

## Issues in peace: special reference to poverty and development in contemporary world

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### Abstract

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*An issue is a matter of concern or of interest. Often people have different opinions about an issue and will discuss or argue about it in order to find a solution. Sometimes an issue can have a particular focus. For example, issues may have a political, social, environmental or economic focus. Therefore, Issues can also occur on different scales. When we talk about a global issue, we are usually referring to something that affects a number of countries and populations. It is an issue that affect upon or is important to the global community that could be a threat for peace. The idea of issues that are truly global in scale is new to us. It emerged late in the 20th century, perhaps when humans first saw images of the Earth from space a small blue-green planet devoid of boundaries and arbitrary political divisions. Regardless of their novelty, global issues are so important that they might literally determine the future of the human species. Moreover, global issues affect virtually all social, environmental, economic, health, and security concerns. Yet, those concerns are, in themselves, global issues. There are number of global issues have been identified yet, this article provides a framework of poverty and development with regard to issues in peace.*

*Key words- World issues, Poverty, Development*

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### Introduction

When considering about the issues in peace in the contemporary era, we can identify such common matters where everyone and everywhere face. Since the World Revolution is an idea for a new, global activist social movement for progressive social change. It aims to resolve in a definitive and comprehensive manner the major social problems of our world and our era.

The World Revolution is intended to be a large-scale, massive social movement, involving large numbers of people, and international in scope. The World Revolution aims to address the full range of global issues and problems, and the need for such a global movement is based upon the current state of the world. We can identify a preliminary overview of global issues, covering four broad issue areas such as;

1. Poverty & development
2. War & conflict
3. The environment
4. Human rights & social justice.

### Poverty and development

1. At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day. More than 80 percent of the world's population lives in countries where income differentials are widening.
2. The poorest 40 percent of the world's population accounts for 5 percent of global income. The richest 20 percent accounts for three-quarters of world income.
3. According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. In addition, they "die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. (*source- world bank development indicators 2008*)

Poverty is the state for the majority of the world's people and nations. This question emerges in the first sense. Is it enough to blame poor people for their own predicament? Have they been lazy, made poor decisions, and been solely responsible for their plight? What about their governments? Have they pursued policies that actually harm successful development?

Such causes of poverty and inequality are no doubt real. However, deeper and more global causes of poverty are often less discussed.

Behind the increasing interconnectedness promised by globalization are global decisions, policies, and practices. These are typically influenced, driven, or formulated by the rich and powerful. These can be leaders of rich countries or other global actors such as multinational corporations, institutions, and influential people.

### **Causes of hunger relating to poverty**

There are plenty of possible causes for the hunger and the most irritating factor, which is poverty. There are many inter-related issues causing hunger, which are related to economics and other factors that cause poverty. They may include land rights and ownership, diversion of land use to non-productive use, increasing emphasis on export-oriented agriculture, inefficient agricultural practices, war, famine, drought, over-fishing, poor crop yields, etc.

### **Who are the worst affected by poverty?**

#### **Women**

Usually women form a greater percentage of poor people than men do. The main reason for this is that women have historically had less access to education and paid jobs. Many women have always performed unpaid work as mothers, housewives etc. Many women are employed in poorly paid jobs such as domestic and farm labor. Even within poor household women usually earn less than men and property and possessions are often in the name of a man. The UN has found that although women perform nearly two thirds of the world's work, they receive only one tenth of the world's income and they own only one hundredth of the world's property.

#### **Children**

The second factor is children. Poverty has a very severe effect on children. Now some of the poorest households in South Africa are those headed by children where parents are either ill or have died from AIDS or other causes. In such situations, in families where parents are still present, children are very badly affected by malnutrition and it has its most severe effect on children between the ages of six months and two years. Malnutrition also means that the children can more easily either get diseases and die young or have poor physical and mental development as a result.

#### **Youth**

Poverty and lack of education limits employment opportunities for young people. In South Africa, with our high unemployment rate, many young people have no hope of finding work in the formal sector. Urban youth are also very vulnerable to getting involved in crime, gangs

and drug or alcohol abuse. These youths are often called "youth at risk" and government targets them for public works and other employment and training programmers.

### **Disabled**

About 5% of all people in South Africa suffer from some form of disability. In developed countries, there are usually grants, support, special institutions and special jobs to help people live full lives in spite of their disability. In developing countries, the responsibility of care and support falls on the family. Poor disabled people live under the double burden of poverty and disability. Without support from the state, it is very difficult for them to access education, special care and jobs. Public transport is often not accessible to people with certain disabilities and those with hearing or sight impediments are restricted from accessing information and communicating with others.

### **The elderly**

Older people are usually not working anymore and have to be taken care of by the rest of society. In South Africa, most poor older people survive on the monthly pensions paid by the state. They also have access to free health care. Because of high unemployment, many families share the pensions meant for the elderly and it ends up being insufficient for their needs. Older people also often look after grandchildren and continue to perform unpaid domestic work for their families. This especially applies to older women.

### **Families living with AIDS**

It is recognized that most of the HIV AIDS victims are found poor. Therefore, people who carry the heaviest burden because of HIV and AIDS are the poor. AIDS increases poverty and families are the first to feel the economic effects of HIV and AIDS. Families lose income if an earner is sick. Often another one of the family members stays at home to look after the sick person and further income is lost. Families also have increased costs as they have to spend on caring for the sick or paying for funerals. Now South Africa has an overall HIV prevalence rate of 22% among pregnant women. This means that about 11% of the overall population is HIV positive.

