How has neoliberalism affected the spread and response of HIV/AIDS in Sub Saharan Africa?

How has HIV/AIDS been impacted by the trickle down effect caused by the Structural Adjustment programme?

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Course: International Relations
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Thesis declaration form

I confirm that the work presented in this thesis is my own. Where information has been derived from other sources, I confirm that this has been indicated in the thesis.

Name: Nicole Rachel Lester

Date: 7/07/2017
Abstract

Today the world is still plagued with the epidemic HIV/AIDS yet with the involvement of organisations such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS/TB/Malaria there are still factors that are being overlooked as to why this epidemic still continues to grow. As poverty is one of the main driving forces for this epidemic it is important to turn our heads to institutions who create policies in the form of structural adjustment plans which in turn has been seen to impact such an issue.

By analysing various amounts of scholars theories and ideas, with support from statistics gathered by various organizations, connected to the impact SAPs have on underdeveloped countries one was able to see the way in which this further affects individuals who are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, the implementation of SAPs in Ghana which is widely known as the IMF and World Bank’s success story revealed contrasting findings further enhancing the ineffectiveness of these policies.

As a result of this analysis and alternative approach or a reform was able to surface to suggest that there might be a better way to tackle economic reform and keep individuals lives in mind at the same time. Moreover, this paper will reveal that there is indeed a close connection between SAPs and HIV/AIDS that needs to be acknowledged and act upon.
Research design

For my thesis I will use a qualitative research method and an evaluation standpoint aimed at examining the outcome of neoliberalism on the spread and response to HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. This evaluation focus will help raise concerns and issues surrounding the Structural Adjustment programme which is a popular neoliberal policy used by the IMF and World Bank to help reform the economic and political structure of a country and many other issues that surround neoliberalism in regards to HIV/AIDS.

The evaluation process will take me on a journey through scholar’s opinions and theories when trying to explain the implications neoliberalism has on the response and spread of this epidemic. I will be reviewing the work of various authors such as David Rowan and his book ‘the deadly ideas of neoliberalism’ which supports arguments that suggest that the fault lies with the IMF and World Bank with their neoliberal ideas and policies which result in poverty and unemployment within developing countries.

Finally, I will be examining the success story of the IMF and World Bank's structural adjustment programme in Ghana implemented in 1984. By doing so I hope to gain a deeper understanding into the way SAPs work and to what extent was this truly a success by drawing on statistic from various sources. To further analyse this case theories such as Keynesian economics and Orientalism will be called upon for support and as a result a conclusion can be drawn into the effectiveness of SAPs and in what way they can be improved on, if it all.
Literature Review

With the use of neoliberal policies in underdeveloped countries it is not surprising that many have been attracted to the connection that these policies may have in the battle against the epidemic AIDS/HIV. In attempts to understand the connection scholars have raised concerns aimed at the World Bank and IMF and their mission to fund the prevention and response to the disease. Studies have revealed interesting results such as the link to labour migration, commercial sex and poverty and health as primary factors that are hindering the elimination of AIDS/HIV.

(1) Neoliberalism

The theory of neoliberalism is derived from early liberalism and is more than just an economic structure it is a philosophy. Neoliberalism has affected countries all over the world and its rise allows an examination into such things as the changes in macroeconomic policy, labour markets, taxation, banking, and healthcare. Neoliberalism wants to expand the economic market ‘by increasing the number, frequency, repeatability, and formalization of transactions’ (Treanor, 2005). The fundamental goal of neoliberalism, which in practice is unrealistic, ‘is a world where every action of every being is a market transaction, conducted in competition with every other being and influencing every other transaction, with transactions occurring in an infinitely short time, and repeated at an infinitely fast rate’ (Campbell & Pedersen, 2001). Although there is a great deal of negative criticism that surrounds this theory such as that laid out above by Campbell and Pederson, most people acknowledge that neoliberalism has become a very important part of our world (Berger & Dore 1996) but have yet to show these positive aspects in regards to HIV/AIDS.

(3) Neoliberalism in Africa

There is a strong argument that liberal globalisation ideology is standing in the way of us seeing that Africa is at the heart of globalisation as any other place. There is a clear link between neoliberalism and globalisation and if one sees that the process of globalisation is spreading out neoliberal policies around the world, the study into
neoliberal policies ‘as a globalising project’ would place Africa at the forefront of research. This is because, more than any other region, Africa has been part of a huge neoliberal and social engineering “experiment” such as the use of the structural adjustment program (Harrison, 2010). Harrison (2010) argues that neoliberal policies can simply be seen as a failed ideology in attempts to act as a socio-economic recovery or development system in Africa. For those who wish to study this field, Harrison defines a clear understanding of the failures and impacts of neoliberal policies within developing Africa which teaches us to what extent individuals lives are being impacted by such policies. However, as Harrison is quick to criticise this ideology and the use of it, he fails to further his thoughts and suggest what might be a better solution. In other words, it seems easy to criticize a system that has seen to fail multiple times, but harder to suggest what another course of action may be.

(3) The deadly ideas of neoliberalism

Rick Rowden examines the deadly ideas of neoliberalism in his book and looks into how neoliberalism came to be and discusses the response and funding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the global South (Rowden, 2014). For the benefit of this paper the focus falls on chapter three where Rowden truly gets into the heart of the debate discussing HIV/AIDS and how it is connected to neoliberalism. This chapter uses data from the World Bank and IMF, to discuss issues such as the public health system and economic stability and what affect this has on HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, the relevance of this book lies with the negative position towards the International institutions. Rowden has as he further argues that these neoliberal reforms used by the IMF which are put into practice in hopes of improving health outcomes, instead highlights their failures that have deadly consequences. Rowden also expresses concern regarding the structural adjustment programs and reveals why there were put in place using case studies such as Mexico and Brazil. By doing so the author reviews the negative implications of this program that will be further discussed in this paper (Rowden, 2009). However, Rowdens work although detailed and full of evidence appears to be very one sided and places majority of the blame on the IMF, with little acknowledgement for any positive analysis in this debate. This will be where my
paper will add to the topic at Hand, weaving in the the positives in order to get a overall image of these neoliberal ideas and to what extent they truly affect HIV/AIDS.

(4) The World Bank and HIV/AIDS

Similarly to Rowden, Sophie Harman believes that the World Bank has a political agenda and uses neoliberal means when dealing with the response to HIV/AIDS. Her book examines the literature on African states with the connection to neoliberalism and furthermore, reveals the analyses of the World Bank and CSOs role in financing for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. By doing so, Harman argues that through the decline of the WHO, the World Bank is able to sustain its global agenda in HIV/AIDS (Harman 2012). It is clear that the author presents a clear understanding of the relationship between health and main political organisations, however in doing so places too much argument within the Bank’s agenda which in turn hinders the effectiveness of the argument.

(5) Structural adjustment and health

Yassin examines the effect that SAPs have on health in countries where they are implemented. For example, Khaled Yassin argues that one way this can affect the spread of HIV/AIDS is when women are forced to move to urban areas and as a result become prostitutes to make money to survive. Additionally, the author argues that due to economic distress caused by these programs labour migration becomes a common ordeal that is also recognized as a major contribution to men engaging in commercial sex. More importantly, cuts in Government spending in health and social services are contributing factors to the poor response to the epidemic under these programs (Yassin, 2003). It is clear that there has been an in depth analysis on this topic. However, the critique lies only in the one sided review. My paper will take this further and by using two cases studies that have gone through the Structural Adjustment Program will also focus on the positives, which this book is lacking.

This collection of literature come to a similar conclusion that there still are many issues that need to be dealt with in regards neoliberalism and the question as to why it is still used in the world resonates. The focus of this paper is to shed more light on the
way that these neoliberal policies are not helping individuals in underdeveloped countries in regards to the structural adjustment program and how the spread of the HIV/AIDS is not alone due to a lack of education but a wider scope of issues such as the lack of money and economic security these people have. Moreover, these academic sources all appear show how the neoliberal ideas begin at the top and are placed upon these states as a means to an end. However what is being missed is how this problem can trickle down and affect the lives of the “everyday man” that are fundamental to the control of HIV/AIDS spread and contraction.
Neoliberalism is a theory that suggests a model of social studies and economics that aims to give control to the public sector rather than the private sector. There are basic principles of neoclassical economics that involve the ‘deregulation of economies and the transfer of governmental responsibilities to the private sector’ (Braedly and Luxton, 2010) The structural adjustment program is a well-known neoliberal policy that has been used in many underdeveloped countries by the IMF and World Bank, particularly in Sub Saharan Africa in attempt to help reform the economic structure of a country.

