

EKSAMEN UT107

BOKMÅL:

Velg én av de tre vedlagte artiklene. Bruk teoretiske begreper og perspektiver fra pensum i kurset til å analysere innholdet i artikkelen.

Essayet skal være på 2500 Ord (pluss/minus 10%)

NYNORSK:

Velg éin av dei tre artiklane under. Bruk teoretiske omgrep og perspektiv frå pensum i kurset til å analysera innhaldet i artikkelen.

Essayet skal vera på 2500 ord (pluss/minus 10 %)

ENGLISH:

Choose one of the three enclosed articles. Used theoretical concepts and perspectives from the course syllabus to analyze the contents of the article.

The essay should be 2500 words (plus/minus 10%)

Artikkel 1

Barbie challenges the 'white saviour complex'

By Damian Zane, BBC News, 1 May 2016

Barbie has ditched her riding gear, her ball gown and her ballerina costume and travelled to Africa to help the people there, while still managing to stay fashionable.

That is at least according to a much talked about Instagram account, Barbie Savior, which is charting her imaginary volunteer journey.

It starts with her saying farewell to her home in the US and wondering if the "sweet sweet orphans in the country of Africa" are going to love her the way she already loves them.

The satirical account encapsulates what some see as the white saviour complex, a modern version of Rudyard Kipling's White Man's Burden.

The 19th Century Kipling poem instructed colonialists to "Fill full the mouth of Famine And bid the sickness cease". Today, Barbie Savior says she is going to love the orphans "who lack such an amazing Instagram community".

Because of the history of slavery and colonialism, many people in Africa find such attitudes deeply patronising and offensive. Some argue that aid can be counter-productive, as it means African countries will continue to rely on outside help.

US-based Nigerian author Teju Cole described the complex in a 2012 essay as a belief that "a nobody from America or Europe can go to Africa and become a godlike saviour, or at the very least, have his or her emotional needs satisfied".

The two American women behind Barbie Savior said that through their 10 years combined experience of volunteering, studying and working abroad they began to question what they once thought was right and good.

"From orphanage tourism, to blatant racism in [the] treatment of local residents, to trafficking children in the name of adoption - the list of errors never ends," the two - who have chosen to remain anonymous - wrote in an email to the BBC.

They are not against all aid work and when asked about medical staff going to help the fight against Ebola, replied: "We have seen short-term medical teams do amazing things, as well as act in inexcusable ways."

They say that aid workers should act in the same way they would back home.

"For example, nurses in America are not allowed to take Instagram photos of their patients and post emotionally captivating blurbs about how tragic their life is."

They note that in the US, and other Western countries "it was decided that a person's privacy is more valuable than the need of the caretaker to have an emotional outlet" and the same standards should apply in Africa.

"As a Westerner coming into a developing country, whether to live or visit, you must be aware of the privilege your skin colour affords you," they argued.

And they want people to "stop treating 'third world countries' as a playground for us to learn and gain real life experience from".

There are plenty of opportunities for Westerners to work abroad, from long-term placements with established NGOs to the growing market for the short-term "voluntourism" experience.

According to a 2008 estimate, 1.6 million volunteer tourists spent around \$2bn globally.

On the GoAbroad.com site, which pulls together volunteering opportunities, there are more than 1,600 programmes in Africa alone.

One of the organisations featured is African Impact which says in its publicity that volunteering is not only about the "skills that volunteers bring, but also about what this magnificent continent, its warm people and amazing wildlife can give volunteers in return".

It sends volunteers to work in health, education and conservation projects across southern and east Africa, and in 2016 it is recruiting around 2,500 people.

African Impact managing director Greg Bows says that out of naivety some volunteers they get do come believing they can solve a country's problems - though one of its slogans encouraging people to sign up is "let's save Africa's wildlife".

But Mr Bows adds that he is now using some of the Barbie Savior pictures during the induction process to disabuse new volunteers of those ideas.

Barbie Savior's creators take particular issue with unqualified people doing jobs that they would never be allowed to do at home.

African Impact's publicity for a position helping at a school in Zambia, says "you do not have to be a qualified teacher to be a volunteer", but Mr Bows points out that none of his volunteers teach whole classes, rather they can provide vital one-to-one support.

Image copyright Barbie Savior Image caption "Even amongst this devastation and poverty, amongst so much need... A girl's gotta relax from time to time!"

