

Poverty

Education Can Make A Difference

What is Poverty?

The basic definition of poverty is being extremely poor, but it goes beyond that.

- Poverty is a lack of food, shelter, and water
- Poverty is living day to day, fearing the future
- No access to school; not being able to read
- Not being able to participate in recreational activities

Poverty in the U.S.

- Family income below poverty line.
- Concentrated among certain groups.
- Widespread among minority-group members.
- Geographically concentrated.
- Highest level of poverty among the advanced industrialized nations.



Being stuck in U.S. Poverty

- Americans born at the bottom fifth of income never rise to the middle.
- Research shows that 70% of Americans born into poverty never make it up the ladder.

Getting unstuck

- 17% who were born in the bottom fifth of income make it up to the middle as adults.
- 9% make it up to the fourth highest fifth
- 4% climb to the top fifth of income in the United States

American Dream



The Southern Education Foundation

- First time in 40 years, majority of public school students are living at poverty levels.
- Slow economic growth
- Falling wages
- Workers with less experience & less education.

Disconnected

Opportunity Nation

- 1 in 7 young adults between ages 16-24 is “disconnected,” meaning neither in school, nor working.
- Not well-educated, not good in reading, not good with math, not prepared to learn.

Single-Parent Families

- 70% African-American children.
- 50% Hispanic children.
- Single parenthood among white families is rising.
- 5 times as likely to be poor.

Poverty in the Third World

- Extreme difficulty in merely surviving.
- Hunger amounting to starvation.
- Inadequate shelter or clothing.
- Plagued with diseases.
- Inadequate medicine, drinking water, or transportation.
- VERY POOR/NO EDUCATION SYSTEM!

Third World Lacks

- Lack of knowledge.
- Poor leadership.
- Lack of natural resources.
- Poor economic growth.
- Little political stability.
- Unable to solve problems.



Education & Development

- Lack of funding.
- Huge need for college and university educated teachers.
- Need for classrooms, books, and supplies.
- Lack of the internet.
- Do not believe in educating girls.

Building a Bridge

Ethiopia

- A nonprofit organization built several footbridges to provide isolated communities with access to health care, education, and economic opportunities.
- 12% increase in school enrollment.
- 24% more women employed.

cont. Building a Bridge

- 18% increase in people treated in local healthcare facilities.
- 15% more businesses.
- 10% to 20% overall per capita increase.

U.S. Statistics

2012: People living in poverty

- 46.5 million (15%) people
- 26.5 million (13.7%) ages 18-64
- 16.1 million (21.8%) children
- 3.9 million (9.1%) seniors



Third World Statistics

- 1 billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book.
- About 72 million primary school aged children are not in school.

U.S. Solutions

- Prioritize spending on public education.
- Use commercials, advertisements.
 - Inform
 - Persuade
- Keep parents informed.
- Programs for parents.

Third World Solutions

1. Building Self-Sufficient Economies

- Investment in local infrastructure
 - Schools
 - Transportation
 - New Industries
 - New Businesses

Third World Solutions

2. Education

- Provides training for tomorrow's workforce.
- Fortifies the economy against poverty.
- Has the power to bring about social changes linked to poverty.
- For example: racism and sexism

Third World Solutions

2. Education cont.

- Improved Health.
- Higher wages and economic growth.
- Democracy and political stability.