

The Poverty of Nations and Sustainable Solutions

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Abstract

In ASECUYouth2016 we were in Rostov-on-Don together. We had different topics and different presentations. Everything was all right, but not perfect. That is why we decided to combine our knowledge, ideas and create one strong research work. In ASECUYouth2016 one of our presentations was about the poverty of nations and eight sustainable solutions of it. After presentation one of the professors gave some advice that if we come in 2017 we should take only one solution and give more advanced, detailed description. This year we decided to actualize this idea. So, the following paper is about the poverty and education as sustainable solution of it.

Poverty is the issue for the majority of the world's people and countries. This leads to some questions; why is this? Are poor people guilty for their own predicament? Is it because they are lazy, made poor decisions? What about their governments? Have governments provided policies that actually harm successful development?

On the other hand, the governments of poor nations and their people are often powerless. As a result, in the global area, a few countries get wealthy while the majority suffer from poverty and struggle against.

In this report the highlight against poverty is education, and how the lack of education causes poverty. Additionally, how combat or try to tackle poverty in sustainable way.

Keywords Poverty, solution, education of girls, reduces poverty, facts, social inclusion, social protection, goals

JEL Nr.: I

Introduction

The connection between poor education and poverty is a very common research subject in the last two decades. Generally, first thoughts about poverty are lack of education and education failure, which leads to an idea that children born in poor families are the part of a dangerous poverty circle, of which there is not entrance. Those who was born in poverty, are less ready or not ready at all for the school, they are tend to a failure compared to other children from their early school. This brings to the disability to integrate and also leads to the following question: In such situation, can a child in poverty get out of this cycle? It is general proof that researchers and sociologists have various approaches in this sphere, although they came to almost the same conclusion: the chances of reaching success, as well as probability of failure in education is lower for the majority of children born in poor families. Consequently,

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this failure imitates their chances to become a successful adult. So, these all make us think about social exclusion.

Nowadays, at a global economic level, in order to make difference between poverty life and a foolproof economic future, children need to complete a post-secondary education. But, however, all over the world, the graduation rate is alarmingly low. It is fact that today the quantity of students with low-income, who graduate from high-school drops, so it is very crucial to create strategies to decrease the dropout rate.

In spite of these proves, Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, said: "It is totally unacceptable that so many young people lack the basic skills of reading and writing in Europe. This puts them in a position of risk of social exclusion, making them harder to find a job and reduces their quality of life. I noticed some progress in the last decade, but not enough. Literacy is the foundation of learning - that is why we recently launched a literacy campaign aimed at all ages and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds."

1. Facts about poverty

- About half of the population of the world that is more than 3 billion people, get \$2.50 for living a day. Moreover, more than 1.3 billion are in extreme poverty, having less than \$1.25 a day.
- Worldwide, over 1 billion of those people in poverty are children. And, unfortunately, it is known from UNICEF that 22000 children die each day because of poverty.
- 805 million people worldwide suffer from lack of nutrition. In this situation, so called food banks have particularly crucial role in providing food for people under this category who cannot afford it themselves.
- Another issue is that more than 750 million people have little access to clean, drinking water. So, one of the problems of insufficient drinking water is diarrhea, also caused by ante-sanitation, and hand hygiene, kills over 842,000 people every year all over the world, that is, approximately 2,300 people every day.
- The estimates of 2011 proofs that over 165 million children under the 5 years old were stunted (reduced rate of growth and development) due to chronic malnutrition.
- 2 million children a year die from diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia and because they are too poor to pay for proper treatment.
- Another measurement of 2013 gives information that 21.8 million children little than 1 year of age worldwide have not get the three recommended doses of vaccine against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.
- That is fact that 25% of all humans live without electricity that is, approximately, 1.6 billion people.
- 80% of the world population lives on less than \$10 a day.