The rise of neoliberalism, according to many scholars, has hindered the correct and sufficient responses to HIV/AIDS. The goal of this research is to show that policies created by neoliberalism lead to smaller national budgets each year. In turn this means that there is not enough money being put aside for the public health which results in not enough support for doctors and health care workers, which are all factors that can result in a poor response to the epidemic. However, This paper will also focus on the use of the “structural adjustment programme” and how this contributes to the further spread of the epidemic as the economic structure of the country is so bad, people have turned to sex as a way to make a living and labour migration is moving men away from their families who may also embark on sexual relations while away. These factors are being missed by the World Bank and NGO’s who are the biggest fund for AIDS prevention that tend to focus on behaviour change and awareness as the fundamental reason for the on-going epidemic. By analysing all these different theories, a conclusion can be drawn in hopes to suggest what the real problem is and how it can be tackled.

Through showing that there is a huge issue that is being overlooked when trying to tackle an epidemic that threatens national security across borders, this research highlights the importance of an economic structure and policy that potentially could answer questions as to why this disease, even with advanced medical treatment, has not been eliminated and still threatens the lives of millions. Furthermore, this research
will aim to suggest if it is a reform of neoliberalism or an alternative theory altogether that could perhaps be beneficial for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Chapter 1

Structural Adjustment program- a neoliberal design (IMF/World Bank)

This Chapter will look into the way the IMF and the World Bank are structured and how and who makes the decisions. By doing so this will hopefully reveal the way in which the problems surrounding the spread and response of HIV/AIDS begins at the top within international institutions and governments. Furthermore, this chapter will analyse the overall effects that scholars and academics have found to take place when SAPs are implemented. As a result this will aim to show how these decisions create the beginning of a trickle down effect.

The IMF & World Bank

The IMF and The World Bank today are among the most powerful international institutions that rely on funding from a variety of different states. This funding is decided commonly on the basis of the size of these states economies. The idea behind developing these institutions was to aid developing states by financially supporting them in the form of loans.

The World Bank was established in 1944 and the IMF in 1945 and now receives support from 189 countries. Their duties complement each other by;

1. ‘Promoting international monetary cooperation;
2. Facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade
3. Promote exchange stability; assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments;
4. And make resources available (with adequate safeguards) to members experiencing balance of payments difficulties.’ (IMF, 2017)
As the paper will further reveal The World Bank and IMF have made important contributions to neoliberal policies in the world of economics, particularly in Africa and Asia, by promoting taxation and (their most popular) ‘free trade’ policies. Through processes such as the structural adjustment program these institutions have managed to make their presence known within developing economies in the form of loans they have given to these states. However, it is no secret that these institutions have gained a mass amount of criticism throughout the years ‘seeing them as bastions of capitalism and globalisation’ (Woods, 2007, p.1). It is important to note that these institutions did not simply create themselves but were created by governments in the hopes to ‘help balance growth in the world economy’, however, over time these objectives have evolved as these institutions gained independent power through shareholders and those who work there, equally interested in protecting their own self-interests and able to manipulate the agenda (Woods, 2007).

In order to gain an understanding as to how these policies start from the top and create a trickle down effect impacting the lives of those who these SAPs are created to help, one must begin by analysing where the decisions come from and why. This is important as it helps gain an understanding as to what extent these international institutions truly consider health implications when promoting their economic policies for development. Harinder Janjua believes they do not, as he says; “The World Bank may promote itself as Africa’s principal development partner, but its health sector policies are restricting the ability of hard-hit countries to cope with the AIDS epidemic.” - .

Woods believes that the IMF and World Bank have been successful in promoting themselves in the form of globalizers, but goes on to say this has little to do with ‘pure economic zeal’ (Woods, 2007, p.2). This is due to the idea that the decisions made are predominantly forged by politics and rules created within these institutions. Furthermore, the idea of self-interest within states has been widely debated among scholars and there appears to be a general consensus that ‘there is always some

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1 Senior Policy Advisor at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
element of self interest involved in state action (Karen E. Smith, 2001, p.23). With this in mind, Woods suggestion that the failure and criticism aimed at the IMF and World Bank is not due to their lack of economically educated staff but the powerful hand that these Government figures have in shaping the actions of these institutions and controlling the agenda most likely holds some truth. This leads one to speculate that the decisions made are not solely based on what is best for those in need of funding and aid but what these powerful individuals can gain from them. Moreover, this could explain the withdrawal of funding from sectors such as health and education as these departments generate no direct economic benefits.

However, interestingly Woods suggests that it is not always the case that Governments are interested or have anything to gain from projects that the IMF and World Bank are involved in particularly that of Sub-Saharan Africa (Woods, 2007, p. 4). Although this would imply that there is no driving hand for selfish gain, if looked at in a different perspective this could have some negative implications. Perhaps in cases where there is no pressure from higher powers to ensure that there are positive and beneficial results being produced, more time and resources go into the cases that do demand results. This could result in policies and systems that have not been carefully moulded in consideration with environmental and cultural factors, which in turn can have some serious implications for a country. This will be further discussed throughout this paper.

**THE SAPs**

Neoliberalism is a theory that has been derived from the beliefs of the early classical liberalism that includes the ideas of ‘self-regulating markets’. This theory has been used by institutions such as the IMF and World bank who have then further incorporated this into adjustment programs for under-developed countries.

During the past decade, most countries in Africa have undertaken SAPs of one form or another, which involved

1. ‘currency devaluation
2. changes in fiscal, financial and pricing policy and
3. Legal, regulatory and institutional reforms.’ (FAO, 1999)

In the 1960s African countries were finally gaining independence and with this a stronger and present voice within the United Nations. This brought forward hope that with this independence a positive economic development and growth would occur within the region and the future of Africa would be fruitful and thriving. However, due to various reasons such as the realities of postcolonial violence this development slowed in the 1980s (Heidhues & Obare, 2011) leaving Africa in a difficult situation. As Africa began to turmoil into hard times the Governments were looking for ways to seek help and the western world was willing to lend a hand by introducing them to the SAPs. With this introduction came the plan that there would be massive changes in policy such as ‘the elimination of subsidies and removal of tariffs while institutional’ and furthermore, the ‘privatisation of government owned enterprises and the introduction of cost recovery’ (IMF, 2017).

When analysing the effects SAPs have on a country it is clear to see how many believe it is not the correct form of adjustment for various reasons. Due to this heavy criticism, SAPs were at one point replaced by a system called ‘poverty reduction and growth’ loans (Easterly, 2003). These loans were put in place ‘to make the objectives of poverty reduction and growth more central to lending operations in its poorest member countries’ (IMF, 2017). However, ‘since the 2008 financial crisis the IMF and world bank have remerged as key actors shaping the policy trajectory of countries in economic crisis’ (Kentikelenis, 2017). This has consequently led to re-emerging fears and concerns that with the return of policies, health care and education will once again suffer as SAPs remain a dominant form of adjustment.

The IMF and World Bank have individually looked into the effectiveness of SAPs and have both returned with results that do not satisfy the desire to get to the bottom of this ever burning question. The results in fact highlighted ‘possible success but also instances where specific conditionality was probably wrong or based on underestimations, and overall there is little conclusive evidence of a net positive affect’ (Woods, 2007, p.5). It would even appear that these results match the opinions
and critiques that many hold with its up and down uncertainty. However, this raises the question, if the results are not positive why do the IMF and World Bank continue to use this form of adjustment? It appears as though this answer lies solely in the way in which the IMF and World Bank persist in claiming that SAPs are beneficial for economic growth and stability.