Some of the key poverty measures that are used are:

1. Population growth
2. Population structure
3. Fertility
4. Infant mortality and Life expectancy
5. Per capita income

In this section we will look at each of these in more detail as below,

### **Population growth**

Many of the problems associated with underdevelopment in the world are linked to high population growth rates. For every minute that passes 300 babies are born in the world and 132 people die. This elaborates that in the last minute 168 new people were added to the world's population. Further, millions of people are added to the world's population every day and about 90 million people are added to the world each year. Countries in the developing

world are those with the fastest growing populations. In most developing countries, the death rates are falling because of improved medicine and improved hygiene but birth rates remain high. Thus, in these countries a high percentage of the population is below 15 years old.

## **Population structure**

Population structure deals with the different percentage of the population that falls in different age groups, so for example in many poor countries almost half the population is below 20 years old. In developed countries, the biggest portion of the population often falls between the ages of 15 and 40. This is the healthier distribution because it means that most of the people are at an age where they are working or are able to look after others. One of the problems the developing countries are beginning to experience is that old people live longer and longer and in many countries, there are now large groups of pensioners who depend on the state for support and are no longer productive in the economy. This means that the government in those countries have to take responsibility for children as well as old people and that these groups together may be bigger than the economically active groups in the middle sector.

### **1. Population Doubling Time**

Populations with a 1% growth rate can double very quickly. Developing countries with higher growth rates often double their populations in 35 years. This usually does not give the country enough time to overcome shortages in resources and services. Therefore, population growth and population doubling time says a lot about poverty in a country.

## **Fertility as an indicator as development**

This factor means the number of children the average woman has during her life. In general, developing countries have a much higher fertility rate and a much higher birth rate than industrialized countries. We can measure the birth rate by the number of children born per thousand of the population every year. In order to work out the fertility rate and the birth rate, we first need to know how many women there are between the ages of 15 and 54, since these years are seen as the (Thomas, 2000)child-bearing age of women. There are many reasons for high fertility rates. Usually our grandparents would have had more children. There are many reasons for this such as the traditional attitude to family size, where large families were seen as adding to wealth. Attitudes change as people become urbanized and as more women become educated and employed.

## **Infant Morality and Life Expectancy**

In addition, there is a direct relationship between poverty and health and the two most common measures used are infant mortality and life expectancy. The more a country is able to provide good nutrition, immunization, basic preventative healthcare and good living conditions, the better it will perform with these two indicators.

## **Per capita income**

Per capita income is also another factor, which means the income per head or per person of the population. This is a clear indicator of how rich or poor particular groups of people are.

As the per capita income of women increases, the fertility rate goes down. This means that more women are employed in the labor market the less babies are born. Employment of women is therefore a key issue for addressing poverty and improving development.

There we can suggest some improvement areas for this issue, which would negatively affect the peace of the world. Therefore, some critical investments for poverty reduction can be indicate as below. The following resolutions could be identify as investments in reproductive health, education and gender equality in order to reduce poverty.

This can be done through enabling people to have fewer children contributes to upward mobility and helps to stimulate development. When women can negotiate their reproductive health decisions with men, this exercise of their rights leads to an increased decision-making role within families and communities that benefits all. Because smaller families share income among fewer people, average per capita income increases. Fewer pregnancies lead to lower maternal mortality and morbidity and often to more education and economic opportunities for women. These, in turn, can lead to higher family income. As women become more educated, they tend to have fewer children, and participate more fully in the labor market. Further Families with lower fertility are better able to invest in the health and education of each child. Spaced births and fewer pregnancies overall improve child survival. Moreover, Sexual and reproductive health services are key to curbing HIV. The pandemic is killing large numbers of people in their most productive years, increasing the ratio of dependents to the working-age population.

Nevertheless, preventing AIDS-related disabilities and premature deaths translates into a healthier, more productive labor force that can improve a countries economic prospects many developing countries have large youth populations. Further to that, reproductive health programmers that address the greater vulnerability of adolescents to unprotected sex, sexual coercion, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, unintended early pregnancies and unsafe abortions, and enable young women to delay pregnancy and marriage are important factors in breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Investments in reproductive health, particularly in family planning, that result in lowered fertility can open a one-time only 'demographic window' of economic opportunity.

Nevertheless, there are priority actions in order to eradicate poverty. Improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources is a key factor. Secondly, provide universal access to basic social services and progressively developing social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves. Further to that progressively developing social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women. On the other hand, working with interested donors and recipients to allocate increased shares to poverty eradication and intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication is also been a major task of overcoming this issue in peace.

## **Conclusion**

Humans have struggled for millennia with hunger, disease natural disasters, conflict, and violence within our own natures and with governing ourselves. Poverty has been a serious issue in the whole world where people suffer a lot. It is truly necessary to overcome this problem with its safe manner within the reach of our technical ability and our political systems to eradicate absolute poverty, in all its dimensions, forever.

If governments north and south, businesses north and south, people north and south, and go the next step to get to zero, we can create the enabling conditions for progressive human development, underpinned by environmental sustainability. Limiting these issues in peace and creating a peaceful culture surely will be a challenge to the global community.

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