier in the way is the 2010 earthquake which they are still recuperating from. The financial blow, which was over fourteen billion dollars' worth of damages or destroyed properties, increased the rate for the already weak education system.

One of the many speculations is that while under the rule of the French (1493 to 1660) the Haitians made a deal with the devil stating that "we will serve you if you'll get us from under the rule of Napoléon". I decided to include this in my paper because while under the rule of Napoleon during the French Revolution when a lot of the island was starting to rebel against its government. All of these laws that have been put into place make it hard for Haitians to try to get an education or become a good leader in the country because they face high rates of unemployment, and the poor uneducated people are likely not to hold any kind of political office to help change these laws.

Resolution:

There are many different ways to help the women of Haiti get a good education and help bring in more money for their families, like building free educational schools and allowing the children to have free lunches for as long as they can. In order for this happen, I would need to do some research and find a good location for the children that need the education the most (people below the poverty line) next I would go to a nonprofit organization or group and pitch my idea to them. If I was to get approved I would have to fill out the necessary forms and build a solid foundation with a mission statement with a board of people who are qualified and could help me, and a business plan. Lastly I would have to get the patent because it would give us the credibility that we would need for our newly founded business.

In order to pay for a lot of the cost I would like to raise awareness by posting ads on Facebook, YouTube, and other internet sites. Another idea would be to team up with a company like Wal-Mart or Target and see if they could sponsor a portion of the company. I believe this will help reduce the malnutrition because with students getting three meals a day, there will be less women and children going hungry and they will also be able to get a good education and help to support their families better.

Another way to help with the empowerment of women's rights is to give them microcredit. Microcredit is a small amount of money at the lowest interest rate to a new business in the developing world. With microcredits women have the ability to start a small business or company with about four to five people and when your small business takes off, you and the other people in the group pay the loan back and if another person needs help paying it back everyone will have to chip in and help pay it back. One of the companies that I find most interesting is called <https://www.kiva.org> because they make it really simple to get and pay off the loan and will answer any questions or concerns that you may have about their company. As a way to get the attention out to the public we can set up a profile on Facebook with the name of the person that we are going to be helping and a little bit of background information on the person and how the money is going to be used. Another organization that I found that might be beneficial to building the schools is called <https://www.buildon.org> and has 6 locations in the United States, not only does it build schools for children in Haiti but it gives you feedback on some of the volunteers as well.

The last thing that we can do to help women in Haiti is volunteer and make personal hygiene kits. Along with the kits we would teach the women of Haiti what each and every product that they have been given does and how it is used to keep them healthy in their everyday life. One can volunteer without physically going there; you can become an advocate for the women of Haiti and give them the

encouragement that they need in order to believe that they are worth more than just a housewife and that they can be whatever and whoever they want to be. You can also set up an account to help them rebuild their country so they can help get new books and have more updated ways for the women to learn. I would set up an account at a bank like western union under the name of school of hope so that people around the world could donate money for new books etc.

Conclusion:

Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes... the ones that see things differently they're not fond of rules you can quote them, disagree with them, glorify, or vilify them because they change things... they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world are usually the ones that do - Steve Jobs

I chose to add this quote to my paper because I believe that anybody can say that they want to change the world or can give their opinion on what they think someone can do to change the world but the one's that get up and make a change should be applauded for the work they done because not only did they say that wanted to make a difference in the world they did.

In conclusion I would like to say that the women of Haiti have made a lot of improvements, but they have a long way to go as far as the education system and women's rights, but everyone's help we will have everything that Haiti needs to make the country we know that Haiti can be.

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