**The General critiques of the SAPs**

‘When the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank arrive in southern countries, corporate profits go up, but so do poverty and suffering’ (Easterly, 2000)

Over the years the SAP has gained a mass of criticism with some suggesting that ‘many developing countries suffered . . . sustained increases in prosperity, accompanied by dramatic increases in inequality and child poverty . . . under the auspices of IMF and World Bank adjustment programmes.’ (Easterly,2000). However, even with the criticism that surrounds this method the IMF and the World Bank continue to use them as they ‘demand, that developing countries persist with SAPs’ (Easterly, 2000).

For a programme that is meant to control and help the economy of a country there are still many economic issues that arise when applying SAPs. For example ‘Fatton- says that (1992: 130) SAPs lead to “overall economic failure” and had “destructive social consequences”’ (Logan, 2015) and furthermore ‘Chabal and Daloz (1999: 120) highlight their “damaging” cumulative effect’ (Logan, 2015). This is visible by the way in which poverty has risen in cases where SAPs have been implemented (e.g Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Ghana) and the gap between the rich and the poor has been increased. Logan (2015) believes that there is a simple explanation as to why poverty is still present in Africa today. This is because SAPs have been seen to have negative impacts on a country rather than acting as a form of aid and furthermore places blame onto the ““global capitalist” economies behind the loaning process’ (Logan,2015). This has lead to African states economies being moulded and reformed from the
outside which ultimately leads to exploitation by the way in which these institutions ‘provided loans but dictated the conditions for repaying them’ (Logan, 2015).

Within the long list of issues that arise with the SAP social factors are currently under-analysed within the debate due to the main focus lying with political and economic implications. However, social issues are inherently intertwined within most problems and thus become an important point of analysis. Due the debate that surrounds the SAPs growing with new concerns rising, it has become clear that these social factors have been acknowledged as a problem by these financial institutions. This is due to the introduction of ‘social safety nets’ (Bhatta, 2001) that were put in place to counteract the effects of the SAP in developing countries. This indicates that as SAPs stand alone social implications are not considered and thus lacks considerations for issues such as ‘health and education, food subsidies, social action programmes’ and many more (Bhatta, 2001). Without the use of these extra precautions that raise awareness for these social aspects, economic and political effects of the SAP would be of less of a concern in comparison to that of social implications. Although it is fair to say that social concerns have been met with a solution, this ‘safety net’ that has no implementation mechanism cannot be fully trusted to ensure that these key issues are not being ignored.

Moreover, from a political perspective the SAP looked promising to begin with as this neoliberal design opened up borders to international trading and gave hope to a country in need of help. This is why some believe that without SAPs matters could have become worse are more difficult to overcome (Thomson, 2010: 189, Logan 2005). Furthermore, Thomson believed that ‘adjustment would provide greater political autonomy and perhaps stronger national identity for African states’ (Thomson, 2010: 189, Logan 2005). However, as time has passed the true nature of SAPs have been revealed as many question surrounding their effectiveness have come to light and African states have not yet gained that ‘greater political autonomy.’ In fact this might suggest the opposite as the need to rely on the IMF and
World bank to better their economy can be perhaps be viewed as this revealing their weakness as political rulers are seeking help from outside sources.

The last concern of the SAPs effects lies with health. This point is the most important for the discussion of this paper in aims of analysing how the SAPs shares connections with the spread and response of HIV/AIDS. As mentioned above the SAPs when applied results in many outcomes and among them is this issue of ‘eliminating subsidies on consumer items such as foods, fuels and medicines’ (Empty promises, 2003). The IMF and the World Bank's program has been criticised on many levels which include the cutting cots directed at health care and education. However, as the social impacts have explained precautions have been put in place in order to protect these rights even though many believe that it ‘is a disputed claim’ (Empty promises, 2003).

The impact the SAPs have on health is a result of all the other issues combined, particularly the effect on the economy and moreover poverty. Heidhues believes that these SAPs have ‘stagnated economic growth and increased income and wealth inequality throughout the developing world’ (Heidhues, 2011). This idea would further suggest that those individuals who lie at the bottom of the “food chain”, so to speak, are not receiving adequate attention or resources which falls under the African Charter on Human and peoples lives, Article 16 and 17 which expresses the rights of individuals to healthcare and education (Hazarika, n.d). This is not to say that it is not being acknowledged that without the proper funding these rights cannot be protected it simply wishes to emphasise the importance and need to ensure that these SAPs are honouring the social and health precautions that have been put in place.

Although it may appear to be easy to get trapped into thinking that the debate surrounding SAPs lies with negativity and criticism, there are those who believe there are some good outcomes of this adjustment model. In fact the French have even taken on board these policies and reformed them into their own methods of adjustment in Africa. Furthermore, one must take the idea of structural adjustment as a slow moving and time-consuming process of progress, which is why blah explains Governments
agree to such policy reforms as ‘external resources provided in support of adjustment reduce delay by reducing the pain - of hardships on their people’ (Schydowsky, 1995). Moreover, SAPs are designed to ‘promote growth and especially, sustain growth- and that the impact of adjustment programs on growth shows that countries have typically grown faster for a few years as a result’ (Schydowsky, 1995) which suggest as a theory this form of adjustment should produce some positive effects on a country. However, although this may be true the constant battle with external forces such as the impact on unemployment and health care services are what again leads to the criticism that weighs heavy over these “positive effects”.

The IMF and World Bank appear to have been devoured by major criticism. Not only in regards to the negative impacts it may have on a country but also in the way in which the decisions appear to being made are moulded around self-interest. This paints a picture of the institution as a puppet with its strings being pulled by various powerful individuals, in various different directions. Therefore, the following chapter will dive deeper and expand on the ideas of how the SAPs negative impacts on a country can trickle down and affect the lives of individuals and their risk of contracting or spreading HIV/AIDS.
Chapter 2

HIV/AIDS and the SAP

(Health, poverty, migration, prostitution and gender equality)

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has been around for over thirty years and to this day maintains its strength and presence around the globe. The origin of this epidemic has been widely researched and when it first appeared it began a widely aggressive debate on where it originated and who discovered it (Crawford, 2013, p.1). As many know when HIV/AIDS first made its appearance in the West it was infamously labelled “the gay man's disease”. However, today it is widely believed that the origins lie with chimpanzees, and that at one point the HIV virus crossed species into humans.

The AIDS epidemic has been present in Africa since 1983 (Pepin, 2011) and the World Health Organisation has revealed that ‘Sub-Saharan Africa remains most severely affected, with nearly 1 in every 25 adults (4.4%) living with HIV and accounting for nearly 70% of the people living with HIV worldwide.’ (WHO, 2017). However, today the fight against HIV/AIDS has a dramatic turn around with a visible increase in donations and action by the western world. Rick Rowden claims ‘that for the first time in history, the global community seems mobilized to spend enormous resources to combat the diseases of the poor, and addressing the developing world’s diseases has become a key feature of many rich nations’ (Rowden, 2013). Rowden also attributes most of this success to organisations such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tb and Malaria an governmental Funds and activists. Although there has been some positive changes the reality still lurks over Africa like a dark cloud, this epidemic is still ongoing and seemingly never ending.

Although medicine has progressed and introduced medical treatment that no longer means contracting the virus is a death sentence this epidemic remains a “disease for the rich” as the medication has an extortionary price on it. Thus charities, organisations and institution continue to roll money into Africa and little change is
presented as a result. There are many factors that have been connected to the poor response and spread of HIV/AIDS, however, the structural adjustment programs used in developing countries plays an important role in this debate. This is because the SAPs and the effect that they can have on a country can be attributed to a majority of discussion points in this field. This opinion has been discussed further by E. Umunna who believes that SAPs ‘deepened the depth of poverty and likely contributed to the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS’ (Umunna, 2011). Not only has it been widely discussed by scholars, individuals too have felt the devastating results of the SAPs which have lead to protests in ‘Liberia (1979), Sudan and Tunisia (1985/86), Zambia (1987, 1990), Algeria (1988), Nigeria (1988, 1989) and Ivory Coast (1990)’ (Umunna, 2011).

