

## Question 1

a) As a young woman or a young man, what spaces/places of your city do you like and why? Please elaborate.

*Response:* As a young person I think I like to live in places where the atmosphere is very quiet and serene. Currently the residential place that I am living is noisy and I seem not to like the place at night because there are some drinking bars within the vicinity that make lots of noise at night and this does not help me in my studies and also meditation. In this regards, I must mention that I prefer places that are have a serene atmosphere is conducive for learning, brainstorming and nurturing of ideas. Additionally, I like a city that has been well planned and has a linear setting with regard to the arrangement of houses. Also I like areas that are not filled with filth and also has a good public utility service

b) What kinds of spaces/places do you dislike and why? Please elaborate.

*Response:* I dislike places which are noisy because they do not help in meditation and also learning for me as an individual. I hit to live in a city which is engulf with filth and also has a poor service delivery with regards to utilities like electricity and water.

c) What three changes would you like to see your city's urban planning that would make your city more harmonious for yourself and others of your gender?

*Response:* The problems in Sub-Saharan African cities may seem unconquerable given the rapid growth in population, the influx of rural migrants, the large numbers of informal settlements, the deteriorating infrastructure, environmental deficiencies, housing problems and the underequipped administrative structures. In most cases planning in Africa—and most cities that young people like me dream to influence—has been more reactive instead of being proactive, whilst in many others efficient and effective urban management is lacking. These stumbling blocks make it difficult to identify a convenient starting point. Urban geographers and planners must begin to develop a comprehensive urban information system. For instance, conducting a comprehensive survey of land uses, buildings and zoning parcels will enhance the government's ability to collaborate with Civil Society Organizations, to devise solutions to the myriad problems that confront a dream city. In essence, what I propose is a comprehensive approach to the city crisis—one that addresses the structural, institutional, economic, organizational and human dimensions of the crises within a local and national context, and I intend to lead the change with my colleagues at Young People We Care (YPWC).

d) What is the role of young women and men in making these changes?

*Response:*

I am a young person who has a passion for “development in freedom” and sustainable development. My dream has always been to live in a city that cherishes and practices these values and, to paraphrase Ghandi, in order to have a dream city that suits and promotes the values that you cherish, you should “be the change” that you wish to see, and lead that change. Sustainable development can be development that considers today's needs without denying the needs of the next generation or the generations to come.

Some developing economies, like that of Ghana, do not have a National Youth Policy that will guide the development of young people. As a young person, I wouldn't like to see the youth in my dream city kept from taking part in the policy to develop their capacity, and that of the city. I am doing my best to draw the attention of the Government of Ghana and other concerned institutions to the need for the long-awaited National Youth Policy document. Policies like these, which I have always advocated, consider giving young people another chance when they make bad choices. This is enormously important in both poverty reduction and cultural growth. Where there are no policies to help in the development of youth ,young men and women must ready to put pressure on the government and it stakeholders to do so

I think that also when policies are initiated on issues such as protecting the environment, youth must be ready to lead that change.

## Question 2

a) How do you as a young woman or a young man experience social equity? You can write about any aspect of social equity that you wish. Please elaborate and give examples.. b) How do you experience inequity and exclusion? You can write about any aspect of social equity that you wish. Please elaborate and give examples.

*Response:* Despite government actions at getting water to most Ghanaians, there is still more to be done. I think that every one has a role to play in the goal of desire for portable and equitable distribution of water. In a community which I visited as part of my work as a Millennium Campaign Advocate for the Young People We Care (YPWC) which is a rural oriented youth led Non-Governmental Organization, I noticed a bizarre skin disease on the skin of some residents and upon inquiry from one of the residents., I learned got to know that it was as a result of a bad action by some resident some individuals sabotaging a water project. Some people had introduced a clay-like substance and other foreign materials into the water treatment plant. Here we find individuals sabotaging a water project. I think instead, individuals and community members should cooperate in making water projects sustainable because the consequences of bad actions like these areas very great so far as consumption of unhealthy water is concerned.

Though the 2007 budget statement of Ghana provides indicators as to government's plans for implementing delivering improvement in the rural water sector, the statement fails to address the chronic barriers to access, which is the demand-driven policy in rural water delivery. The 5% capital cost contribution required of rural communities towards the provision of water service is, in my view as a Millennium Campaign Advocate, I think this is unfair, discriminatory, and must be abolished.

At Cape Coast where I school, I have had to battle with the problem of constant and perennial water shortage almost every academic year. The effects of this on members of the university community are enormous. Students bear the brunt of this inaction by government and municipal leaders. Students will have to join long queues for water tanker service. The situation becomes unbearable when the water does not flow through the taps for about two weeks. Last year during the second semester of the academic year, I had to join a queue for almost 2 hours and to my utter dismay, when it was about getting to my turn, the water in the water tank was empty got finish. That day I had to forego bathing. The day after this incident there was nothing positive. This time I had to buy a sachet/bag of water which cost 9000 old cedis for my bath. Will I be able to bath at least twice a day with a sachet/bag of water when my parents earn less than a dollar a day for about 10 days? This is some of the questions that I pose to my self sometimes in a 'supposed' urban center. This also reflects how water can be costly when it is not accessible or unavailable. In this condition my parents, who were in another part of the Ghana, had to pay huge amounts for my water needs.

Taking a step further, the water supply to the University of Cape Coast (where I school) is said to contain some high amount of iron, which makes it unwholesome for drinking. With this situation I always buy a bag/sachet of water for my consumption. This costs 9000 old cedis. Since one has to consume at least 8 (eight) glasses of water in a day, it means I will have to always buy at least 3 bags of water in a week. In this situation also my parents, who live below the poverty line, are also affected as well.

To consider the effects of such conditions on students at my school, I personally have noticed the large amount of time available to students is being consumed spend by join long queues. It reduces the learning hours available to students and this has an effect on the academic performance of students. Personally, I had my Grade Point Average (GPA) for last two semesters reduced because of this situation of water shortage.

More so, students who are or will not be able to purchase water for consumption or for bathing because of financial constraints become susceptible to all forms of skin infections and other diseases.

Last but not the least, the air in the halls of resident also becomes contaminated with the bad pungent scent of toilet and other human waste which have not been flushed flash at the lavatories because there is no water to flush and clean this place of convenience.

c) From your viewpoint as a young person, what are the three key issues that need to be tackled to increase social equity and inclusiveness in your town or city? Who should tackle these key issues? Please elaborate.

*Response:* This days donor agencies are supporting developing countries to add all forms of social equity but the greatest question has been how to make aid work ,that is aid effectiveness .I think that corruption should be tackled and also community leaders who misappropriate funds and do shoddy work should be held accountable after evaluation work has been done.

Additionally, national cake must be evenly shared in addressing all human needs.

This can be done by government and urban planners with support from Civil Society Organization and donor agencies

d) What is the role of young women and men in increasing social equity? Please elaborate.

*Response:* All young people must be proactive and also make know all forms of social inequity in communities. They can form pressure groups to bring some of these things to fore and also take some meaningful and feasible steps to address some challenges in communities.

*Responses from:*

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