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Impact Evaluation

**Ways in which Children International organization fights poverty and child marriages in
the Dominican Republic**

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Seita Scholars Study Abroad – Dominican Republic

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CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Introduction

Child marriages and poverty are two interconnected worldwide global concerns that have significant effects on people, families, and communities. Often represented by lack of basic needs, opportunities, and resources. Poverty impacts millions of people globally. In most instances, poverty becomes a major driver for early or child marriages, bolstering a circle of destitution and vulnerability. Children International is a renowned NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) committed to combating poverty and enhancing the lives of families, especially children, in developing nations. With a significant focus on Dominican Republic, this NGO works relentlessly to solve concerns of lack of education, inadequate healthcare access, child marriage, and poverty. By executing comprehensive and viable programs, Children International intends to break the cycles of poverty, empower children to reach their potential, and establish life-long transformation in susceptible communities. The NGO operates through a comprehensive concept, and significantly believes that poverty and child marriages are multifaceted problems that need multifaceted solutions.

Ways in which Children International fights poverty and child marriages

The following are some of the major approaches that Children International has taken to address these issues.

Holistic Sponsorship Programs: At the heart of their approach, is the sponsorship programs which allow organizations and individuals to directly sponsor or support children in need. The sponsors offer support that meet the child's necessities like food, healthcare, and education. By

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addressing these crucial and immediate needs, Children International mitigate poverty and promote the well-being of these children. Some sponsors also provide emotional support to vulnerable children and families, acting as lifelines, giving them hope and opportunity and empowering them to overcome their obstacles.

Community centers: The NGO has established community centers in vulnerable areas. The centers give susceptible children safe havens to learn, take part in recreational and educational activities and get different support services that help them expand their horizons and explore their full potentials. Aware of the critical significance of health and nutrition, the centers also provide vaccinations, nutritional support, and medical checkups. This helps fight malnutrition among these children and enhance their overall well-being. Besides, the community centers offer diverse programs on computer literacy, vocational training, life skills, as well as health and hygiene. These transformative services and programs empower children to work hard and break the poverty trap.

Health and nutrition programs; In addition to the community centers, Children International has established independent health and nutrition programs that addresses health and nutrition needs through various actions. First, it has organized mobile clinics that go to remote areas so as to reach children who are not able to access healthcare facilities easily. The clinics provide treatments, check-ups, and vaccination, enhancing the overall health conditions of children in these vulnerable communities. Second, the organization has executed programs that offer fortified food, regular meals, and supplements to fight malnutrition. They work hand in hand with families to make sure that the children are properly fed, and their growth and development monitored. Finally, the organization promotes hygiene habits by providing access to sanitation

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facilities and clean water. The children and communities have been educated about proper hygiene practices which are critical to their health.

Advocacy and awareness; The NGO employs advocacy efforts to create awareness about the problems facing children such as child marriages and strives to influence policies that safeguard the rights of children. They work together with partner NGOS, government agencies, and local communities to advocate for change, eradicate child marriages and promote a safe and supportive environment for these children. By collaborating with stakeholders, influencing their knowledge, and creating awareness, Children International aims to develop life-long solutions that addresses the root causes of social inequity and poverty.

Empowerment and Life Skills: Central to the organization's mission is the empowerment of vulnerable children and youths. Children International empowers children by offering mentorship programs, leadership development opportunities, and life skills training. Such programs equip young people with essential life skills like resilience, confidence, decision-making skills, communication skills, problems solving skills and critical thinking skill that are helpful in successfully navigating the life challenges. Through this, young people are able to become builders of their own destinies, and agents of positive transformation in their communities. Still, the organization gives support to parents and caregivers of these children. It provides training on financial literacy, income-generating skills, and parenting skills that strengthen their families and also enhance their economic stability.

Essentially, accountability and transparency are critical to the organization's operations. It employs severe and uncompromising monitoring and evaluation techniques to assess the effects

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of their programs, making sure that resources are used effectively and efficiently. They then use the results to make data-driven amendments. Children International forms partnerships with local organizations and ardently involve community members in their operations and decision-making processes hence fostering a sense of ownership and feasibility within the communities they operate in.

Conclusion

To conclude, founded with an adamant commitment to fighting poverty, eradicating child marriage, and spearheading transformative change in the lives of vulnerable families and children in the Dominican Republic, Children International stands as a renowned international non-governmental organization. Through holistic sponsorship programs, community centers, health and nutrition programs, advocacy awareness, and empowerment and life skills initiatives the organization has remained steadfast in its dedication to break the poverty trap, empower children and families, and establish lasting positive changes in the lives of undeserved communities.

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