He says that local guidelines are observed and argues that in general, as long as the limitations are accepted, volunteering can make a difference.

He does acknowledge though that there are organisations that do not have the same standards as African Impact and that for him Barbie Savior highlights the need for regulation in the industry. But for critics this goes beyond the sphere of volunteering, and Barbie Savior's creators say they are trying to tackle not just the attitudes but the damage that they can cause.

Kenyan writer and development consultant Ciku Kimeria says that "the development sector today is still chock-full of examples of benevolent and sometimes not-so-benevolent paternalistic attitudes from the West", and she draws a link with the colonial mindset.

She says that this can sometimes lead to people with an "average undergraduate education and a lack of development experience... getting to chair meetings of local experts with decades of experience".

She has come across some development workers who "are very uneasy with me and other Africans who don't fit into the mould of what they were told about African people.

"They do not know what to make of Africans who are better educated than them, more articulate than them, well-read, knowledgeable about the world and so on."

Ms Kimeria says aid work and volunteering can work as long as some basic points are observed.

Firstly, that people are aware that they are coming not to "save Africa" but to help out locals who are already doing the work.

Secondly, they need to acknowledge the privilege that they come with.

And thirdly, they need to know the real place they are visiting, not the place they imagined back home.

Barbie Savior's creators are not intending to offer solutions themselves, but what they are happy about is that the Instagram account has sparked discussions and raised awareness about the white saviour complex.

But is Barbie Savior herself listening?

As she puts it: "I have noticed people informing me that Africa is a continent and not a country. I hope you can forgive my mistake. I have so much to learn.

"But I do know one thing for certain, and that is that my love for this place is bigger than any country! Even bigger than the country of Africa!"

Artikel 2

Ivanka Trump and the World Bank have a new idea to help women globally

Damian Paletta and Danielle Paquette, Washington Post, July 8, 2017

Following a push from first daughter Ivanka Trump, the World Bank unveiled a new program Saturday that is designed to boost women entrepreneurs in developing countries and fight the norms that hold them back, such as uneven access to loans and shaky property rights.

The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, as the bank calls it, announced Saturday it had raised \$325 million from numerous countries, with \$50 million coming from the United States and other contributions from Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, China, the United Kingdom, South Korea, and the Netherlands. The World Bank hopes the program can raise in excess of \$1 billion.

At an event Saturday morning at the G-20 summit in Hamburg, numerous world leaders praised the initiative, with several singling out Ivanka Trump for helping the program get up and running. But the biggest praise came from her father, who said it could result in a transformation of the global economy.

"The world economy will grow and millions of people will be lifted out of poverty," he said.
"Millions and millions of people."

Even with the support of world leaders, the program faces numerous challenges. There have been numerous programs that aimed to help women access money so they can grow businesses, but none have taken off to the scale that the World Bank is hoping.

Ivanka Trump, who serves as a West Wing adviser to her father, planted the idea "several months ago," the White House official said, but will have no authority over the initiative's investments or operations.

The program — which will support loans, mentorship programs and gender equality advocacy — is funded by individuals, companies and foreign governments. The first countries to make a public commitment were Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which pledged a combined \$100 million after President Trump and his eldest daughter visited Saudi Arabia in May.

Less than a third of global businesses are owned by women, and the initiative aims to grow women-run enterprises across Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. It will also help facilitate loans to entrepreneurs, ranging in size from between a few hundred dollars to several

hundred thousand dollars, depending on the applicant's needs. World Bank officials said they hope to make the capital available later this year or in early 2018.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there will have to be proper stewardship over the program, adding that "I do hope that the money will be used in a wise" way, but she expressed confidence in World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to ensure that this would occur. Trump also praised Kim, who was picked by President Obama.

The White House has proposed slashing several existing programs that offer assistance to developing countries and a 31 percent cut to U.S. diplomacy and aid spending, but it has thrown support behind the World Bank's new program. It represents the White House's attempt to reorient the way it finances foreign diplomacy, but Congress is expecting to fight the White House to restore some of the other foreign aid cuts.

Although Saudi Arabia's announcement that it would donate to the fund came as Trump and his eldest daughter visited the country, the president has spoken harshly about the nation in the past.

Last year, he slammed his political opponent Hillary Clinton for allowing her foundation to accept funds from Saudi Arabia. (Women cannot legally drive there and often need a male guardian's permission to conduct everyday business.)