These protests have been in just cause with individuals at the bottom feeling neglected and mistreated. Rowden explains that since HIV/AIDS has been funded by these institutions such as the World Bank and IMF they have had predisposed ideas that health issues lay within the problems surrounding development and poverty and thus continue to use these neo-liberal policies on countries even though the outcome may be worse than what it was to start with. This relates back to the idea by Sophie Harman who believes that the World Bank has a political agenda and uses neoliberal means when dealing with the response of HIV/AIDS.

Health

As chapter one explains, health implications are key to this essay and involve a majority of issues caused by the SAPs. One key problem is the lack of funding that is going into creating a well-educated and structured health care system. Rowden supports this claim and further suggests that there ‘has been a lack of sufficient numbers of skilled and trained healthcare workers available in countries to administer and roll out HIV/AIDS programmes’ (Rowden, 2009). This can be attributed to the lack of resources directed at this department as the SAPs target health resources and education for budget cuts.
Within the debate surrounding the impact of SAPs on health it has become apparent that most scholars analyse this within the framework of indirect and direct impacts. Brunelli explains the indirect effects such as ‘decreased employment, raised prices of commodities, and reduced government services and spending on infrastructure’ (Brunelli, 2007) are reasons as to how mortality rates can increase and thus as a result affect health indirectly. The direct impacts as echoed by Rick Rowden revolve around the way in which SAPs lead to fewer resources and centres which means that ‘individuals must purchase health care from the private sector’ (Rowden, 2009). Due to this not enough time or money is being invested in creating an easily accessible medical care that individuals who are in need of HIV/AIDS treatments and help can use. Furthermore, the severe consequences of the SAPS on health in Africa are becoming visible in the forms of ‘shortages of imported drugs, migration of skilled health workers, and development of private medical practice (“Structural Adjustment,” 1990 & Rowden, 2009).

However, in contrast to this Kahn (1999) interestingly found that in a study looking into the effects of structural adjustment on health in Pakistan, that during the period of SAPs implementation health services actually increased (Kawachi and Wamala, 2007, p. 226). This leads one to conclude that perhaps in some instances when the SAPs have a positive effect on the economy of a country funds can be pushed back into these resources such as medical care and personnel once stability is reached. On the other hand as Pakistan's prevalence rate remains low with ‘around 0.1 percent of the adult population’ (World Bank, 2017) living with AIDS/HIV, and thus a fair comparison cannot be drawn to that of the Sub-Saharan region. This leads one to further conclude that the IMF and World Bank are continuously using a model of adjustment and development without consideration for external factors such as environment and culture that ultimately brings forth the concept of a “one shoe fits all” model. This leads back to the theory of Orientalism and the way in which the western worlds ideas and values were viewed as “better” and an example that should be followed by underdeveloped countries (Said, 1978, p. 1). Although since the time of the oriental minds have evolved to become more understanding, it could be said...
that the IMF and the World Bank's SAPs are simply an extension to the past's beliefs on the oriental supported by words which may still hold meaning to these institutions- 'they cannot represent themselves; they must be represented' - Karl Marx (Said, 1978, p. 1).

Haacker and Salinas believe that HIV/AIDS ‘stands as one of the largest obstacles to the development of many countries’ (Haacker, Salinas and Haacker, 2006, p.3) with this in mind it becomes rather hard to fathom as to why the IMF and world bank continue to use methods directed at an open market and economy restructure when it appears as though health is the key to unlocking development in the continent.

Prostitution

As SAPs appear to affect the economy of a country and increase poverty, as certain situations have reveal, it is clear to see how the connection between SAPs and prostitution is formed. In a struggling economy with women predominantly suffering they must make the hard decision to turn to the commercial sex market in order to make ends meet. In Nigeria alone there is an estimated 236 146 million sex workers (UNAIDS, 2014) and in Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole it is estimated by UNAIDS that less than 50% of sex workers have access to HIV prevention programmes (WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF 2008).

Many believe that the idea of commercial sex is being overlooked or perhaps even ignored as a fundamental reason the epidemic continues to spread. Susan s. Hunter sheds some light on this theory and explains that sex is a huge part of the economy for poor women, and that local communities are their only reliable source of support, which means that the means of using sex as a currency is the only way they know. It is important to note that Hunter states that unprotected sex is not a rare occurrence on the streets so clearly there is a link between education and sex as people are putting their life at risk by doing so. However, women in this position are less likely to insist on condom use due to the immense need for money (Hunter, 2005, p.30). Therefore, it appears that due to the circumstances women are left with little to no choice in the
matter when it comes to safe and protected sex. With this knowledge it is clear to see how HIV/AIDS is still so prevalent within the region and how easily it can be spread from person to person.

Brummer and Becker and other scholars echo this thought however use a different focal point and blame labour migration as men are forced to look for jobs away from their family. They have found a “close association between migration and the HIV infection, In this case labour migration may be motivated by the loss of jobs a condition made possible by the implementation of neoliberal policies.” (Becker, 1990 & Brummer 2002). E. Umunna also attributes this idea of labour migration to fall in close connection as to a turning point in the spread of the epidemic, particularly in Nigeria. E. Ununna explains that whilst these men are forced to look for jobs away from their spouses they engage in illicit sexual relationships with women who are also attempting to fight poverty by occasionally protesting their bodies or becoming their mistresses (Ununna, 2007). If these men are infected whilst migrating for labour and then return home to their wives, the vicious cycle is complete and forms one part of an explanation as to why SAPs further the spread of HIV/AIDS.

**Human trafficking**

Human trafficking is an ever-growing “business” in the world affecting countries all over the globe. In Sub-Saharan Africa human trafficking is a common occurrence, however, ‘most cases of trafficking in persons remain unknown: only 0.4% of all estimated victims are identified’ (U.S. DOS, 2010). With the uncertainty of knowledge it becomes terrifying as to how bad this problem could actually be and raises questions as to what does this mean for areas which show high levels of HIV/AIDS positive individuals for the possible further spread of the epidemic.

There has been a suggestion among scholars that there is a link between structural adjustment and human trafficking. Ebbe and Das (2008) have found this to be the case in Nigeria as they believe to have seen an increase of trafficked people during the period of implementation of SAPs within the country. Furthermore, words by
Hodgson (1995) are used to support their views as he says ‘the implementation of structural adjustment plans imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in different countries have exacerbated and fuelled the rapid growth of trafficking in persons for commercial exploitation’ (Ebbe and Das, 2008, p. 181). They believe that due to negative impacts on the economy which are caused by these SAPs people are forced to look for jobs elsewhere. This makes certain individuals vulnerable to organized crime groups who target these people for human trafficking such as those who have been left ‘powerless and marginalised in their host society’ (Munro, 2012).

As SAPs appear to share a connection to Human trafficking, the realities of the effects of human trafficking on the spread of HIV/AIDS are all too real. Although the UN acknowledge that there is no ‘direct causal correlation between trafficking and HIV/AIDS’ they believe that ‘once a person is trafficked they generally face a new and powerless situation in an alien environment which increases their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS’ (UNGIFT). However, due to the lack of data that surrounds human trafficking victims this remains merely an opinion of the UN and could indeed be more serious than first expected in regards to spreading the epidemic.

One reasons as to why this might be lies within the after-math of human trafficking individuals for exploitation. Victims are often forced into sexual relations with more than one partner that can sometimes be violent and against their will. Due to this physical harm individuals are more prone to contracting HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, forced sex workers are more prone to contracting STDS which has been shown to further increase the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS (Cullen-DuPont, Neuwirth and Bien-Aimé, 2009, p. 96). To support this claim Cullen-DuPont, Neuwirth and Bien-Aimé provide a study by Dr Jay G. Silverman that looked into the Nepalese sex trafficking victims. This confirmed that ‘overall 38 percent of the Nepalese sex trafficking victim tested positive for HIV, AND 61 percent of those who had been trafficked before age 15 tested HIV positive’ (Cullen-DuPont, Neuwirth and Bien-Aimé, 2009, p. 96).
Poverty
As previously discussed there is an inherent link between SAPs and poverty, for example statistics have shown that debt climbed from 56 billion dollars in 1980 to staggering 161 billion dollars in sub saharan Africa during the implementation period. (Umunna, date?). With this in mind the connection between poverty and HIV/AIDS must be further discussed to gain a full understanding of the effects of SAPs in regards to the spread and response of the epidemic. This is not to say that these structural adjustment programs cause all poverty but statistics and history have shown that if these programmes fail it can be very destructive on the economy of a developing country particularly in Sub Saharan Africa where HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are high.

