



WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS IN MALAWI

BY: MALANGO KAYIRA, MALAWI.

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Malawi's large population of adolescents girls (10-19) and young women (20-24) represents a great potential.
- ▶ Adolescents girls and young women are negatively affected by;
 1. Gender inequality
 2. Sociocultural norms
 3. Harmful traditional practices. They spend 2 weeks at the initiation camp learning how to engage in sexual acts.

KUSASA FUMBI

This is an example of a harmful traditional practice.



REALITIES FACED BY ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN MALAWI

▶ AT HOME

- ▶ Adolescent girls and young women marry at early ages before the legal age (18 years).
- ▶ The realities increase unintended pregnancies, early marriages etc..
- ▶ Nearly 2 in 3 married girls and young women 15-24 are in union before the legal age of 18 years.
- ▶ 2 in 3 youth agree that sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls is an issue.
- ▶ 1 in 3 women have experienced physical violence at the age of 15.

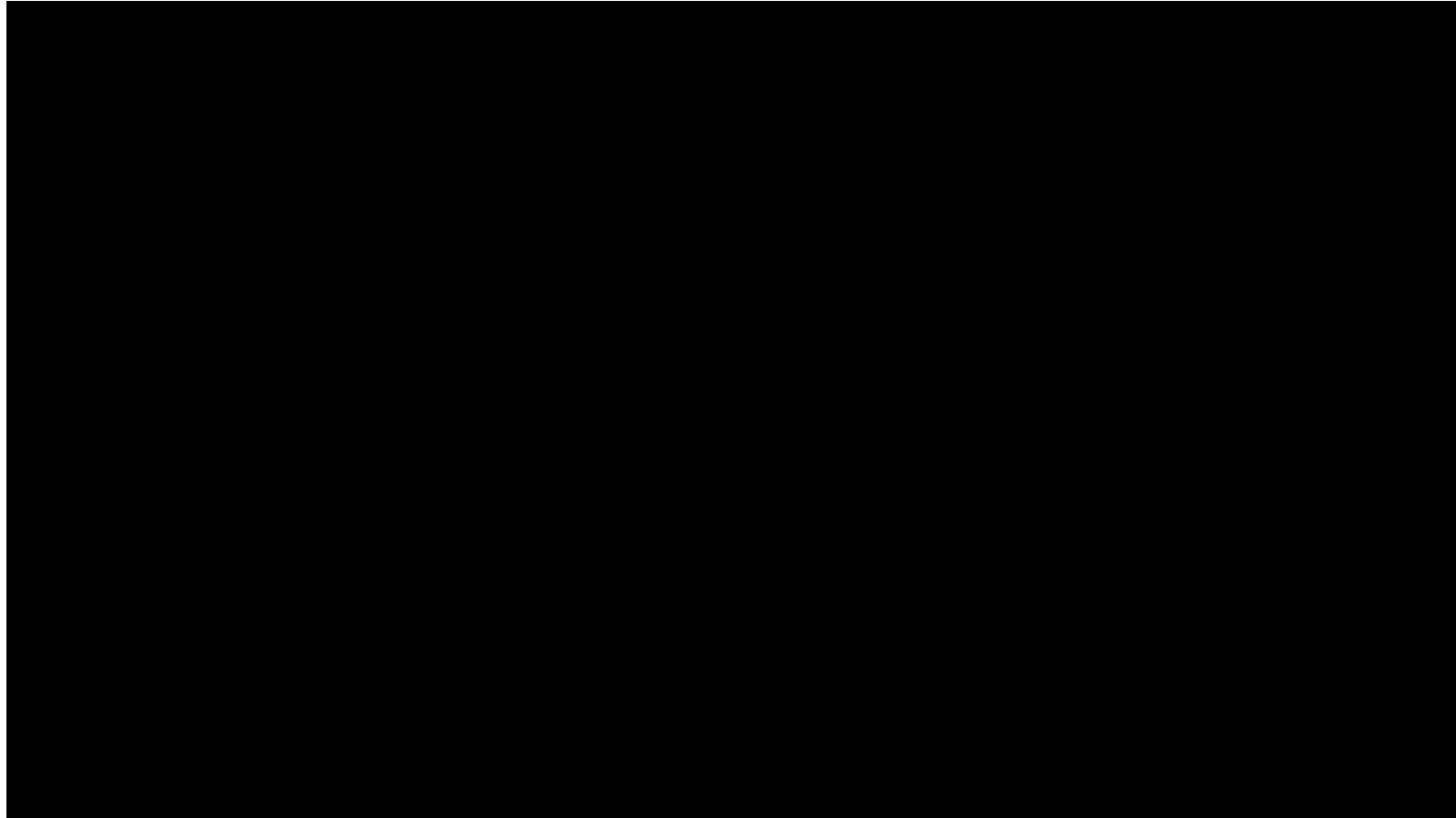
AT SCHOOL

- ▶ Very few adolescent girls progress to secondary.
- ▶ 3 in every 20 Malawian girls leave primary school between class 5 and 8.
- ▶ The majority of girls (90%) are enrolled in primary school. Only 15% get into secondary school.
- ▶ Reasons why;
 1. Long distance to travel to school. 82% of Malawians live in rural areas.
 2. Family responsibilities.
 3. Unable to pay fees.
 4. Teenage pregnancies / early marriage.

