Girl Rising – Film Screening Impressions

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs showed another powerful film, educating audiences and potentially moving them to action to make the world a better place:

![Girl Rising poster]

A journalistic documentary beautifully narrated and artistically directed by Richard Robbins gives us a glimpse into the motivated yet unable to fulfill their education-hungry minds of 9 girls in developing countries.

Did you know that there are:

- 66 million girls who are not in school;
- 14 million girls under 18 who will be married this year;
- 150 million girls are victims of sexual violence each year
- and the leading cause of death for girls 15-19 is childbirth?

The film takes us around the world – including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Egypt, Haiti, India, Nepal, Peru, Sierra Leone - and lets us partake in the personal story of aspiring girls eager to get educated and learn more to get to a better place for themselves, their families and society in general.

Lack of education makes girls vulnerable. Helping girls understand their fundamental human rights can help decrease their exploitation.

Not only can education make the girl’s world a better place, but if girls are educated, 1 extra year of education will increase the GDP of that country.

The movie illustrates that often family poverty limits the girl’s ability to go to school despite high potential to be a successful contributor to society.
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While the movie focused on girls and their quest to be educated, the need for strong support in families is apparent. The stories where the father supported his daughter’s creative ability despite being chased from the slums in India and the mother and brother supporting their sister not being married off at a young age in Africa were powerful testimonies to family strength and the potential opportunity for the girl to achieve their educational goals and avoid being in one of the above statistics.

The panel discussion following the film was informative with the lively and enthusiastic Holly Gordon commenting that the global rollout of the film will be in June. The organization behind the film is 10x10 and their goal is to educate girls worldwide.

The question that sparked the making of this film was HOW TO END POVERTY?

Research indicated that lack of women’s education is a key driver for poverty. Throughout the movie, statistics are introduced which not only inform the viewer but also motivate the audience towards our own participation in the lives of others to make it a better world for not only women but everyone.