

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Poverty is the worst form of violence.” Thinking of poverty as violence shows how it actively causes harm, and how the problem is larger than just the money you earn: poverty reaches into every part of life. Over one billion people in the world today live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in developing countries, particularly in rural areas of low-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the least developed countries. Poverty has various manifestations; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion; it is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision making and in civil and socio-cultural life.

Poverty is inseparably linked to lack of access to or loss of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections. Without those resources, people have limited access to institutions, markets, employment and public services. Young people are particularly affected by this situation. Therefore, specific measures are needed to address the juvenilization and feminization of poverty. Hunger and malnutrition remain among the most serious and intractable threats to humanity, often preventing youth and children from taking part in society. Hunger is the result of many factors: mismanagement of food production and distribution; poor accessibility; misdistribution of financial resources; unwise exploitation of natural resources; unsustainable patterns of consumption; environmental pollution; natural and human-made disasters; conflicts between traditional and contemporary production systems; irrational population growth; and armed conflicts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of collecting all important data and information required to be processed for establishment of this report-content, secondary data collection is chosen to gather all available information regarding involvement and contribution of youth in promoting as well as applying a concept of Hunger and Poverty in both governmental matter and their daily lives. Different sources ranging from journal papers to published news are used to extract and gather all factual information regarding youth-involvement in Hunger and Poverty. A similar method is also used to gather all responses from various stakeholders towards youth and Hunger and Poverty. The sources are carefully chosen in order to ensure quality of the content, relevance, and ease of comprehension. Reason of choosing secondary data collection is based on a fact that varieties of source are largely available in electronic network.

LITERATURE AND FACTUAL REVIEW

FACT-SHEET AND ITS EXPLANATION

Fact-Sheet
<p>In Bangladesh, 31% of the population lives below the national poverty line, most of whom are youth. The disproportionate poverty faced by youth comes as a result of discrimination and exclusion within youth society, struggling to establish their rights and influence in decision-making processes. Furthermore, many young people above the poverty line do not have economic safety nets, and some of the youth have to work in order to survive from hunger and poverty.</p>
<p>In Africa, 60% of the Africa's population and about 36.9 % of its work force are youth. Rural poverty in many areas of Africa has its roots in the colonial system and the policy and institutional restraints that it imposed on poor people. Poverty, restrictive patriarchal structures and conflict have forced thousands of young people to migrate from rural to urban areas and to developed countries. It is crucial to integrate the region's youth into the labor market so as to mitigate the huge social and economic ramifications of their exclusion.</p>
<p>In United States, 17% of youth live in hunger and poverty. Youth who experience hunger have an increase in both physical and psychological health problems. Although there is not a direct correlation between chronic illnesses and hunger among youth, the overall health and development of youth decreases with exposure to hunger and food insecurity. Research shows that hunger plays a role in late youth and young adult depression and suicidal ideation. It was identified as a factor in 5.6% of depression and suicidal ideation cases in a Canadian longitudinal study.</p>
<p>However, not having enough of the right kinds of food can have serious implications for a youth's physical and mental health, academic achievement and future economic prosperity. Fighting poverty involves everything from employment to education to the environment; it is a central part of improving the lives of billions of people around the world.</p>

RESPONSES FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Poverty hits youth hardest. While a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human, it is most threatening to children's rights: survival, health and nutrition, education, participation, and protection from harm and exploitation. It creates an environment that is damaging to youth development in every way – mental, physical, emotional and spiritual. One than 1 billion children are severely deprived of at least one of the essential goods and services they require to survive, grows and develops. Some regions of the world have more dire situations than others, but even within one country there can be broad disparities – between city and rural children, for example, or between boys and girls. An influx of tourism in one area may improve a country's poverty statistics overall, while the majority remains poor and disenfranchised. In addition, The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) set a goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Below are several responses which help to overcome the hunger and poverty.

- **Building national capacities for primary health care**

Around 270 million youth, just over 14 per cent of all youth in developing countries, have no access to health care services. Yet improving the health of children is one responsibility among many in the fight against poverty. Healthy children become healthy adults: people who create better lives for themselves, their communities and their countries. Working in this area also helps to improve child survival rates. Helping the world's youth survive and flourish is a core UNICEF activity, and immunization is central to that. A global leader in vaccine supply, UNICEF purchases and helps distribute vaccines to over 40 per cent of youth in developing countries. Immunization programs usually include other cost-effective health initiatives, like micronutrient supplementation to fight disabling malnutrition and insecticide-treated bed nets to fight malaria. Along with governments and non-governmental organizations at national and community levels,

- **Getting youth to school**

Some 13 per cent of youth ages 7 to 18 years in developing countries have never attended school. This rate is 32 per cent among girls in sub-Saharan Africa (27 per cent of boys) and 33 per cent of rural children in the Middle East and North Africa. Yet an education is perhaps a child's strongest barrier against poverty, especially for girls. Educated girls are likely to marry later and have healthier children. They are more productive at home and better paid in the workplace, better able to protect themselves against hunger and poverty and more able to participate in decision-making at all levels. To that end, UNICEF works in 158 countries, calling on development agencies, governments, donors and communities to step up efforts on behalf of education for all youth, and then coordinating those efforts. Programmes differ from country to country according to needs and cultures, but may include help with funding, logistics, information technology, school water and sanitation, and gender-friendly curriculum.