"Saudi Arabia giving \$25 million, Qatar, all of these countries," he said during a presidential debate with Clinton in October. "You talk about women and women's rights? ... These are people that kill women and treat women horribly. And yet you take their money."

But since becoming president, Trump has warmed markedly to Saudi Arabia. He had a lavish reception there several weeks ago and he has sided with Saudi Arabia in numerous foreign policy disputes.

The World Bank has a long history of providing support to women who grapple with economic disadvantages. In 2011, the international lender launched a multimillion-dollar program to support female small-business owners with the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, however, is the first World Bank-led effort to change public policy in countries where men tend to have far more legal and social power. In the Middle East and North Africa region, for instance, about 25 million women in cities don't have equal constitutional or property rights, according to the International Property Rights Index.

A disproportionate number of African countries, meanwhile, make it harder for women to hold onto property, United Nations reports show. The share of men who own a house or land in Uganda is 21 percent higher than the share of women. Without clear laws, a widow could lose her home after the death of her husband, if her husband's family chooses to take it away.

Without a stake in property, it's harder to obtain credit and easier to slip into poverty, said Simone Schaner, an economics professor at Dartmouth College.

"There's a need to pay attention to the complex reality women live in," she said. "They're often not able to reach their full potential because of certain social structures."

Of the World Bank program's focus on shifting policy, she said, "Giving people the resources and making sure things are in place so they can use those resources effectively is the best way to go."

Artikkel 3

Bolivia approves highway through Amazon biodiversity hotspot

Dan Collyns, The Guardian, Tuesday 15 August 2017

National park which is home to thousands of indigenous people loses protected status to allow for construction of 190-mile road.

Bolivia has given the go ahead to a controversial highway which would cut through an Amazon biodiversity hotspot almost the size of Jamaica and home to 14,000 mostly indigenous people.

President Evo Morales enacted the new law opening the way for the 190-mile (300km) road through the Isiboro Sécure Indigenous Territory and National Park, known as Tipnis, its Spanish acronym. The road will divide the park in two and strip it of the protections won in 2011 when a national march by thousands of protesters ended in clashes with the police and forced the government to change its position.

Speaking to supporters of the road in the Amazon city of Trinidad, Morales accused developed countries of pushing "colonial environmentalism" in Bolivia.

"This so-called colonial environmentalism isn't interested in the indigenous movement having schools, hospitals; they're not interested in the indigenous movement having electricity or that we have highways," he said. The law was backed by the majority of local authorities and the governor of Beni, Bolivia's main Amazon region.

The legislation passed through Bolivia's Senate last week where Morales' governing Movement Toward Socialism party holds a two-thirds majority, and was enacted on Sunday. Rival political parties and the Catholic church opposed the law, joining activists and indigenous groups who marched in several cities across the country.

"This is the beginning of the destruction of protected areas in Bolivia and indigenous peoples' territory," Fernando Vargas, a Tipnis indigenous leader, told the Guardian. Tipnis, which stretches for more than 10,000km², is home to the Moxeños, Yurakarés and Chimanes indigenous people.

"Evo Morales is not a defender of Mother Earth, or indigenous peoples. He's in favour of extractivism and capitalism," Vargas added, rejecting the leader's assertion that the Tipnis movement was driven by foreign NGOs.

"We know that the road means the destruction of our territory, we don't need anyone to tell us," he said.

Opponents of the road say it will open up the park to mining and oil and gas exploration, as well as loggers and coca farmers, known as *cocaleros*, whom they accuse Morales, a former *cocalero* leader, of supporting. Illegal coca crops in Bolivia increased by 150% from 2015 to 2016, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime .

Maira Birss of Amazon Watch said the law could lead to "severe deforestation in a key biodiversity hotspot and currently-protected area of the Bolivian Amazon."

"The cultures of the three indigenous peoples that inhabit Tipnis are intrinsically tied to the rainforest. By failing to adequately consult with them and ensure their territorial rights, the Bolivian government is endangering their future and that of the whole of the Bolivian Amazon," she added.

In 2012, the Bolivian government held a consultation process in Tipnis which was widely criticised by international and national monitors. Bolivia's human rights ombudsman concluded that the government's process had failed to allow free and informed consent.

A 2011 study by the Bolivian Institute for Strategic Research found that the road would accelerate deforestation by increasing access to the territory for illegal loggers and farmers. It predicted deforestation of 64% of the park within 15 years if the road was built, more than a projected 43% loss without the road.