

Gender Role Play Cards

SCENARIO 1: HIV and AIDS, GENDER & EDUCATION

A: You are a 16 year-old girl named Sofia from rural Tanzania. You are the oldest of seven siblings, with four sisters and two brothers. You really want to go to school and be like the other girls in their school uniforms. You know that if you go to school, one day you will be able to help your family by getting a good job that pays well. Last year your father died from HIV and AIDS and now your mother is very ill from HIV and AIDS as well. Your chances of going to school are slim if your mother passes away, since you will be the female head of the household then. Your brothers are more likely to go to school over you since males are valued as more productive workers in Tanzanian culture and more worthy of an education. The anti-retroviral medication your mother is on now is expensive and finding money for food for your family is hard. These days you wake at 4 am to walk to the market a long distance away to sell fruits. All this means you may never have the chance to wear a school uniform like the other girls.

B: You are a 16 year-old boy named Tuponile from rural Tanzania. You are the oldest of seven siblings, with four brothers and two sisters. You and your brothers attend school but not your two sisters. Last year your father died from HIV and AIDS and now your mother is very ill as well. Your father will pay for you and your brothers to go to school but not your sisters. Males are valued as more productive workers in Tanzanian culture and more worthy of an education. Since your mother is ill your two sisters have had to take over the housework as well as selling fruit at the market in order to pay for your school fees. Your sister gets up at 4 am but you get to sleep until 7 am. You love walking to school every morning with your friends, all of you wearing the same school uniform. You feel a bit guilty that your sisters don't have the same opportunity as you to get an education but with your mother ill, someone has to care for the household.

Education is possibly the best tool for tackling poverty. When someone gets educated, they will eventually earn more and be better able to support their family.



SCENARIO 2: CULTURE, GENDER & EDUCATION

A: You are a 13 year-old girl named Sakina who lives in the far northwest of Nigeria. As few as one in three girls are enrolled in school and many more drop out because of poverty and cultural beliefs. School is reserved for the boy child first in your culture, with the girls' role being in the home and to one day get married. You used to go to primary school in Tudun Kose but now you are told you are too old to go and there isn't enough money to send you to the far away secondary school. Your parents are preparing for you to get married soon. You spend your day fetching water and pounding millet to make grain for your family's meals. When you see the other girls going to school you feel happy for them but wish you could go too.

B: You are a 13 year-old boy named Adebayo who lives in the far northwest of Nigeria, where in some places as few as one in three girls are enrolled in school and many more drop out due to severe poverty and cultural beliefs. As a boy, you went to primary school and are now starting secondary school. You get to travel far away to go to school and live in a dormitory. In your culture the boy child is educated first with the hopes he will one day find a job to help sustain the family. When you came home to visit after the first semester you asked your parents if your sister could join you at school. Your sister would love to go to school but your parents informed you she will be married soon and is too old for school.

Girls represent 60% of all children out of school. Education saves lives by giving women and girls the confidence and power to make better choices for themselves and their children.



SCENARIO 3: CONFLICT, GENDER & EDUCATION

A: You are a 15-year old girl and an only child named Ara. You work on the streets of Herat, Afghanistan. Your father is involved in the military, which leaves you and your mother in charge of finding income sources for your family. When you were six you had to drop out of school because of the war and worked in a clothes shop to help pay for your family's food. Since the shop was bombed a few years ago, you are now forced to work on the streets. You wish that you could go to school like the girls in the novels you read. Recently your mother heard about a project that helps working children like you get back to school. You get books and a uniform, and attend classes to catch up with what you've missed. Your father says "No" when you ask to go to school because he worries about your safety on the way to school and that the school grounds may one day be made into army barracks. It's not fair! Your friend Fahran, who is a boy, gets to go.

B: You are a 15-year old boy and an only child named Amir. You work on the streets of Herat, Afghanistan. Your father is involved in the military, which leaves you and your mother in charge of finding income sources for your family. When you were six you had to drop out of school because of the war and worked in a clothes shop to help pay for your family's food. Since the shop was bombed a few years ago, you are now forced to work on the streets. You wish you could go to school like the boys in the novels you read. Recently your mother heard about a project that helps working children like you get back to school. Kids get books and a uniform, and attend classes that help catch you up with what you've missed. Since you are a boy you can attend, although your father warns that one day you may be needed to fight in the army.

Globally, nearly 250 million children have to work to help their families. They miss out on things like school, playing sports, and making friends. For children in conflict affected states attending school is even more difficult because of the danger of schools being targeted in the war

* Adapted from GCE stories found at: <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/why-education-for-all/real-lives/>