POVERTY

In the present scenario of rapid urbanization, poverty has become one of the major problems in achieving development. Poverty is prominently seen in developing countries or the southern countries, where the rate of population is increasing at a fast pace. The fact that increase in population leads to depletion of resources holds good even for reason that poverty exists. The unequal distribution of wealth in developing countries leads to poverty with one side of the society enjoying the fruits of luxury while the other side suffer even to meet the basic needs of living. In poor nations the wages paid to workers are quite meagre which satisfies neither his needs nor his family’s. Moreover, due to large population the country suffers from inability to provide quality food to all its citizens thereby creating problems of malnutrition among the people in general and children in particular.

The inherent problems of poverty in developing countries are more when compared to the developed nations in comparison. One such greater problem is the absence of educational institutions in rural areas. The lack of education creates problems of unemployment which prevails persistently in developing countries. Thus, on a whole the economy of the country declines which results in decrease in the value of the country’s currency. The cost of goods imported increases proportionally as the importing country has to pay for the goods in the value of the foreign currency.

Another major problem is the absence of hygiene and cleanliness. Poor people incapable of affording to find shelter, make their dwellings on roadside areas and areas near drains and parks. The presence of human settlement makes the place prone to diseases as they act as breeding grounds for disease carrying agents like insects and animals. Pollutants from these habitations can enter the nearby water bodies and can cause loss of biodiversity in the water ecosystem. This also causes problems like eutrophication or algal bloom which depletes water of its oxygen content, killing many aquatic and floral plants. The use of wood for cooking and heating releases toxic and carcinogenic substances into the atmosphere which causes air pollution resulting in respiratory problems for the user as well as for those who passively inhale it.

There is destruction of landscape due to construction of houses and shanties on roadside areas. Parks which are constructed for enjoying the aesthetic value of nature becomes a place of reduced hygienic condition. Poverty also deprives people from showcasing their talents and ideas as there are very little platforms to help bring out their potential. Though there are a lot of every competitive young minds, poverty shows itself as an obstacle in bringing out the products of knowledge and talent in developing countries.

Poor people are literally ill-treated with lots of hurdles put in the way of their development. People with old clothes are looked down and verbally insulted and are denied even the basic rights of an individual.