- **Supporting good nutrition**

UNICEF seeks to help stem the worst effects of malnutrition by funding and helping countries supply micronutrients like iron and vitamin A, which is essential for a healthy immune system, during vaccination campaigns or through fortified food. UNICEF, governments, salt producers and private sector organizations are also working to eliminate iodine deficiency, the biggest primary cause of preventable mental retardation and brain damage, through the Universal Salt Iodization (USI) education campaign. UNICEF also works through communities to talk with youth caregivers about how to provide sound nutrition for youth.

- **Assisting in water and sanitation improvement**

One in three of youth in the developing world – more than 500 million of youth – has no access at all to sanitation facilities. And some 400 million of youth, one in five, have no access to safe water. Meanwhile, unsafe water and sanitation cause about 4,000 of youth deaths per day. Through advocacy, funding and technical assistance, UNICEF works in

more than 90 countries around the world to improve water supplies and sanitation facilities in schools and communities and to improve and promote safe hygiene practices. In emergencies UNICEF provides safe water, and helps displaced communities replace or find new water resources and build latrines. Increasingly, UNICEF emphasizes preventive programs that strengthen the capacity of governments and partners to prepare for these worst case situations.

- **Creating a protective youth environment**

Conflicts are most frequent in poor countries, especially in those that are ill governed and where there are sharp inequalities between ethnic or religious groups. An environment of unrest heightens the risk of abduction, sexual violence and exploitation of youth, as well as the struggle for shelter, education and survival. Toward fulfilling a central goal of the Millennium Declaration, protection of the vulnerable, UNICEF advocates for awareness and monitoring of these issues, and for tougher laws for youth exploiters. Working with individuals, civic groups, governments and the private sector in the field, UNICEF helps establish and strengthen local safety nets for youth, like community child-care centers, schools, and basic social services.

- **Advocating, raising awareness and helping effect policies for youth well-being**

Lastly, UNICEF complements these on-the-field activities with policy advocacy at every level of government. Spreading awareness and offering technical assistance, UNICEF aids countries in forming and effecting programs that help ensure youth rights to survive and thrive. These include working with governments on developing broad national planning frameworks like Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Sector-wide Approaches to Programming (SWAPs), which help countries and donors identify needs and form a results-based plan for change. These policies and programmes don't take shape in a void. Along with national committees, other UN agencies and international private groups, UNICEF helps countries carry out assessment research to define and measure child poverty, and then helps put a system in place to monitor results.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Hunger and malnutrition remain among the most serious and intractable threats to humanity, often preventing youth and children from taking part in society. Hunger is the result of many factors: mismanagement of food production and distribution; poor accessibility; misdistribution of financial resources; unwise exploitation of natural resources; unsustainable patterns of consumption; environmental pollution; natural and human-made disasters; conflicts between traditional and contemporary production systems; irrational population growth; and armed conflicts. Below are several activities which give improvement to overcome the hunger and poverty.

- **Making farming more rewarding and life in agricultural areas more attractive.**
Governments should enhance educational and cultural services and other incentives in rural areas to make them more attractive to young people. Experimental farming programmes directed towards young people should be initiated and extension services expanded to maintain improvements in agricultural production and marketing. Local and national Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should organize cultural events that enhance exchanges between urban and rural youth. Youth organizations should be encouraged and assisted in organizing conventions and meetings in rural areas, with special efforts to enlist the cooperation of rural populations.
- **Skill-training for income-generation by young people**
Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should develop training programmes for youth which improve methods of agricultural production and marketing. Training should be based on rural economic needs and the need to train young people in rural areas in techniques of food production and the achievement of food security. Attention should be given in such programmes to young girls, youth retention in rural areas, youth returning to rural areas from the cities, young people with disabilities,

refugee and migrant youth, displaced persons and street children, indigenous youth, youth returning from military service and youth living in areas of resolved conflicts.

- **Land grants for young people**

Governments should provide grants of land to youth and youth organizations, supported by financial and technical assistance and training. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization are invited to document and disseminate information about national experience with land-grant and settlement schemes for use by Governments. Governments, consistent with their rural development schemes and with the assistance of international organizations, as appropriate, are encouraged to work with volunteer youth organizations on projects which enhance and maintain the rural and urban environments.

PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSES

Poverty is a multi-faceted phenomenon, defined (and explained) as a situation in which a person lacks the necessary capabilities and entitlements to satisfy youth basic needs and aspirations. From this point of view, the fight against poverty must consist in establishing entitlements that will allow the poor access to the material, social, and spiritual means to develop their capabilities. Thus, it becomes necessary to focus on empowerment of the poor as the crucial requirement for a sustainable solution to poverty and hunger. Empowerment is defined here as the ability of youth, in particular the least privileged, to have access to productive resources that enable them obtain the goods and services they need and participate in the development process and the decisions that affect them. Below are the actions or responses of private sector for the hunger and poverty among youth.

- Supporting institutions that work among the poor and vulnerable groups to tackle pockets of poverty which occur between young people in the country.
- Develop youth poverty reduction and food security programmes, specifically for vulnerable youth groups.

- Research into the root causes of youth poverty to identify effective remedial interventions.
- Increase employment opportunities for youth.
- Strengthen the skills of youth to empower them to effectively and efficiently utilize available resources.

Youth are an integral part of the private sector either as consumers, employees of large cooperatives, corporations or small family-owned businesses, or as entrepreneurs and innovators themselves. With its own set of resources and expertise, an innovative private sector develops distribution links, provides needed products and services, creates employment and stimulates income growth; it can also integrate young people into the labor market as well as helps them to eradicate the hunger and poverty situation, develop infrastructure and bring information technology to young people.

NGO RESPONSES

Poverty and hunger are highly emotive terms. Most young people in the higher-income countries regard poverty—understood in its broader meaning of having no money or suffering the effects of famine, war or conflict—as not only unacceptable but also likely to impinge on their own well-being. Opinion polls show that some 80% of young people in the EU, for example, think poverty in low-income countries should be addressed and are willing to act to bring about change. Unemployment, exclusion, poverty, human rights and upholding democratic values are the issues to which many young people attach priority for action at the regional and global levels. National programs can be structured to channel funds to communities through NGOs and CBOs. These approaches have led to successful results when the focus was the institutionalization of organizational and financial frameworks to support action at the local level. Below are the responses or actions that they made to overcome hunger and poverty for youth.

- Non-governmental organizations should organize direct-marketing groups, including production and distribution cooperatives, to improve current marketing systems and to

ensure that young farmers have access to them. The aim of such groups should be to reduce food shortages and losses from defective systems of food storage and transport to markets.

- Industrial agriculture as solutions to the hunger and poverty crises. It critiques the market obsession with neoliberal economics and the narrow focus of agricultural development on boosting productivity of monoculture commodities rather than the holistic integration of ecological, food and nutritional security. Recognizing the threats to future food supplies and analyzing future options to sustain production, which helps to improve ecosystem functions, especially those practiced sustainably by small-scale food providers, particularly youth, make agriculture more resilient, adaptive and capable of eliminating hunger and rural poverty in the long term.
- Non-governments should regulate and eliminate the widespread pollution of soils, watercourses and aquatic ecosystems (rivers, ponds, lakes, coastal waters and wetlands) due to sewage disposal, industrial and agricultural effluents, household waste, nuclear waste and other pollutants that have a fundamentally negative effect on their productive and regenerative capacities.
- Non-governments should remove all subsidies that undermine ecological food provision and take active measures to rebuild the capacity of soils and waters to produce healthy food.

MEDIA RESPONSES

In today ever-changing technological environment, media plays a crucial role nowadays that give influence in promoting and telling the world with the problems that occur to youth. The extraordinarily high number of youth turning to food banks to make ends meet has brought a great deal of media and policy attention to the issue of food poverty. But, donor countries could overcome most food aid challenges if they prioritized the needs of the poor and hungry, rather than letting national strategic and commercial interests or media coverage decide how and where to provide food aid. Media began broadcasting images of starving youth in the summer of 2005 that donors started to pledge money. Powerful images of starving human beings are more likely

to appear on the evening news than are reports about chronic hunger and poverty. A list of actions or responses taken by the media which helps to overcome youth issues on hunger and poverty is explained as below.

- **Use social media to promote the youth issues of hunger and poverty**

It is a fundraising campaign where people are doing something directly linked to the subject of the campaign, rather than, running a marathon to raise money for something unrelated. Participants are challenged to live on £1 a day for five days, experiencing life below the poverty line and getting creative with cheap meals.

- **Advertises the youth issues on television or radio**

Television or radio plays an important role to tell the world about hunger and poverty that occur to youth. Some of the organizations simply state that a specified number of persons are poor without giving any information on what poverty means in the real world. A detailed description of the living conditions of the poor would greatly enhance public understanding. In fact, without a detailed description of living conditions, public discussions of poverty are meaningless. That is why advertising are important to give more conscious on the hunger and poverty, especially to young people.

