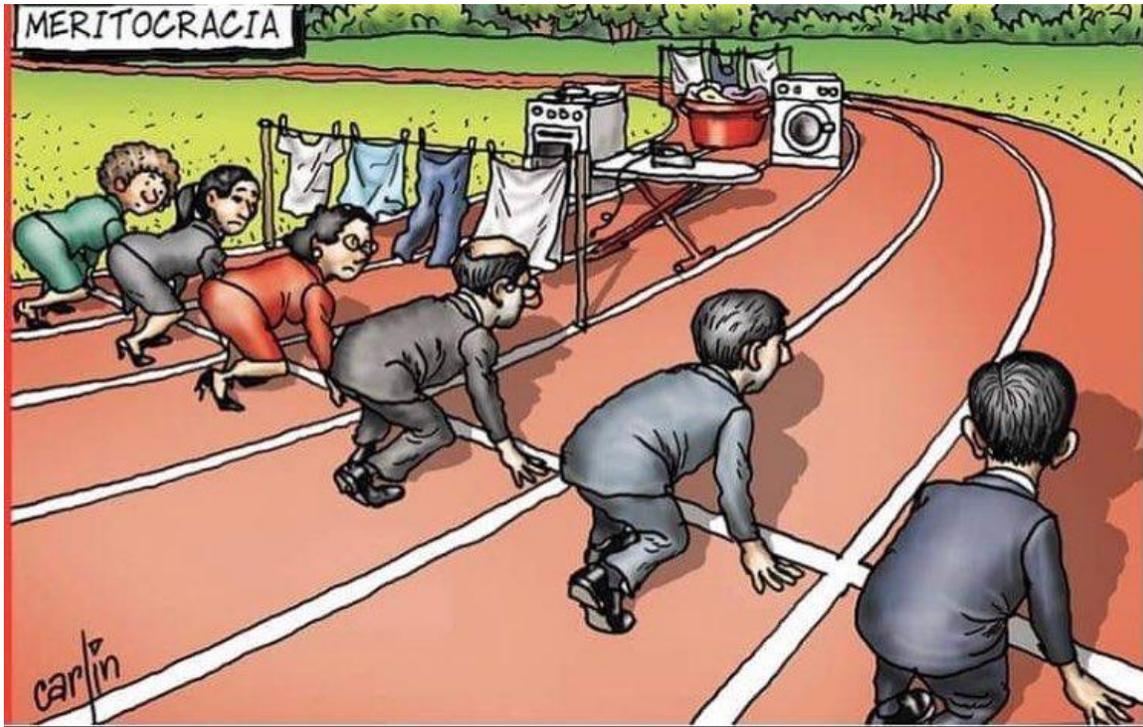


Week 6 – Gender Inequality



Success Criteria:

Students will be able to recount by the end of the week, roughly how much screen time they spend in a typical day, in addition they will be able to recount specific social and health issues that are involved with the Giraffe Women of Myanmar.

Lesson 1:

Students will complete the Current Event we started during Lesson 3 of last week on how much screen time is too much, and they will chart out their own screen-time use in a typical day. Once they finish, they can complete a mini poster in one page of their Red Books on the problems related to too much screen time in young people.

Lesson 2:

The Giraffe Women of Myanmar: Cultural Tradition or Human Rights Violation of Women?

At the age of 5, young girls in remote parts of Myanmar are forced to wear metal rings on their necks. With each passing year they are given another. The problem is - the rings result in serious health issues for them, yet they are not given a choice.

Task 1: Watch the video clip on the Karen women of Myanmar.

Why Do These Women Stretch Their Necks? | National Geographic
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FME1At3vmI> (4:24 sec.)

Class Discussion: Do you think such practices should be banned?
Why – why not?

Task 2: Now watch the second video clip on the Karen women.

“Suffering for Tradition: Taboo – Body Modification.” at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15esQGVdr08> (3:42 sec.)