To begin with, the statistics show that ‘40 Per cent of the continents population is living on less than 1US Dollar a day and surviving on less than 2US dollars a week’ (Poku, date?). This already highlights the shocking reality of how much poverty already exists in Africa and to further add to that SAPs are being implemented on top of this, which sometimes creates even greater poverty. Furthermore, SAPs have been found to increase the gap between the rich and the poor and because of this ‘the poor are not only more likely to suffer, they are also less likely to have their suffering noticed’ (Brunelli, 2017).

On the other hand, it is interesting to look at the way in which HIV/AIDS affects poverty directly. This is because SAPs have been targeted for mass criticism in regards to the increase in poverty within a country during implementation yet critics seem to ignore the constant battle such a program faces when such an epidemic plagues the area. Haacker and Salinas suggest that as the epidemic claims lives of those primarily in the working class this leads to ‘major reductions in their work forces, unambiguously lowering GDP growth rates’ (Haacker, Salinas and Haacker, 2006, p. 3). This would appear to suggest that SAPs failure may be more closely related to HIV/AIDS than first expected, with both situations having an impact on each others outcome.
Gender

In Africa there is 16 million women living with HIV with statistics showing that 80% of these women are in Sub-Saharan Africa. UNAIDS has revealed that ‘The primary contributor to the scale of the epidemic in this region is heterosexual transmission and the increased vulnerability to and risk of HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women’ (UNAIDS, 2016)

Due to this shocking data it is clear that a point of analysis should fall to the way in which SAPs can affect gender equality, specifically for women living in this region. This is because as main victims to the virus in Sub-Saharan Africa they are more prone to affect the spread of the epidemic. This field has been widely debated among scholars and a consensus of negativity has been concluded by most. Sahn’s(1991) research has revealed that ‘women are not served by the market distortions that reform and adjustment policies seek to remove’ (Sahn and Haddad, 1991)-because of this women are left worse off than the male population having to turn to alternative methods of labour in order to help support their family.

Furthermore, the World Bank themselves have recognized this as an issue as their research has revealed that even though they continue to maintain that while SAPs are important to the macroeconomic stabilization policies -which- are necessary for growth, they are not sufficient in reducing poverty or income inequality in all countries’ (Sadasivam, 1997). Due to these results the World Bank and IMF have yet again attempted to create precautionary aids in order to protect women such as creating an ‘external gender consultative group (EGCG)’ (Sadasivam, 1997), however, like most of these aids implemented by these institutions it is clear it remains ‘that it is women who, as workers, producers, consumers, wives, and mothers, are the shock absorbers of adjustment efforts at immense cost to their well-being’ (Sadasivam, 1997). Moreover, the impacts of the SAPs in terms of employment can also play a role the debate surrounding gender equality.

As it has become clear SAPs have most definitely had a negative impact on women in regions where it has been implemented but what does this mean for the HIV/AIDS
epidemic? One clear connection relates back to the idea of commercial sex worker. In Sub-Saharan Africa sixteen countries were analysed by UNAIDS which revealed that in 2012 this region ‘showed a pooled prevalence of more than 37% among sex workers’ (UNAIDS). However, although this data may be out-dated with statistics still showing that this region continues to have the largest prevalence rates in the world it appears as though not much has changed.

Furthermore, biologically women are more predisposed to contracting HIV/AIDS. This is because ‘women have a greater mucosal surface area exposed to pathogens and infectious fluid for longer periods during sexual intercourse and are likely to face increased tissue injury’ (Ramjee and Daniels, 2017). Perhaps the study into the field of gender equality has revealed some interesting findings as to where the source of the problem can be found in regards to the response and spread of HIV/AIDS. On the surface it appears as simple as bridging the gap between male and females and supplying women with extra health aid as they appear to be the most susceptible to the epidemic.

Moreover, returning to the idea that the key to HIV/AIDS prevention is education as stated by the IMF and World Bank, Klot & Nguyen suggests that SAPs lead to ‘decreased participation of girls in schools due to user fees’ (Klot & Nguyen, 2011). This highlights the inefficiency of these structural adjustment programs to once again consider the overall social impact the economy has on gender equality. UNICEF has stated that ‘Women constitute the majority of the world's poorest. Their lack of access to life skills-based education, economic resources and opportunities deem them vulnerable to infection’ (UNICEF, 2017). Therefore, this reveals a close connection to the idea that due to SAPs women are not given a fair opportunity to learn about such dangers as the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Dip Kapoor has echoed this argument however does not generalise specifically to women and suggests that due to a neoliberal globalisation agenda forced upon these underdeveloped countries, the education that needs to be shared on this epidemic is ‘inadequate’ and the blame falls to the multi-lateral agencies dealing with this task.
(Dip Kapoor, Introduction chapter 8). Furthermore, he takes an interesting stance as he simply argues that once the issue of education is addressed the result will benefit the response and spread of the disease. However, as this paper will discuss, education is merely one avenue that needs to be addressed when aiming towards a world HIV/AIDS free. Thus, the IMF and World Bank’s neoliberal adjustment program has indeed created a trickle down effect influencing the spread of the epidemic in regards to women and gender inequality.

This chapter leads us on to analyse how the structural adjustment program has fared on an individual country within Sub-Saharan Africa. By doing so, the effects of SAPs on underdeveloped countries can be studied to conclude how HIV/AIDs is truly connected to this neoliberal program.

Chapter 3
Case Study: Ghana

Ghana- the success story for the IMF and World Bank

History of Ghana
Ghana lies within West Africa along the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. In 1957 Ghana gained their independence from the British and was the first black African Nation to gain independence from colonial rule (Garfield, 2010). To begin with Ghana looked as though it would be a promising candidate to lead the way in development in Africa with an already well-established trading industry. However, as the 1980s came along things began to change and Ghana was faced with a devastating economic crisis.
In 1983 the government decided that Ghana would work with the World Bank and IMF in a Structural Adjustment Program. This was done under strong Ghanaian Leadership and was a project that each party worked closely and collaborated in. The SAP was put in place in order to ‘free the economy’ and its outcome became present in a slow and gradual pace. This was done by ‘retrenchment of the bloated government bureaucracy, privatization of government enterprises, freeing up of the market for cocoa, and reducing the cocoa export tax’ (USAID, 2008).

The use of the structural adjustment program in Ghana has been considered by the IMF and World Bank as a success story ‘with rises in GDP, exports, net inward financial transfers, food production and real minimum wages, and decreasing inflation’ (Green, Reginald Herbold, 1998). This is because Ghana appeared to have seen some positive improvements in regards to economic components. Vida (2016) explains that ‘Inflation declined from an annual rate of 73% to about 13%; there was a significant raise in gross national investment i.e. 3.7% to 16%; and also an expansion in industrial capacity i.e. from about 25% in the 1970’s to about 46% in the 1990’s (Vida, 2016). Another way in which positive achievements revealed itself by the use of the SAPs lied within its ability to repair ‘structural imbalances, growth in goods and services, generation of donor confidence and the attraction of foreign investment (Vida, 2016).

*Table 1: Poverty*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>GDP per Capita (Constant LCU)</th>
<th>GDP Per Capita (US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>551.6</td>
<td>358.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>561.3</td>
<td>354.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>573.0</td>
<td>437.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>583.7</td>
<td>376.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>600.0</td>
<td>375.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>613.6</td>
<td>369.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>616.9</td>
<td>402.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you can see data collected by the World Bank Revealed that there was a slight gross of GDP per capita within Ghana during the first few years of implementation and with that there were slight improvements to poverty. However, it has been revealed that between 1987 and 1992 ‘31% of all Ghanaians fell below the poverty line, which was fixed at household income of 132,230 cedis per year’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000) This meant that ‘more than half of the poor were classified as “hard-core” with incomes below the ultra poverty line’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000). Although the IMF and World Bank consider the impact they have had on the country a success it can be speculated that individuals within the country living in poverty would have to disagree on the premise that they are not directly feeling the impact of the ‘decline in inflation’ (ibidem) yet are feeling the impact of living below the poverty line.