YOUTH RESPONSES

Young people need to change their mindset which helps them face more problems in their future. Youth recognized that poverty was a barrier for young people accessing extracurricular activities and healthy foods. They linked poor nutrition to difficulties concentrating, mood and other mental health concerns. For some youth in poverty, there was added stress from needing to contribute to family income and this pressure made it difficult to focus on their goals and enjoy their youth. Youth suggested providing additional support to young people who are living on their own or supporting family members, and to offer more free programs and community sporting activities. Young people have become active in any programs or activities which some of them are explained below.

- **Support from counsellor and teachers**

Youth living in poverty reported higher rates of asking a school counsellor for help when compared to their peers who did not live in poverty. However, they were less likely to find the support helpful. Youth who reported finding the support of professionals (such as teachers, youth workers, doctors or nurses) helpful were more likely to report feeling good about themselves, to have good or excellent general health and to have post-secondary aspirations and less likely to report self-harming than youth who approached these professionals for help but did not find it useful.

- **Extracurricular activities**

There were mental health benefits to being involved. For example, among young females who were living in poverty, those who took part in weekly clubs or groups were more likely than those who did not to rate their health as good or excellent (61% vs. 43%). Weekly participation in organized sports was associated with fewer young males in poverty considering suicide and more young females planning to move on to further education after high school. Furthermore, young males living in poverty who were involved in dance or aerobic activities were twice as likely as their less-involved peers to report a positive body image.

- **Family and school connectedness**

Family connectedness was an important protective factor for many groups of youth, and was strongly associated with having postsecondary aspirations for youth females living in poverty. For young males living in poverty, school connectedness contributed even more to reducing their odds of considering suicide than family connectedness.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the time has come to employ a more youth approach in constructing policies and programmes. “Development thinking is still clearly locked into the old paradigm: social investment is for the young educating the young is the path to development. But this paradigm emerged out of a world which was largely three generational: and increasingly, our new world is four and five generational.” In developing countries, less time should be spent focusing on the costs of ageing populations; energies must be directed instead towards developing opportunities for social and economic participation for multigenerational households, strengthening patterns of exchange and reciprocity, and maintaining mutual support structures. Intergenerational interdependence and reciprocity are reflected in the notion of the “common good” underlying much of social policy and the provision of social services. Built into this notion is the understanding that the “payoffs” from resource allocations are both direct and indirect. Investments in education, health care and social welfare services benefit not just the immediate recipients but the entire society, which as a consequence is more engaged, more competitive and healthier. As competition becomes global, education and lifelong learning grow ever more important. Today’s workforce must be more capable and productive and sufficiently flexible to respond to changing conditions and new demands and opportunities. Policies and programmes based on an intergenerational approach should promote an essential interdependence among generations and recognize that all members of society have contributions to make and needs to fulfil. While the nature of these contributions and needs may change during the progression from infancy to old age, the giving and receiving of resources over time is crucial to promoting young intergenerational trust, economic and social stability, and progress. The continued ability of these mechanisms and networks to collect and allocate resources

effectively and equitably builds confidence, trust and social capital that are fundamental to social integration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESPONSES OF WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

In WAY's third Millennium Plan of Action "The Catalyst for Change and Improvement", it is stated that WAY will take necessary action to:

- Reduce by 30%, the number of people living in extreme poverty conditions globally by 2014.
- Reduce by 30%, the number of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition, globally by 2014.
- Ensure that youth and youth leaders play their role in combating extreme poverty and hunger, especially in member countries.

REFERENCES

- Majumdar. B.A. (2014). *The Hunger Project: Bangladesh*. Retrieved from thp.org: <http://thp.org/our-work/where-we-work/bangladesh/>
- Millennium Development Goal (2015). *Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*. Retrieved from www.unicef.org: <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html>
- World Programme of Action for Youth (2007). Retrieved from un.org: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay_text_final.pdf.
- National Youth Policy (February, 2010). Retrieved from countryoffice.unfpa.org: <http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/botswana/drive/BOTSWANAREvisedNationalYouthPolicy15Feb2010.pdf>.
- World Youth Report (2003). *Youth in Extreme Poverty*. Retrieved from un.org: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch03.pdf>.
- Vark. C.V (28 May, 2014). *World Hunger Day: Can Twitter End World Hunger?*. Retrieved from theguardian.com: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/may/28/social-media-raising-awareness-world-hunger>.
- Making the Right Connections: Promoting positive mental health among BC youth. *Focus on youth living in poverty*. Retrieved from mcs.bc.ca: http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/focus_on_youth_living_in_poverty.pdf.