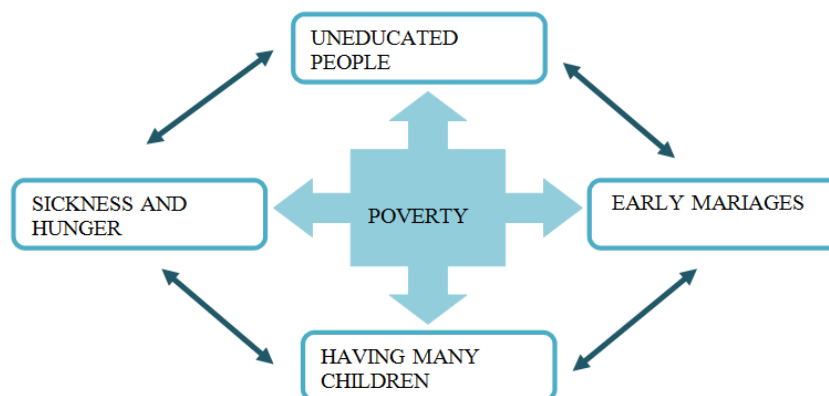
- Oxfam estimations show that it would take \$60 billion annually to end global extreme poverty, less than 25% of the income of the top 100 richest billionaires.
- The World Food Programme says, “The poor are hungry and their hunger traps them in poverty.” Hunger is one of the main causes of death in the world, killing more than HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

(<https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-global-poverty>)

2. Lack of education.

As it is seen from the graph 1 this is an interesting conception of causes of poverty, where central pillar is luck of education (uneducated people).

Graph 1



Nowadays, assessments give information that lots of children do not gain the knowledge and skills they need, even basic. Moreover, according to estimations from 2013, about 250 million children of primary school age, over one third of the whole 650 million children in this age group, do not get basic ability to read and write, despite the fact that 130million of them at least four years attend school. This means that children don't get equal chance in life without these basics. Quality education is the main key to open many doors, be productive and go out of poverty.

But, unfortunately, not all children get opportunities to go to school, study and learn what they have to know. Statistics from around the world show that chances to get quality education are lower for children from poor families; live in rural areas; they are girls, have disability; they are from ethnic or racial group that feels discrimination in their society; they live in some regions that suffer from crisis. And sometimes some of them overlap.

(https://www.unicef.org/sowc2016/index_91265.html)

3. Social context

A lot of families living in extreme poverty conditions cannot afford to send one or all of their children to school. Besides, there are very many countries where even primary

education is payable, and secondary education is free and mandatory only in developed countries and in some less developed countries.

It is important not forget about additional tuitions and fees related to textbooks and school needs. Moreover, the family pays even for any extra kind of academic success.

Furthermore, the fact is that it is hard for poor families to deal with above mentioned financial limitations, but there are economic realities as well. There are quantities of children who have to leave school for earning money and bringing "welfare" to their families. Additionally, leaving schools because of poverty brings lengthening of child poverty and the potential to get decreased incomes. Going a little deep it is obvious that all these issues will make that children unable to change consequently will be hard, even impossible to improve quality of life.

The conclusion is that poor education deepens poverty, while poverty in its turn limits access to education (again the cycle).

Then we can look at poverty both as a cause and as an effect of insufficient access to completion of quality education. Basically, poverty reduction entails ensuring access to quality education.

4. Education and development

A huge amount of theoretical disputes in tackling poverty with a help of education in development and economic growth are concentrated on the productive part with the economic sense of education. There are a lot of researches, data and reports giving an idea that the level of population attending schools is corresponded with the level of economic development.

It is important to remember that education raises awareness, consequently it makes a higher level of productivity realistic and, although it is expensive, however, it brings profits like it happens with any investment project.

There exists a strong relationship that demonstrates that almost always in all societies there is a connection between given wage and the level of education of employees. This means, looking from angle of "normal" assumptions of markets and competitive goods that high level educated people more tend to demonstrate, on average, a higher level of productivity. Learning skills are some kinds of indicator for employers to estimate the employee's potential productivity of. On the other hand, depending on age, people, whose education level is advanced, begins not only work at a higher level workplaces, but also their progress is much faster than that of with a low degree of education.

