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**RESERCH TOPIC: POVERTY; ITS EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES.**

**DEFINTION OF POVERTY.**

Poverty is defined as the condition of living without the basic necessities of a family which include food, clothing, shelter, education etc.

Poverty can also be defined as a social condition that is characterized by the lack of resources necessary to meet a certain minimum level of living standards expected for the place where one lives. The income level that determines poverty is different from place to place therefore poverty is defined by the conditions of existence.

According to World Bank, in underdeveloped countries, poverty means living on less than $1.90 per day which is referred to as “extreme poverty.” Meanwhile, in developed countries, poverty starts with much higher standards and generally does not have to do with lack of basic amenities.

The World’ Bank definition of poverty leads to the types of poverty we have which are situational poverty, generational poverty, absolute poverty, relative poverty, urban poverty and rural poverty. Situational poverty is a type of poverty that is generally caused by a sudden crisis or loss and is often temporary. Events causing situational poverty include environmental disasters, divorce, or severe health problems. Generational poverty is a type of poverty that occurs in families where at least two generations have been born into poverty. Families living in this type of poverty are not equipped with the tools to move out of their situations. Absolute poverty is rare in the United States, it involves a scarcity of much necessities like water, and food. Families who live in absolute poverty tend to focus on day-to day survival. Relative poverty refers to the economic status of a family whose income is insufficient to meet its society’ average standard of living. Urban poverty occurs in metropolitan areas with populations of at least 50, 000 people. Rural poverty occurs in non- metropolitan areas with populations below 50, 000.

Kofi Annan says that “Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere.” Individuals all over the world are living in extreme poverty due to different causes and problems which include unemployment and illiteracy, corruption and bad governance, poor family planning, political instability and natural disaster.

Poor family planning is a cause of poverty because a lot individuals who have children are not conscious of their lack of scare resources to carter for two children thereby making them poor. According to the Noble prize winner South African leader, Nelson Mandela, “Poverty is not natural, it is man- made.” Budget that is to be used for provision of basic infrastructures and amenities for the people of a state are been pocketed by the government officials because the officials do not have the people’s interest at heart.

Illiteracy and unemployment is a cause of extreme poverty because the government official does not provide the basic infrastructures which includes schools, banks and markets for the people to be able to learn and develop their skills. The individuals who are not given opportunities to develop their skills and talents will not be considered worthy to be employed in different organizations. Individuals who do not have a means of living will not be able to provide basic necessities which include food, clothes and shelter.

Natural disasters like drought, flood and severe storms disproportionately impact communities already living in poverty because many of the world’s population rely on farming or hunting and gathering to eat and earn a living. They often have only just enough food and assets to last through the next season, and not enough reserves to fall back on in the event of a poor harvest.

Widespread of diseases is a cause of poverty because individuals who suffer from a lot of diseases and illness like measles, chicken pox, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 do not have enough the money to go to hospitals to treat themselves and also because of lack of healthcare center in different areas but especially in the rural areas.

. The effects of poverty can be categorized into social effect, psychological effect and emotional effect.

A great Philosopher, Aristotle says, “Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.” Individuals who cannot provide the basic necessities of life involve themselves in different crimes like armed robbery, stealing, prostitution and vandalizing of people’s property. Individuals commit these crimes because a lot of them do not have a means of live hood. This can be regarded as a social effect of poverty. The social effect of poverty is a type of poverty that affects the country as a whole individuals have been victims.

The psychological effect and emotional effect of poverty puts children at greater risk of behavioral and emotional problems, which could include impulsiveness, difficulty of getting along with peers, aggression. There may also be intense feeling of anxiety, depression and low self-esteem. Parents may face chronic symptoms like depression and stress, marital distress and tougher parenting behaviors.

Bill Gates says, “I believe that if you show people the problems and you show them solutions they will be moved to act.” Poverty is caused because of different things and also has affected a lot of individuals in different ways. Poverty can be eradicated when we can get rid of corruption and bad governance, political instability, illiteracy and unemployment and be able to control poor family planning.

Government officials can help to eradicate poverty by using the budget given to them to build the basic infrastructures like schools, markets, banks and hospitals and also provide the basic amenities which include good roads, potable water, and electricity.

For illiteracy and unemployment to be curbed ,the government should not only provide the infrastructures but also be able to make education free and compulsory for people from age five(5)- eighteen(18) and also should be able to provide job opportunities for people.

The government in power should be able to finish what the other person started and not just jump into another plan without completing the other persons plan. The government should be able to educate the people on the dangers of giving birth to a lot of children one cannot carter for.

Nelson Mandela says, “As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality exist in our world, none of us can truly rest.” Poverty is a situation where nobody will like to be in. It is seen as a deprivation of the basic necessities of life and caused by different conditions. We have all been victims directly or indirectly affected by poverty in the form of kidnapping, rape and also armed robbery. Presently, the corona virus pandemic in the world has led to high rate of poverty because a lot of people have lost their job. The world will be made a better place now and for our generations if only we start today by giving to people, no matter how little it may be which will help to remove the social vices caused by poverty.