

Haitian Parents' Vision for their Children's Future

Park, Soo

Researcher, Columbia University; Young Scholars for Sustainable International Development (YSSID), United States, soo.park117@gmail.com

This study was developed to provide an insight into the vision of the future that the children are growing up under in a small developing community in Sibert, Haiti. The results of the survey and focus group provide interesting insights into the caregiver and parental hope of propelling children into the best future possible, while resting that aspiration solidly on the pragmatism and acceptance of real life conditions that they face.

We approached the ecology around a child growing up in Sibert, Haiti from the perspective of their parents and caregivers and come away with two equally important findings:

1. There are considerable barriers that parents and caregivers are constantly protecting their children from. As evident from their response, these adults are making strides with the lack of education and job prospects for their families. But they also find access to healthcare bleak and immovable.
2. Parents and caregivers value education and have high aspirations for the children that they look after; however, infrastructural and governmental challenges hinder their hopes in obtaining quality education for their children.

This study allowed the authors to conduct a critical needs assessment of the HEART School community in Sibert, Haiti. This effort affords the HEART School the opportunity to receive concrete and tangible feedback to develop sustainable programming and planning for community initiatives as the School currently serves as an active community center for their students and families. Furthermore, this case study also recommends various ways for a school to serve as a community-hub for diverse developing communities.