A Pictorial Representation of the Importance of Equality in Malian Education

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Abstract  
As a Sub-Saharan, West African nation, Mali has a rich diversity of cultures, varied geography, and limited resources. In fact, less than 4% of Mali’s 1.22 million sq km of land is arable (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2008). Yet, in a country of limitations, one can find evidence of a desire for learning and education. Originally a French colony, the educational structure of Mali is “top down.” The daily educational agenda is set not by the local teacher but rather by the Minister of Education. At this same time, evidence can be found at a local school of the country’s respect and commitment to education for all.

This poster will visually depict one example of a school located in the Niger Delta in Mali. This school is representative of other schools across the agrarian area which is where most of the farming is accomplished. The pictures tell the story of a desire to learn even in rough circumstances where books, pencils, and paper are limited. The poster will provide examples of classroom rules and curriculum.

The significance of this poster rests in the pictures that depict the importance of treating all people equally – including women. In a Muslim country with a diversity of languages and traditions, evidence was found that there is an importance placed on treating people as equals. The educational importance of this poster focuses on providing an inside look at one example of a school in a rural location with limited resources that has chosen to communicate equality as a central theme.

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