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**ASSIGNMENT: WRITE AN ESSAY ON POVERTY,
AND ITS EFFECT ON INDIVIDUALS IN THE
SOCIETY AT LARGE.**

The word poverty comes from the old (Norman) French word *poverté* (Modern French: *pauvreté*), from Latin *paupertas* from *pauper* (poor). Poverty has more than a thousand definitions of poverty. Poverty is the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions. Poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. Poverty is a state in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can not be met. Poverty-stricken people and families do not have proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention. Poverty is a physical state and a state of mind when an individual is called "poor" because he can not afford the minimum to support himself and his family.

Poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. Poverty is the stage when an individual can not afford the basic necessities of life and do not have enough funds to help build a better life. The people that can not afford a better lifestyle are referred to as the poor. Poverty is a big problem in the whole world, because thousands of people die each year due to this big issue.

Poverty is defined as the deprivation of common necessities that determine the quality of life, including food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water, and may also include the deprivation of opportunities to learn, to obtain better employment to escape poverty, and to enjoy the respect of fellow citizens. In an attempt to define poverty, two basic types of poverty have been identified which include relative poverty and absolute poverty. Relative poverty is known as relative because it is relative to the average standard of living in an individual society. What is considered high income in one country could be considered middle or low income in another. If the family's income is not enough to meet the average standard of living, they are considered to be in relative poverty. Absolute poverty is a type of poverty that is rare in the United States. People in absolute poverty do not even have basic necessities like a roof over their head, food, and water. Their only focus is on surviving each day as it comes. In 2011, The World Bank defined absolute poverty as when someone lives less than a dollar per day.

Even as poverty is defined as the state of being extremely poor, there are some main causes of it (poverty). Some of the causes include; lack of job opportunities (unemployment), inadequate access to clean water and nutritious food, poor and limited education, overpopulation, inadequate health care, inaccessibility of birth control, inequality, lack of infrastructures, limited capacity of the government, lack of health care, conflict, climate change, lack of reserves and so many more.

The effects of poverty on an individual can be multiple and various. The vicious cycle of poverty means that lifelong barriers and troubles are passed on from one generation to the next. Poverty has some end products popularly known as the effects of poverty. The repercussions of poverty may vary in scale, but all carry a negative effect, regardless of political, economic, and social.

Social

- High Infant Mortality and Annual Death Rate: Inability of basic necessities costs some individuals their lives on daily basis.
- Increase in hygiene and diet related diseases, for example, cholera, dysentery, tuberculosis and so many others.
- Increased Crime Rate, since people turn desperate to survive in the face of poverty.
- Increased rate in homeless people.
- As poverty sets in, more and more people face greater financial woes; those who already have a roof over their heads may experience difficulty in paying rents to their landlords, and those without homes cannot afford a home. This will greatly affect the nation's tourism trade; a street full of beggars and homeless vagabonds is but an eyesore to tourists.

Poverty poses a great impact on the affected children's development, both physically and mentally. Taking a close look at some shocking facts and figures. Children from poor families are :

- 1) 1.7 times likely to be born with low birth weight.
- 2) 2 times more likely to repeat a grade in school.
- 3) 3.1 times more likely to have an out-of-wedlock birth than children from wealthy families.

Poverty takes a toll on poor children's development. For example, poverty causes malnutrition which would affect the development of a child's mental thinking and healthy body. Poverty, being a difficult-to-end cycle, will only make the poor even poorer. This is detrimental to a country's economy, as children in the poor countries are unable to fill their stomachs, not mentioning to receive education. Hence, there would be a lack of intelligentsia and educated intellectuals to run the country, and therefore poverty issues will remain.

Political.

- Increased risk of war:

Nations that are unable to keep up with world economy, lack raw materials and markets to do so may turn to war in a bid to obtain new markets for its goods, and simultaneously acquire raw materials from the state as well. This, however is not a variable option - often this will lead to international condemnation, resulting in trade embargoes from various countries, or even conflict between peacekeeping forces (i.e. the UN) and the nation itself. Therefore, it can be said that such a move is not ideal - the negative aspects overshadow the positive ones.

- Mass emigration of population:

In the face of a nation's poor economy and weak rule of the government, the population may seek to migrate to areas with better-fairing economy, where the trade is more profitable, where there is low cost for all. Since the people of such poverty-stricken nations choose to migrate in search of better living/jobs/social conditions, it may undermine the nation's ability to recuperate from the far-reaching effects of poverty.

- Genocide:

This is a most extreme case of poverty, where there has only been one example in history; Uganda under the regime of totalitarian and brutalistic Idi Amin, army colonel turned leader. In this case, Idi Amin spending spree quickly landed the beleaguered nation to total economy collapse. It is known that he systematically organised a mass killing

pogrom of his fellow countrymen. Relatives of the victims were to pay exorbitant sums to "recover" the bodies, and thus was how he kept Uganda's battered economy afloat.

- Terrorism:

Through recent years, analysts have been able to point out that politically and economically weak nations often fall prey to terrorism. For example, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen. Poverty too is a major factor in explaining the spike in terrorism in recent years between the years of 1993- 1973 were times in Afghanistan experienced political and economic stability by the end of the Soviet-Afghan War, the country has been ravaged by infighting and devastation caused by the Soviets. Only then did terrorism flourish.

The effects of poverty on the society as a whole.

In the end, poverty is a major cause of social tension and threatens to divide a nation because of the issues of inequalities, in particular income inequality. This happens when wealth in a country is poorly distributed among its citizens. In other words, when a tiny minority has all the money.

The feature of a rich or developed country for example is the presence of a middle class, but recently we have seen even Western countries gradually losing their middle class, hence the increasing numbers of riots and clashes in a society, poverty is a very dangerous factor that can destabilize an entire country.

The Arab Spring is another good example, in all of the countries concerned, the revolt started because of the lack of jobs and high poverty levels. (This has led to most governments being overthrown).