**Education, health and employment**

As mentioned before, Ghana’s independence came with hope, although short lived, many saw this country as having ‘the best infrastructure systems in Africa, the most educated, skilled and experienced workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2001). With this in mind it is hard to believe that during the implementation of SAPs it did not only create cuts of over ‘300,000 public sector workers’ but also created cuts and fees in health and education services that is so important for the well being of the individuals in a country (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000). Due to this reduce in health and education resources it resulted in a build up of debt while the SAP was in place which further meant that children were denied their basic rights to ‘education, health and adequate nutrition’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000). To help balance out this problem the Ghanaian Government put in place free education for children, however, parents are still left with a bill they cannot afford in order to buy books and other school supplies. This has meant that even with a free education rural areas living with little to nothing still cannot afford to put their children through school leaving a large portion of the young uneducated.
However, to tackle issues such as unemployment and education an extra program was added to the SAP in Ghana. This was called the programme of Action to mitigate the social costs of Adjustment (PAMSCAD). In 1987 a few years after the program had actually began the PAMSCAD was introduced in order to help health care and educational services or individuals who had lost their jobs. Although, whilst this seems to have been a beneficial step forward many criticize this move in the way it appears to have been ‘tacked on to the end of the adjustment package as an afterthought, under pressure from UNICEF and concerned bilateral donor’. Furthermore, the effectiveness of this particular programme has been said to lack data and thus a conclusion cannot be drawn as to how beneficial it actually was.

Furthermore, the SAPs impact on health in Ghana has been widely discussed as not only was HIV/AIDS an issue but diseases which had not been seen for years reappeared for example, yaws and yellow fever in Ghana (Loewenson, 1992:6)(p.18). This was problematic as blah reveals that for the ‘First phase of the SAPs (1983-1986) as much as 62% of the total funds was allocated to physical infrastructure, 30%-32% for “productive activities” and export-orientated activities, and less than 5% for social services’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000). With reammeriging old diseases and new ones such as HIV/AIDS in Ghana, policies enforced by the SAPs at the time could most definitely be speculated as an enabler for the spread of the epidemic. This emphasises the lack of concern the policies of the SAP have for issues such as education, health and other social oriented fields supplying them with only a small portion of funding. The sad reality is revealed that because of such a system these human rights are being left to the fait of ‘charitable donations’ (Ibid) and thus have felt the full negative impact the SAPs have left within the country during its time of implementation.

The problem does not lie alone within the cuts and fees to health care systems but as well as the impact that poverty has had on individuals within Ghana. ‘A nationwide study of 14,000 children under five years of ages found that 58.4% were 80% below their ideal weight, compared to less than 30% in 1961-1962 and 35% in
1980’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000). This again highlights the way in which poverty is targeting ‘vulnerable groups’ in various areas of Ghana which in turn risks the further spread of HIV/AIDS in the region.

**Prostitution & Gender Equality**

In Ghana during the 1980s commercial sex work became an increasing business among women for economic reasons and in order to survive. Ghanaian women migrated to nearby countries such as Ivory Coast ‘the country with the highest prevalence rates in West Africa’ (Toro-Mom & Alicea date?) to work. This is why many believe that “the spread of HIV to and within Ghana” has been attributed to returning Ghanaian female commercial sex workers’ (Hotard et al., 1998 & Toro-Mom & Alicea date?).

Although, during the 80s there was some advances in the fight for women's equality in Ghana² this had little to do with the SAPs with many still believing that it was actually a major problem further driving a wedge not only between the rich and poor but genders. Interestingly, it has been found that in the particular case of Ghana a higher proportion of men actually lost their jobs under the SAPs. Although, this is not to say that these cuts men did not affect women suffered more severely. However, in regards to analysing HIV/AIDs women's job loses indeed appears to have a greater connection. In countries such as Ghana, women work in departments such as teaching, nursing and midwifery, which are all fields in which benefit, the fight against HIV/AIDS. Thus, by decreasing the amount of women workers it in turn results in the decrease of services that are beneficial for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Volgi & Birbeck revealed that between 1984-1991 ‘after privatization of the 42 largest state enterprises, more than 150,000 workers lost their jobs in the Sub-Saharan region. These cutbacks in public-sector employment disproportionately affected women (4,37,38)’ (De Vogli & Birbeck, 2005). As mentioned previously, the traditional work

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² Such as the establishment of the Federation of international women lawyers in Ghana in 1985 & in 1986 Ghana Ratified the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) (Women and men in Ghana, Agyeman-Duah et al. 2006)
for these women were in fields such as teachers or nurses and particularly in the case of Ghana this meant that women who were in the least skilled area for employment were at risk of losing their jobs in the worst case and in the “best” case their ‘security and benefits, as a consequence of policies aimed at increasing efficiency’ (De Vogli & Birbeck, 2005). This relates back to women turning to other forms of income such as the risky business of prostitution which is known to be closely related to the spread of HIV/AIDS (De Vogli & Birbeck, 2005). Furthermore, Volgi & Birbeck reveal an interesting analysis into the comparison of two types of women; employed and unemployed. Here he suggests that employed women ‘tend to be more empowered by having more opportunities for education, more experience in public life, more self confidence and self-esteem’ (De Vogli & Birbeck, 2005) which a connection to the ability to ensure protected and safe sex with a male is made. Contrastingly, it is suggested that women who are unemployed lack security and power in diverting ‘exposure of women to sexual harassment and sexual abuse, especially among those working in low-earning jobs’ (Ibdem). Furthermore, De Vogli & Birbeck go as far to say that conflict between the opposite sex are likely to be more visible in homes where women are unable to earn money for the family or in a job that does not come with a lot of power. Therefore, a conclusion can be drawn from these suggestions that ‘income for women provides an important negotiating tool in gender relations and buffers women somewhat from domestic violence, sexual abuse and ultimately, HIV infection’ (De Vogli & Birbeck, 2005).

**HIV/AIDS prevalence rates**
The first case of HIV/AIDS was reported in Ghana in 1986 (just three years after the implementation of the SAP) ‘with a total of forty cases being reported that year. By 1998 the cumulative figure for reported AIDS cases from 1996 to 1998 stood at 29546 cases’ (Agyei-Mensah, 2001). However, the Government of Ghana responded quickly to this new threat and created the National AIDS/STD Control Programme (NACP) in 1987 in hopes of controlling the response of the epidemic. This programme helped in directing and implementing a ‘Short Term Plan (STP) for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS that ran during 1987 and 1988’ (Agyei-Mensah, 2001).

Although the first case of HIV/AIDS did not appear till three years after the SAP had been present within Ghana you are still able to see a rapid increase of cases. This is particularly visible from 1988-1999 when the SAP had a real presence within the country. However, it must be made clear that this is not to say that this data can fully understand the impact on individuals lives in Ghana by the SAP as Brydon and Legge say ‘to do so would require quantitative and accurate knowledge of how things were before adjustment’ (Brydon and Legge, 1996). This merely creates an understanding

3 Graph: Samuel Agyei-Mensah “Twelve years of HIV/AIDS in Ghana (2001)”
and suggestion of in what ways SAPs and HIV/AIDS could perhaps be connected or a reaction of such a program.

The structural adjustment program in Ghana has introduced a system called ‘the cash-and carry’ (Konadu-Agyemang, 2000) which makes health care services almost impossible for the poor to afford one can see how HIV/AIDS remains a problem within the country. Although Ghana is not as badly affected as other countries within Sub-Saharan Africa the disease still lingers among the people. Without access to proper healthcare individuals lives are at risk not only by taking away the ability to seek help from medical staff but also to receive information and advice about the epidemic.
Chapter 4

Analysis

The case study on Ghana has filled in the gaps and portrayed the way in which SAPs have been used in history and to what extent has the general consensus of the negative impacts of SAPs proven to be true. This Chapter will go on to analyse Ghana during the point of implementation by using theoretical frameworks in order to gain a deeper understanding … and how these theories are all interconnected to the underlying issue of HIV/AIDS.

