

Understanding Women's Job Prospects and Gender Inequality Issues in a Developing Community: A Case Study of the Cabarete Community in the Dominican Republic

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The Dominican Republic is a country which has experienced significant issues in gender inequality. In this society, women are typically given unequal opportunities when it comes to access to education and the job market in the Dominican Republic. Many job opportunities, especially those requiring labor, are reserved primarily for men. In response to this inequity, Mariposa Foundation was created in efforts to empower women by providing diverse educational opportunities, including job training. This qualitative study focuses on women involved in the Mariposa foundation, aiming to capture how the Mariposa foundation has shaped the views of women in the Dominican Republic. Specifically, the study examines women's perceptions of job opportunities and their views of achieving "success" in the Dominican Republic. This case study was conducted with the help of the Mariposa Foundation, a non-profit organization that is currently devoting their work to providing access to quality education opportunities for girls and their families in the Cabarete community in the Dominican Republic. By conducting in-depth surveys and focus group sessions, the study analyzed various community development components in the following areas: current job prospects for young people and gender inequality issues. These components were pre-selected by consulting with the community members of Cabarete through a preliminary survey to better understand and pinpoint on significant issues affecting the community. This case study also serves as a needs-assessment for the Mariposa Foundation to understand their diverse challenges of young women in order to better provide for the Cabarete community they are currently serving.