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Learning Module Writeup
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When I started research for this module, I was interested in orphans due to AIDS because there was plenty of information and I felt that I could produce a valuable synthesis. After a more thorough review, I knew that this project could be useful in continuing to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the consequences for children. I knew a little bit about the scope of the pandemic before creating this module, but had never researched the impacts on orphans. While researching, Zambia became a recurrent topic among authors. The initial reason for choosing Zambia as the focus country for this module is that simple – there seemed to be a vast amount of publications on orphans due to AIDS. However, as I continued, it became clear that I could use this country to provide a sociological perspective on the implications for orphans due to disease and the influence of other social factors. It is impossible to include everything in this relatively small project. However, I do provide slides at the end of some sections that are 'suggested readings and resources' for that particular section.

I chose the title 'Orphans due to AIDS' after reading about the negative stigma that may be attached to children when they are referred to as 'AIDS orphans.' After formulating a rough draft outline, I created learning module objectives. I modeled this similar to a course syllabus in order for viewers to evaluate whether or not to pursue reading the seventy plus slides. In the same way that teachers provide information up front to students for what they can expect to learn, I want those considering utilizing this module to have the same option. Next, I created a lesson plan that is much like a table of contents. The lesson plan serves as a quick reference guide to the six individual sections. Each section of this module can stand alone, but each is a part of the larger comprehensive whole.

Structuring the body of the module required a few drafts and I received opinions and suggestions from friends and family. Because this is ultimately a presentation about orphans due to AIDS, the scope of the pandemic is addressed first. Immediately after the scope, I provide statistics on the number of orphans due to AIDS. Following the presentation of the problem, I provide specific implications for orphans and children using a sociological perspective. Many suggested that my overall approach (sociological perspective) for this module should have been the very first section. I disagree because I am not specifically applying this perspective until I focus on Zambia and therefore chose to put those sections side by side, after the scope of the problem. It makes little sense to discuss consequences of a problem or pandemic before addressing the scope. I focus on implications because of disease, and provide information on the influence of other social factors. Finally, I conclude the module with frameworks for addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic and responses that were created to help vulnerable children and orphans.

I suggest that anyone who uses this module for teaching and/or learning browse all of the resources that I have used in this module. I have put together a snapshot of information and publications, but it is important to take advantage of the resources available to enhance overall understanding. The incredible amount of reading and information available on this topic was the most difficult part about creating the module. Focusing on one country helped in keeping the project concise, and it also created a template for others who want to raise awareness. Similar modules could be created focusing on other countries and parts of the world where children are affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Although it was a difficult task, it increased my awareness about the struggles of orphans and children affected by this pandemic, and made me want to help in any way possible. By creating this module, I hope that it is a valuable tool for those interested in learning about orphans and vulnerable children, and that it helps in continuing to raise awareness about orphans and vulnerable children.