Class Discussion: In groups of 4 to 6 at your tables – answer the following questions:

1. What is wrong with body modification?
2. Do we not do it with ear and nose and tongue piercings in New Zealand? What about tattoos? Are the neck rings any different?
3. Should there be a law against it? Is it a human rights violation to start this at such a young age?

Your teacher will give you 15 minutes to discuss, then we will go over the responses from each group.

Lesson 3: A Changing Tradition

Task 3: Read the article (below) on the Ring Women of Myanmar and how some parents are choosing to stop doing this. Answer the questions:

After reading the article, create several key dot-points on why the tradition is dying out.

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Reading:

Kayan women turn their backs on tradition

As eastern Myanmar opens up to tourists and embraces modern ways, young people are reluctant to wear neck rings

For 21-year-old Ma Tha, wearing a stack of bronze neck coils is a sign of beauty and maintains the tradition of the Kayan tribe.

She returned to the remote Pan Pet village in Demoso Township in Myanmar's Kayah State in 2016 with her father after nine years working in Thailand while her mother and siblings remained in Myanmar. Ma Tha hopes the prospect of booming tourism and more income for selling traditional items will provide her with stability in her homeland. "It's a struggling situation and we did not have enough income for the family's needs, so we decided to leave Thailand," she told ucanews.com.

Ma Tha and her father now run a neat little shop selling locally made wooden dolls, scarves and individual bronze neck rings. "Our daily income depends on the tourists and we have high hopes to get good income in our homeland in the future," Ma Tha said as she made scarves in the shop near her two-story brick home. A single Kayan woman who can speak little English or Thai, Ma Tha is unmarried and says with a smile that she has no boyfriend. Once the preserve of travelers as its ethnic areas languished under junta rule, Myanmar is now a hot tourist draw. Much of Kayah State was off limits to foreigners and regarded as an unexplored area for decades under harsh military rule.

In remote Pan Pet village, new roads are paved and electricity cable lines run alongside nice brick homes and shops selling handmade souvenirs. Tourists wander around taking portrait photos of old and young Kayan women. For years Kayan females have moved to Thailand to escape conflict and poverty and earn money posing for holidaymakers' pictures in purpose-built Thai villages that are decried by rights campaigners as "human zoos".

About three years ago, they started to return to their homeland as it became more peaceful, allowing tourists access to the region and improvements to infrastructure such as roads and

electricity. Kayan girls are given up to 10 neck rings to wear starting from five years old. They then add a new one every year until adulthood. The practice gives them a giraffe-like appearance that painfully compresses their shoulders and collarbones rather than stretching their necks.

Many myths and legends surround the tradition, including one that women began wearing the rings to protect themselves from tigers and another that they enhance their beauty. The ancient Kayan tradition is centuries old but the practice faces an uncertain future as modernization looms for younger people.

Mu Par, 20, said she would continue to wear bronze rings on her neck but would not allow her daughters to do so. "I want them to pursue their education," she said. The gradual disappearance of the tradition is obvious in Pan Pet, where more than 1,000 residents live. As modernization emerges with easy access to mobile phones and the internet, young people are choosing to dress casually in T-shirts, blouses, trousers and longyis.

Margarita, a 20-year-old Catholic woman, said she doesn't wear bronze rings in her neck and prefers the free style of wearing a blouse and a longyi. She is from Kathanku village, a hamlet of Pan Pet where some 80 people reside in a mixed community of Buddhists and Catholics. A small wooden Catholic church is seen near Margarita's home under green hills.

Maria, 80, poses for a portrait photo in her small hut in Kathanku and says she became a Catholic 20 years ago by converting from Buddhism. The older generation like Maria seems comfortable and proud of their beauty by wearing rings as tourism booms in eastern Myanmar, but young people face the dilemma of choosing between an ancient tradition or wearing the rings for commercial purposes.

Brochure

Task: Create a one-page brochure designed to raise awareness on the drawbacks of neck rings and trying to convince parents in Myanmar not to place neck rings on their little girls. Do it in your books and include a hand-drawn image.