



Connecting Experience

What is poverty?

AGE GROUP

7+

AMOUNT OF PEOPLE

5+

TIME

20 – 30 MIN

OBJECTIVE

To learn about the different types of poverty, and discuss the different effects it can have.

MATERIAL

Scenarios printed/written out before meeting.



Instructions

Begin by starting a discussion with the group about poverty as a whole, the leader could have the group offer up words or ideas they associate with it and create a mind map.

Explain to the group that poverty comes in many forms, and differs from person to person and country to country.

Define Absolute, Relative and Situational Poverty.

Absolute Poverty

Also known as extreme poverty, Absolute poverty is a lack of all basic human needs such as food, shelter, clean drinking water and medical access. Generally, the threshold is the same worldwide.

Relative Poverty

Relative Poverty differs from place to place, people in relative poverty can usually reach a basic level of survival but might not have the same quality of life or opportunities as those around them. E.g. This could be a family not being able to afford to send children to college that live in a place where generally everyone has this opportunity.

Situational Poverty

Situational poverty can be sudden but is usually temporary. This is when an unexpected event puts a family below the poverty line, this could happen for several different reasons such as job loss, a natural disaster or illness.

Once the leader has discussed the different forms of poverty, split into small groups and give them a set of scenarios. Give them the task of deciding which scenario depicts which kind of poverty. There are 3 scenarios provided below, but feel free to adapt them or to add more depending on the group.

Scenario 1

Anna is ten years old. Her family lives in hostels and sometimes must spend the nights sleeping on the streets. She would like to go to school but needs to spend the day trying to get money to help feed her family.

Scenario 2

Marco goes to school every day. After school, all his friend go to soccer practice. Marco really wants to play soccer with his friends, but his parents don't have enough money to pay for it.

Scenario 3

Sara's house was destroyed by a wildfire. Her family are living in a house with a friend's family. It's very crowded and hard to find space for themselves. They hope they'll get a new house soon.

Debrief:

- ▶ What could you do to help someone in poverty?
- ▶ In a perfect world, what would you do to be sure that no one lived in poverty?



CONNECTING EXPERIENCE PAGE
<https://ej2020.org/connecting-experience/>

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