THE REVOLUTION WILL BE LED BY A 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL

IF YOU WANT TO END POVERTY AND HELP THE DEVELOPING WORLD, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS INVEST TIME, ENERGY, AND FUNDING INTO ADOLESCENT GIRLS. IT’S CALLED THE GIRL EFFECT, BECAUSE GIRLS ARE UNIQUELY CAPABLE OF INVESTING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND MAKING THE WORLD BETTER. BUT HERE ARE 10 THINGS THAT STAND IN THEIR WAY:

1. LET'S SEE SOME ID
   Without a birth certificate or an ID, a girl in the developing world doesn't know and can't prove her age, protect herself from child marriage, open a bank account, vote, or eventually get a job. That makes it hard to save the world.

2. ILLITERACY DOES NOT LOOK GOOD ON A RESUME...
   70% of the world's out-of-school children are girls. Girls deserve better. They deserve quality education and the safe environments and support that allow them to get to school on time and stay there through adolescence.

3. THE FACE OF HIV IS INCREASINGLY YOUNG AND FEMALE
   When girls are educated about HIV, they stand a better chance of protecting themselves. But education is not enough. Girls need to be empowered and supported to make their own choices.

4. AND PREGNANCY DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON A LITTLE GIRL
   Child marriages are the norm in many cultures when girls are considered too young to marry or bear children. But they are just 15-18 years old.

5. A NICE PLACE TO WORK WOULD BE NICE
   If girls have the skills for safe and decent work, if they understand their rights, if they are financially literate and considered for nontraditional jobs at an appropriate age, if they get their fair share of training and internships, they will be armed and ready for economic independence.

6. IT'S GOING TO YOUR BROTHER, BUT THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL
   Only half a percent of every dollar spent in the developing world is earmarked for girls. And yet when it comes to education, sports, civic participation, health, and economics, they are future mothers. But they actually live in the present.

7. ADOLESCENT GIRLS AREN'T JUST "FUTURE WOMEN"
   They're girls. They deserve their own colegio. They need to be a distinct group when we talk about aid, education, sports, civic participation, health, and economics. Yes, they are future mothers. But they actually live in the present.

8. LAWS WERE MADE TO BE ENFORCED
   Girls need education. They need laws, policies, and change. But they need accountability too. Girls need advocate's within their community. They need their colegios to advocate for them. They need accountability.

9. SHE SHOULD BE A STATISTIC
   We won't know how to help girls until we know what's going on with them. Hey, all you governments and NGOs and social scientists. You're accountable! We need an annual girls report card for every country so we can keep track of which girls are thriving and which girls are not.

10. EVERYONE GETS ON BOARD OR WE'RE ALL OVERBOARD
    Boys, girls, moms, dads. If we don't all rally to support girls, nothing is going to change. Not for them, and not for us. Change starts with you. So get going.

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