TRAVELLING LONG DISTANCE TO GET TO SCHOOL



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES



OTHER REASONS WHY GIRLS DO NOT CONTINUE WITH SCHOOL


- ▶ Poor performance.
- ▶ Poverty.
- ▶ Parents negative attitude toward the education of girls.
- ▶ Lack of female teachers in schools.

22:16 among girls in Malawi

Lack of role models fuelling school dropout among girls in Malawi

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Lack of women in rural areas who finished secondary school is one of the factors that is making a lot of girls to drop out of school in Nkhotakota district, it has been observed.

As the country is tirelessly fighting hard to see many girls getting far with education, the case is not the same in Nkhotakota district where a lot of teenage girls are mothers and out of school.

Malawi24 conducted a snap survey in remote areas of Nkhotakota namely Mpamantha, Sani, Mapala and Chipwato.

The findings that Malawi24 has established are



EARLY MARRIAGES



WITHIN EMPLOYMENT

- ▶ Few women have opportunities to obtain credit in order to grow other forms of business.
- ▶ More than half of young women aged 15-24 (53%) are working outside the home.
- ▶ 74% work is within agriculture.
- ▶ Less than 1 in 3 working adolescent girls and young women (30%) receive cash for their work.
- ▶ 70% are not paid for their work.
- ▶ 98% of women aged 18-24 do not have an account at bank.

EXAMPLES OF UNPAID WORK



GENDER ROLES

- ▶ These are expectations based on one's sex.
- ▶ Gender roles also extend towards the type of work male and female perform.
- ▶ For example, women are expected to do the household chores.
- ▶ Jobs such as engineering, mechanics are more male dominated.
- ▶ Gender roles are divided into three categories;
 1. Caring role
 2. Productive role
 3. Community role

CARING ROLE



COMMUNITY ROLE

- Involved in provision of water, involved in voluntary work for the community.



PRODUCTIVE ROLE



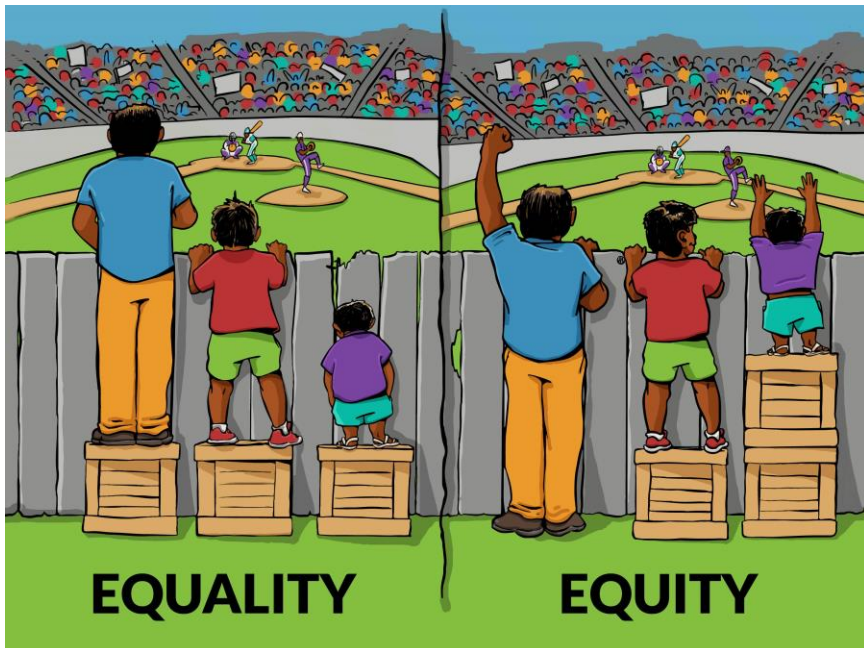
GENDER ROLE IDEOLOGY TYPES

- ▶ **TRADITIONAL**: it reflects the expected differences in roles for men and women.
- ▶ **EGALITARIAN**: Men and women might hold equal roles at as well as at home.



GENDER INEQUALITY, EQUALITY AND EQUITY

- ▶ Gender inequality: unequal treatment based on their gender.
- ▶ Gender equality: equal treatment.
- ▶ Equity: the quality of being fair.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!!