Moreover, people with a medium level of education through their profile, as a rule get fairly constant earnings that remain the same throughout their life, besides in this case the limitation occurs and evolution cannot be spectacular.

5. Education, poverty and social inclusion policies

It is very crucial to understand that the governments all over the world play important role in combating poverty with a help of the economic and social policies that are incentives in development. The general framework of multidimensional action of the

process of social inclusion covers the steps for prevention and reducing of the risk of poverty and social exclusion. This action provides opportunities and the important resources for people and powerless groups to take part in economic life, social and cultural broaden of society and as well as in the decision-making processes that relate to life and their access to basic rights.

The process of social inclusion consists of multi sided steps and measures. It is very common that in the solution against poverty and social exclusion essential role play economic growth and employment. However, it is important to remember that for reducing poverty there is need to set social policies, which will involve policies about directed education because education and training have a direct impact on what people are able to do or not.

For creating social upward mobility education systems, both at the micro and macro-level, should play a central role. There is general believe that all types of education are crucial keys to break the horrible circle of intergenerational transmission of poverty. So, this area promises long term and reliable profit for rational investments. Therefore, in order to bring a secure start in life for children, particularly the pioneers, there is necessary to invest in education of children. Heading into consideration this statement, countries try to make education and training systems more involving at all levels and for all ages, no matter it is primary and secondary school levels, higher education or leisure training and education for adults.

One of the basic pillars of the Europe 2020 strategy is the reducing the number of school students who leaves early. Consequently, if the quantity of students, leaving education early, drops by less than 10% by 2020, this would lead to reduction of poverty.

(Emerging Markets Queries in Finance and Business, Education and Poverty)

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning



On September 25th 2015, 17 sustainable development goals were set in order to protect the planet, end poverty, and secure the success of all aspects a new sustainable development agenda. There is certain period of time that is 15 years for each goal to achieve specific targets. “We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their

forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment".

As it is seen from Sustainable Development Goals table the fourth goal is quality education. Thus, receiving a quality education is the basics to improve people's living conditions, lives and sustainable development. Remarkable advancements have been done towards raising access of all levels to education and increasing enrolment indexes in schools, especially taking into considerations women and girls. Fundamental literacy skills have made enormously batter, while there is need of brave steps to make even greater progress for reaching universal education goals. For instance, the world has already reached for the level, where there is equality in primary education between girls and boys; however, not a lot of countries have achieved that target for all educational levels.

Here are some facts about nowadays educational awareness.

- In spite of the fact that the involvement in primary education in developing countries has achieved 91 per cent, there is still 57 million children remain out of school.
- More than 1/2 of children that have not included in school live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- An estimated half of out-of-school children of primary school age live in such parts of the world where exist different conflicts.
- The number of youth worldwide who lack basic literacy skills is 103 million, moreover over 3/5 of them are women.

Why does education matter? Education is the central pillar that will make many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) take place. Quality educated people are more tend to break and get out of the poverty cycle. In addition to this, education helps to decrease inequalities and to reach for gender equality. It also secures people everywhere create more healthy and sustainable lives. Additionally, education is also important to define tolerance between people and promote to more peaceful societies. (<https://www.modernghana.com/news/711278/government-must-have-a-radical-plan-of-eradicating-poverty-f.html>)

6. Sustainable Solutions



What can we do?

- ⊕ Firstly, governments need to place education as a priority in both policy and practice.
- ⊕ Secondly, lobby our governments to make firm commitments to provide free primary school education to all, involving powerless or isolated groups.
- ⊕ Besides, attacked the private sector to invest resources in the development of educational tools and facilities by providing sustainable programmes.
- ⊕ NGO¹'s by partnering with a lot of youth and other organizations can succeed to aware the importance of education within local communities.
- ⊕ The educated girls and women impact the rest of the societies where these girls and women live. Level of education is highly linked to the age at which women marry and have children, to their health and diseases, to their economic opportunities, to their social position, and to their general future wellbeing. So, by educating girls and women the country can decrease poverty, particularly in developing nations, where the issue has high indexes.