Keynesian economics- a different approach

This model of economics interestingly provided the framework of the IMF and can explain how the responsibilities to help countries who were in economic downfall through aid were first adopted. This suggests that this institution would automatically function on the policy framework of Keynesian beliefs. However, this is not the case as this approach ‘only lasted till the 1970s along with the collapse of IMF’s fixed exchange rates system’ (Vasquez, 1997.). As a result of this, the birth of neoliberal policies became the driving force of the institution, which meant keeping ‘government involvement at the minimum,’ (Vasquez, 1997).

Thus, perhaps the need for the return of such an approach is needed which in turn could lead to better results in the economic aiding of developing countries. In this approach Keynes suggested that cutting costs and introducing programmes that did just that, did not result in restructuring and improving the economy and would rather result in unemployment. In Ghana the cutting-cost policies were adopted and as results have shown did not fair very well for the country, particularly with the rise in unemployed individuals. Thus this case would act as a supporting argument in the statement made by Keynes. Instead, Keynes believed that the appropriate method would ensure ‘that governments should encourage spending, increase hiring, and even use deficit financing to spur the economy’ (IMF, 2017). It would be a hypothetical situation to suggest that this approach would fair better that SAPs however, the model
has been acknowledged to increase areas in positive ways such as increasing job opportunities and more control of governmental spending (Kurihara, 2013).

The Keynesian model was taken to third world countries in the early emergence of independent states. However, it did not prove to be as useful as first thought as ‘states were too weak to enforce these policies’ and ‘people were unwilling to conform to these imported notions of ‘change’ and ‘progress’ (Brown & Milward et al, 2013). Although this model has not been proven to be useful in the past one must take into consideration that these issue arose during the early 1950s. This could suggest that in today's world which has grown accustom to change this model may be more useful, particularly as states have gained some form of strength over the years. Furthermore, as the SAPs themselves promote the idea of change within a country and thus the criticism that lies with Keynesian model holds less value than that of the past. More importantly with the support of the IMF and World Bank, as powerful institutions today, they can ensure the enforcement of policies can be supported within a country undergoing economic reform. Perhaps the solution thus lies in the IMF going back to its routes rather than growing within a neoliberal framework.

To predict the outcome of the case of Ghana under such an approach would lie in speculation. However, if the idea is to increase hiring by creating public sector jobs—which as seen was indeed hit hard by the implementation of the SAPs in Ghana—perhaps then instead of women turning to prostitution and men forced into labour migration to seek jobs elsewhere, perhaps more resources could have been stimulated by larger work forces eradicating the trickle down effect that has negative impacts on the spread and response to HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, as the Keynesian approach allows for the government to take control of the situation, which neoliberal policies do not, perhaps then cultural and inside knowledge of the country could have been taken into greater consideration leading to better results.

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4 The neoliberal theory suggests that Governments should not get involved in the economy of a country and instead act as more of a control mechanism.
This raises an interesting point as Rondelli and Montgomery echo this thought and believe that in order to create a succeeding adjustment programme the IMF and World Bank ‘must take a broader view of the development process and access more carefully the administrative capacity of governments to make policy changes’ (Rondelli & Montgomery, 1990). They suggest that due to governments failing to cooperate with policies or unable to, SAPs proved to be less effective and those that were successful could be traced to the cooperation of governments aiding in cultural and geographical knowledge. This is further supported by the idea that when the intervention of the IMF and world bank failed to produce adequate ‘institutional analysis’ beforehand, the SAPs seemed to produce ineffective results for the country. In essence this alternative view believes that not only must one start with a ‘top-down’ approach but Governments must take on a dominant role to ensure that the progress begins within the country itself, by ‘mobilizing and using the resources of society in purposive ways to promote economic and social changes’ (Rondelli & Montgomery, 1990.) This would ultimately lead to improvements in quality of living and poverty reduction. Furthermore, gaining a full understanding of the mechanisms in economic, political and social aspects of developing countries is pivotal before implementing an SAP. If all these aspects are taken into consideration Rondelli and Montgomery believe that this will aid in further developing a successful structural adjustment programme.

2. Orientalism- ‘old habits die hard’

Edward Said provides three definitions as to what Orientalism refers to and for the purpose of this paper his second definition will be the focal point. Here he links orientalism to ‘a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between the “orient” and the “occident”’ (E. Said, 1978) and explains that most scholars or academics interested in the field will all agree that the predominant focus for the primary point of analysis lies between the East and the West. Although, the Oriental is traditionally linked to that of the Asian regions the analysis and theory is still applicable to Africa due to the similarities in understanding the gap that separates “us” from “them”.
Although the IMF and world Bank worked closely with the government of Ghana, and one could say these ‘underdeveloped’ countries turn to those in the west in times of economic need, it seems to bring one back to the “one size fits all theory”. Throughout generations the western civilization can perhaps be said to view themselves as superior and educated. Thus is seems to be no surprise that this has trickled down through time to today where powerful western institutions still believe their method of economic success will work on a global scale and continue to do so even though results have proven to lean on the negative side. It appears as though they ignore cultural and environmental differences when implementing these SAPs leaving them to ‘reflect the ‘interests and ideologies of the most powerful states in the international system’ (1984,256)(Khalid, 2017).

However, these institutions would argue that such a system is necessary and beneficial for those involved in a adjustment programme in order for economic growth and stability. Although, this may be the case on an economic level the truth still remains that the IMF and World Bank are suggesting that for success these states are ‘needed to conform to a specific understanding of ‘successful’ political and economic structures (and related cultural practices)’ (Khalid, 2017) even though the result may not have the desired effects. As seen in the case of Ghana; poverty, health and education were massively impacted in a negative way due to the implementation of SAPs. Furthermore, Khalid suggests that the result of the free trade policy incorporated into these SAPs ‘denies poorer economies the benefits of protectionism that has allowed much of the global north to countries to industrialise, and still allows richer countries to benefit at the expense of poorer ones’(Khalid, 2017). This highlights the idea of self-interest as it suggests that those in the west who help fund and develop these SAPs are actually receiving more gain than those who are undergoing these structural adjustment programmes.

When Ghana turned to the IMF and world Bank for aid, there was no doubt that this meant that the country would be put through a structural adjustment programme. This meant that Ghana was obliged to adhere to the adoption of neoliberal policies that have an impact on more than just the economic factors of a country. This further
suggests that international institutions hide behind the idea of ‘functioning in the service of common good’ (Khalid, 2017), but rather works in favour of certain groups rather than a whole society. Thus through economic reform these institutions are attempting to push these underdeveloped countries into the framework of western ideologies veiled by the misconception that it is all done for their benefit.

To answer the question as to what extent did orientalism play a part in the case of Ghana would lie predominantly with speculation as no one can truly be sure as to what drives the IMF and World bank’s decision to use such policies. However, Edward Said’s look into the world of how orientalism fits into the ideas of the West, can most definitely be applicable in this situation. This is further intensified by the way in which such views are present in everyday life such as the news we see on the Television or what we read in the papers all being very western centric.

This connects to the way in which the response to HIV/AIDS can be impacted in a negative way. This gap that is created between the east and west can be attributed to the stigma that surrounds the epidemic, which UNAIDS suggest along with discrimination, ‘are among the foremost barriers to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support’ (UNAIDS, 2017). Furthermore, this stigma can have negative impacts on funding and charity with western ideas suggesting that “it is their problem not ours”. This is relevant to the case of Ghana where it was suggested that charity and funding was needed in order to support their health care systems after the negative impacts of the SAPs. This makes it even more urgent that a bridge is built between the gap that has been created in order to combat these issues. If these high powered institution consider themselves as a driving tool in development, they must also lead they way in development away from these past oriental ideas of “us” and “them” and realise that the epidemic won't be stopped until we consider it a global threat that has devastating effects on us all.

