

Protecting Human Rights



Consider narrowing your video's focus by concentrating on a subtheme of your topic. Listed below are just a few of the possible subthemes for videos relating human population growth to preserving biodiversity.

Poverty/Economic Security

There is no universal standard for what qualifies as “poverty”. Different governments have developed their own thresholds (or poverty lines) for classifying economic segments of the population, but many have turned away from a definition based on dollar amounts. An alternative definition of poverty is anyone who does not have what is required to live life with security and dignity, which includes food, shelter, health care, and education. This definition seeks to expand how we view poverty; it is not simply an economic problem, but also has social, political, and cultural ramifications. Although poverty can affect anyone, it disproportionately impacts certain groups: migrants, women, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and indigenous peoples. And although there are regions that experience higher rates of poverty than others, no country is immune. Even in the United States, there are over 40 million people living in poverty.

People who do not live below the poverty line may still lack economic security. Those who are economically insecure are chronically at risk of financial crisis, one medical emergency or job loss away from being unable to meet their essential needs. This economic instability prevents people from meaningfully participating in society or planning for the future. As such, economic insecurity reaches far beyond the pocketbook, impacting the mental, emotional, and physical health of individuals, as well as the vitality and stability of their countries.

Barriers to Education

Around the world, there are approximately 120 million children out of school. For many families, sending a child to school is simply too expensive. Even if the school itself does not require tuition, families are often responsible for additional costs, like books, uniforms, and transportation. For other families, sending a child to school means losing additional (and sometimes critical) labor. Even for families who can afford the costs, however, barriers remain. In many regions (including parts of the United States) there is not sufficient infrastructure to support the volume of students. That may mean overcrowded and under-staffed schools, or students traveling long distances each day to reach the classroom. In some areas, that long commute brings additional barriers. Traveling to and from school may put the students' wellbeing at risk. Many out-of-school children live in conflict-afflicted areas, and are kept home out of concern for their safety. Female students face an additional unique set of barriers to education, including menstruation, the uneven distribution of household chores and responsibilities, and, in some cultures, child marriage practices.

Women and Girls

Globally, women and girls face discrimination and violence. Discrimination can be economic or social, founded in laws and policy or simply in social norms and practices. Combined, this discrimination seeps into every facet of a woman's life: employment, health care, housing, education, and more. Worldwide, over 60 percent of people without basic literacy skills are women, and 30 percent of women experience some form of gender-based violence. Women earn between ten and 30 percent less than men, and hold only 22 percent of parliamentary seats worldwide. For many women, their gender intersects with other aspects of their identity (race, ability, age, sexual orientation, etc.), forcing them to experience discrimination and violence on multiple levels.

Forced Migration

Forced migration refers to refugees, internally displaced peoples, and all others who leave their homes due to circumstances out of their control (like conflict, natural disasters, or famine). Developing countries bear the brunt of this challenge, holding 89 percent of refugees and over 99 percent of internally displaced peoples. Forced migration disrupts the economic and educational future of those affected by it, and prevents countries from successful development. As climate change continues to worsen, it is estimated that over 140 million people may become displaced, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, due to extreme weather events, droughts, and flooding.

Environmental/Social Justice

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of their various identities, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The concept of environmental justice was created as a reaction to the disproportionate environmental burden carried by disenfranchised communities (often low-income, rural, indigenous, or communities of color). These communities tend to be excluded from decision-making that directly impacts them, like determining the site of a landfill, toxic waste dump, factory, or highway system. Without the spare time or resources to fight back, disenfranchised communities are often forced to cope with the negative environmental consequences. As climate change continues to progress, environmental justice advocates seek to limit its impact on already vulnerable communities.

Sources

Poverty

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