What School Can Do?

Before poverty is colossally decreased or eliminated, school should defend children against the effects of poverty. This can be done by providing health care, nutrition, a clean environment, and books. In practice, this means programmes that will be able to give continued and spent support with a face of raised school nursing care, free/reduced meal programs, and, definitely, updated school and classroom libraries.

The drastic impact of providing access to books. The recent study proofs that increasing access to books helps students enormously, moreover, it can even reduce the causes of poverty on school achievement and literacy development. This conclusion comes from four recent studies.

Evans, Kelley, Sikora and Treiman (2010). In 27 countries were made a study of about 70,000 15-year olds, Evans, Kelley, Sikora and Treiman (2010) gave information that controlling for parental education, fathers' occupation, and social class, young people, who have access over 500 books at their homes, stay in school three years longer than children in bookless homes. Interestingly, the finding shows that the result of parental education was about the same as the result of books in the home, twice as powerful as the effect of father's occupation, and stronger than the result of standard of living, measured by gross domestic or product the GDP. In brief, access to books has its impact on education success, and that is equal or even stronger than economic factors.

(http://www.sdkrashen.com/content/articles/protecting_students.pdf)

7. Access to social protection minimum floor Concept

Social protection floors are the basics need that every country fixes for its population at the national level. This includes minimum, guaranties of access to necessary health care, education and a basic income that allows people to reach for first crucial goods

¹ NGO-non-governmental organization

and services during whole lifetime. Moreover, the other aim of Social protection floor is preventing and reducing poverty rates. National social protection floors should include the following aspects (as minimum):

- Availability of necessary health care, as well as pregnancy care
- Education
- Income for children with face of nutrition, education and basic goods and services they need
- Income for people with physical disabilities, unemployment and so on
- Older people also need income

These are that basics that a country should provide to its residents need to fix in national laws and regulations. (International labor organization)

It is right that in real life it is hard for many countries to achieve such results, in spite of the fact that this is only the lowest/basic level. Sometimes the countries that have problem of providing such necessary things for their population rely on the help of other countries, without thinking that they need to solve situation by themselves, by changing bad habits and so on.

Conclusion

Generally, there are numerous factors that causes poverty, however, there are also a lot of sustainable solutions, such as creating more jobs, improving microfinance (supply of loans, savings, and other basic financial services to the poor), government transparency (by reducing corruption in government), deal with national debt rationally, health, clean water, nutrition and sanitation access to all people worldwide and so on. As it is seen from this report, the central role plays the education, trainings, awareness and promotion of people. Moreover, education is some kind of connector for these solutions. To be educated means that someone is ready to fights against issues, challenges in life, and poverty is one of the essential challenges of the world. Additionally, nowadays, in globalization level, it is very important for all countries to be competitive and in order to reach for competitiveness a country need qualified and competent workers, professionals and experts who, at their turn, have high level education. Moreover, in order to cooperate with different countries for integrating new methods against poverty, to get donations or other things like this, a country need again educated people. Therefore, our opinion is that the real thing that has huge potential to overcome poverty is education. Additionally, countries with such concern need not only money or food but specialists for teaching people, for giving proper knowledge. It is true that in every country and every nation there are educated people who get education in abroad, but the quantity of such people are not enough to educate the whole country.

Our conclusion is that there are a lot of causes of poverty. They are both external and internal causes, besides, both man-made and natural. Reality is that there is no single cause of poverty, there is no single solution of it. Nonetheless, understanding(with help of education) the ways that complex forces interact with each other to create and maintain the conditions of widespread global poverty is an

important first step in formulating comprehensive and effective responses to tackle the issue of poverty around the world.

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5. International labor organization