3. Globalisation

The idea of globalization as we know it today is a relatively new idea, however the roots that have derived from social and economic aspects date back many years.
Globalization has been defined ‘by Ohiorhenuan (1998) as the broadening and deepening linkages of national colonies into a world-wide market for goods, services and especially capital (Adeoye & Tomei, 2014). Furthermore, it is widely believed that when put into the context of the downfall of countries with direct relation to sub-Saharan Africa these globalisation policies used ‘reflect a continuation of the old practice of oppression and exploitation that began via the mercantilist phase of the growth of capitalism’ (L.P.LUGALLA, n.d.). In the case of Ghana, globalization brought about some positive impacts as it aided in their fight for independence and further opened up their economy to improvements in trading and technologies. However, globalization has also been to blame for environmental and social dangers such as the increase in poverty ‘and worsened income distribution in parts of the country’ (Aryeetey, n.d.).

It is important to look into globalization when analysing SAPs as they appear to be closely intertwined with one another. Thus as in the case of Ghana where it has become apparent that the implementation of the SAPs did not take into account the needs of the poor and worsened the gap between them and the rich, globalisation acts as an enhancing mechanism that further benefits those closer to the top. Furthermore, the words of Woods (2007) must be echoed once again as he says the IMF and World Bank are ‘bastions of capitalism and globalisation’ (Woods, 2007) showing once again how such negative trickle down effects begin at the top with these international institutions and just as in the case of Ghana have severe repercussions for certain individuals. Although, it must be noted that there was close governmental cooperation, which can be attributed to part of the reason Ghana is known as a success story, this case has decisively not been good at ‘listening to the voices of the poor and at implementing development priorities that consider the basic needs of the majority poor’ (L.P.LUGALLA, n.d). Due to this, development was not achieved to its full potential and therefore, truly emphasizes how globalizations in the world where SAPs are being used are a lethal combination for those living in poverty.

Globalization's impact on HIV/AIDS shares many of the same concerns as given to that of SAPs in general. Just as SAPs create a greater divide between the rich and the
poor, globalization favours the rich. As most of the resources such as healthcare are accessible to the rich they have the opportunity to seek help, however, the poor suffer as those with power and wealth dictate the rules thus HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are higher among the poor. Furthermore, with this divide the quality of living in those areas of poverty creates an environment for the epidemic to spread. It is widely acknowledged that HIV/AIDS in relation to globalization are connected ‘through health factors that are not purely biological’ (ICAD, 2008). This means that other than biological factors that make people more prone to contracting the disease areas such as social, economic and cultural determinants are to blame. As one can see in the case of Ghana this is visible through unemployment and poverty worsened by the implementation of the SAPs.

Through the journey of analysis into SAPs and their impact on countries and the epidemic HIV/AIDS it leaves one with a burning question, is there another way? Many academics and economists have suggested alternative methods for economic growth within a country. One example is that of the UNCTAD who have hopes of development for LDCs by stating that ‘Poverty reduction strategies that are simply extensions of past adjustment programmes will not deliver sufficient and sustained economic growth to do this’ (UNCTAD, 2002) and thus an alternative methods must be considered. In 2002 UNCTAD suggested that the best way to move forward and improve on adjustment is by ‘anchoring poverty reduction strategies in long-term development strategies’ (UNCTAD, 2002). They hoped that by doing so this would help sustain economic growth within a country and thus as a result improve the quality of living having positive effects on poverty. UNCTAD believe that this is ‘best achieved through mutually interacting investment and export growth that expands productive capacities and generates sustainable livelihoods’ (UNCTAD, 2002). However, it is important to note that this idea was presented in 2002 and yet neoliberal policies are still being implemented in countries for development suggesting that this theory was not as successful as the UNCTAD once hoped it would be.
Although, these theories lie once again with speculation the evolvement of SAPs is clearly needed in order to eliminate risk factors that come with implementation. Therefore, the suggestions made come with hope that the IMF and World Bank will one day form a plan for developing countries that comes with positive results and thus can further aid in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

It has been concluded by many that due to these issues such as poverty, employment and socio-economic aspects that SAPs have not been as effective as the IMF and World Bank had thought have concluded it. As mentioned previously, without the accurate data these conclusions remain nothing more than speculation, however, it appears as though it is just to say that the impact that the SAP has had in Ghana it much more and less than a success story. On the one hand, the use of these policies did pull the country out of an economic crisis, yet on the other hand, the suffering of the poor is hard to ignore. The economy may have been saved but these positive effects have not been able to have a trickle down effect impacting the lives of individuals within Ghana and furthermore most likely do indeed share a connection to the spread and response of HIV/AIDS for various reasons. With the implementation of the SAPs quality of living dropped and life became harder for the poor as there were not able to afford health care of education. Thus, it can be said that in order for SAPs to create a positive trickle down effect that equally impacts the lives of individuals something needs to be changed or reformed in order to do so.
Conclusion

This paper set out to examine the trickle down effect caused by Structural adjustment programmes on the spread and response of HIV/AIDS and found a positive correlation between the two. The IMF and World Bank create policies not only based on economically orientated facts but involved powerful Governments and stakeholders with own personal agendas. The general consensus is that there is no real answer as to the effectiveness of SAPs as results do not indicate a clear yes or no answer. However, criticism that surrounds this debate such as the negative impacts on poverty, health and social aspects which has become visible throughout history implies that this method is may not be the best example to follow when trying to help developing countries economies. Furthermore, when analysing the negative impacts in more depth in regards to the HIV/AIDS epidemic the criticism mounts higher. Not only does reducing funding for education and health in Sub-Saharan Africa lead to the response being jeopardised but the cuts in employment leading to unsafe sex and human trafficking raise further concerns for the spread of the epidemic.

Ghana’s analysis of the SAPs has revealed that to the IMF and World Bank the concern lies solely with economic growth. As we can see these institutions praise Ghana for the success in this department and use this as a success story to highlight the positives of adjustment. However, when all fields are analysed one can conclude that overall the SAPs had a negative impact on various important areas, particularly when monitoring the spread and response of HIV/AIDS. This case study highlighted the main issue surrounding this debate, and that lies with the amount of thought these institutions put into the overall outcome of undergoing a structural adjustment programme. For those international institutions a success story and for individuals a story that without a doubt ignores the feelings and impacts on health, livelihoods and suffering.

Moreover, the theories have revealed that perhaps there is another way that the IMF and World Bank should consider adjusting. With the routes leading back to Keynesian
economics perhaps there is an alternative method of adjustment in which the gap between the rich and the poor is not longer exploited. On the other hand, the suggestion into a reform of adjustment which looks in how the IMF and World bank can work closely with Governments who can provide social and cultural knowledge of a country could also be the path to success. Not only does this help create a system that independently works well for all but can more importantly begin to look into the microeconomics of a country and how individuals are being affected. With this in mind there is hope that there will be a policy reform, which ultimately leads to a positive and successful ‘adjustment with a human face,’ (UNICEF, 1980).

The feeling of despair is brought to the surface when comparing the work of the IMF and World Bank with that of the beliefs explained by E. Said. This is because throughout the paper the issue of self-interest and separation has surfaced. Self-interest in regards to the agenda of these institutions and furthermore, separation in the way in which the idea of “us” and “them” remains present even today. It is no secret that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has transcended borders and become an issue of national security and thus a global threat. The only difference one can depict is the economic resources that individuals have access too and if that is the case then the IMF and World bank should embark in these projects of adjustment with those individuals in mind.

As previously mentioned, it is difficult to state for fact that one has an impact on the other as one would need to have access to a pool of data that does not currently exist. Here in lie the limitations of this study as it remains nothing but a theory. However, if one knows that poverty shares a connection to the spread of HIV/AIDS and various other factors such as human trafficking as discussed in this paper one can most definitely draw a conclusion envisioning a strong correlation between the two issues of discussion. Furthermore, due to this it could be predicted that if such SAPs continue to affect poverty, health and education within a country humankind will get no closer to controlling this epidemic that takes the lives of millions worldwide.
As it stands the most current estimations by UNAIDS revealed that ‘There were approximately 36.7 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2015. Of these, 1.8 million were children (<15 years old). An estimated 2.1 million individuals worldwide became newly infected with HIV in 2015’ (HIV.GOV, 2017). This truly emphasizes the need to work on every single angle as to what could be done to improve these statistics and create a world safe from the epidemic, including reforming or even getting rid of the Structural adjustment programmes that play a part in this.
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