**Skill development programs are the only ways to uproot poverty**

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A study conducted by Nobel laureates Avinandan Banerjee and Esther Duflo states, “A poor individual consumes up to 80% of his income. This individual is undernourished and underweight, and, as a consequence, less productive. Education spending of poor people is insignificant. They are provided by poor infrastructure, including education. Moreover, parents’ illiteracy does not allow their children to study better” (Banerjee & Duflo, 2007, as cited in Azimzhan, 2020). All of these facts emphasize the necessity of formulating better poverty alleviation programs. Because developed countries' current model of providing financial and food aid is making little headway in eliminating poverty around the globe. In contrast, a different approach such as skill development programs backed by investments in infrastructure will bolster the effort of fighting global poverty. Therefore, to uproot poverty, skill development programs are the only ways, because the people will be more aware of their financial situation, they will reach self-sufficiency by producing their own goods and the economy of their country will flourish as a whole. (Alve)

First of all, the people will be more aware of their financial situation. Different types of seminars or presentations can be arranged to make them understand their lack of productivity. There are still many countries in the world that lack the insights of modern technology. Those countries need attention as to how they increase their productivity. Technological advancements in agriculture provide vast potential for farmers, entrepreneurs and investors to improve the productivity and efficiency in agriculture. The African continent is lagging behind in this case. A leading reason why Africa is still lagging behind the rest of the world is because of the outdated government policies (FAO & ITU, 2022). Technological innovation, industrial growth, and improved living standards, all are fuelled by the governments but sadly in Africa, the governments are not paying much heed to all of this. Also countries in sub-Saharan Africa are at varying levels of digital transformation, reflected in their differences in coping with complexity, untapped potential and availability of information. According to FAO & ITU (2022), With almost 60 percent of the region’s population under the age of 25, active engagement of youth in agriculture is essential. That is why, by arranging different seminars and conferences in those countries we can make them understand their position, especially their financial position. Moreover, Practical workshops will impart them with the knowledge of financial literacy. We can also arrange workshops that can help them seek the knowledge of financial literacy. Because as we know, many countries in the world are financially illiterate and do not know the right way to use their resources. Referencing can be done in the Sub-Saharan countries. One of the major details in the workshop should be “Digital Agriculture”. The findings of the study are presented to FAO and ITU Member States, as well as all relevant stakeholders with the purpose of advancing and supporting investment in digital transformation of the agricultural sector in sub-Saharan Africa. While the implementation of digital agriculture is beneficial, it is not without significant challenges. The report recognizes the need to improve crucial digital infrastructure that is beyond reach for most rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa. This infrastructure includes access to energy, dependable network coverage, and availability of digital devices (African Union & AOSTI, 2022). So, practical workshops are needed for those countries who are economically unstable. (Ankur)

Secondly, they will reach self-sufficiency by producing their own goods. Practical learning sessions will help them to set up their own businesses and those businesses will generate new jobs. On the other hand, practical learning sessions and seminars which show some important stuff about the reality and need of practical works can be arranged to help the people in need to set up their own businesses. Because if they can set up their own businesses, it can also generate new jobs. Again, practical learning sessions can show them the importance of natural resources and how to utilize them. We know African countries have vast natural resources but still they remain poor. Africa is rich in natural resources ranging from arable land, water, oil, natural gas, minerals, forests and wildlife. The continent holds a huge proportion of the world’s natural resources, both renewables and non-renewables. According to the reports of Our work in Africa (n.d), Africa is home to some 30 percent of the world’s mineral reserves, 8 percent of the world’s natural Gas and 12 percent of the world’s oil reserves. The continent has 40 percent of the world’s gold and up to 90 percent of its chromium and platinum. The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world are in Africa. It holds 65 percent of the world’s arable land and ten percent of the planet’s internal renewable fresh water source. That is why, holding practical learning sessions and seminars can help them to understand the usage of natural resources to their advantage and to a greater fact that will develop their financial condition. Additionally, Those businesses will produce goods which will help them to generate a reliable income source and get self-sufficient thereby. After setting up their own businesses with the help of practical learning sessions and seminars, it will generate new jobs. Those jobs will help the people meet their financial conditions and increase their economic rate. This will also develop the country as a whole. Those businesses will also help them become self- sufficient and work on their own. In that way, they don’t have to worry about losing their businesses and generating new jobs. Additional reports from Our work in Africa (n.d) stated that In most African countries, natural capital accounts for between 30 percent and 50 percent of total wealth. Over 70 per cent of people living in sub-Saharan Africa depend on forests and woodlands for their livelihoods. Land is an economic development asset as well as a socio-cultural resource. A significant share of these resources is, however, used unsustainably while others are lost through illegal activities, meaning that the stream of benefits generated from these resources is being reduced over time. For instance, Africa loses an estimated USD 195 billion annually of its natural capital through illicit financial flows, illegal mining, illegal logging, the illegal trade in wildlife, unregulated fishing and environmental degradation and loss (Our work in Africa, n.d). After setting up their own businesses they won’t suffer much loss. Because by that time, they would have learned the importance and utilization of the natural resources that they are filled with. (Ankur)

Thirdly, the economy of the country will flourish as a whole because of the training programs. In the first place, the size of the GDP will increase as there will be more economic activity. For instance, we can take Bangladesh as a model since GDP of Bangladesh has risen rapidly since her independence. The GDP growth rate of 1972 was -14%, whereas that of 2021 was +6.9% (World Bank, n.d.). According to Anik (2021), the main reason for this growth in GDP is the economic activities like RMG, home textile, ceramics, ships and vessels, softwares & ICT products, and electronics and electrical products etc. All could happen only because of the training on skill development. Additionally, the country will earn more foreign currencies as it will be able to export human resources. According to a report of Dhaka Tribune (2022), the skill development programs have made the people of Bangladesh ready for jobs and skilled, thus each year, Bangladesh is exporting 1 million human resources on average. As a result, Bangladesh is earning 2 billion USD each month on average (Bangladesh Bank, n.d.). This helps the economy of the country to grow. In the end, because of the training initiatives, the nation's economy will grow overall. (Udoy)

Against this backdrop, some people may argue that we may provide them with direct cash support and free food to lessen their financial pain and get rid of starvation respectively. However, it might help them for the short term basis but in the long term, they will keep suffering as they would not have any sustainable income source. This means that their standard of living will remain the same. Primarily, financial support or food aid to the poverty-covered people gets consumed very soon. According to ConcernUSA (2022), the US provides more than 50% of its financial aid to Sub-Saharan Africa for a long time. Yet the condition of those regions are still quite the same as the past. So, it is best to provide training programs to develop skillset among them, thus making them economically independent by generating sustainable income through their skills. The recent development of Kenya is a prime example of this. According to the recent data of The World Bank (2021), recent in-demand skill development programs are helping 280,000 young Kenyans create sustainable income source. Considering all these, providing cash support or free food is not at all a good way to uproot poverty, only making the poor people skilled could do so. (Udoy)

To conclude, skill development programs eradicate poverty since they increase people's awareness of their financial status, enable them to become self-sufficient by generating their own products, and boost the nation's economy as a whole. Although it is a lengthy process to up-skill or re-skill a great number of people, it is definitely worthwhile as it will uplift those vulnerable people from poverty. To boost up the discussed poverty alleviation programs, concerned state apparatus and other development organizations can mobilize their resources accordingly. In addition, different NGOs could also launch their own sophisticated programs empowered with such skill development initiatives. In that case, they could partner with various private and corporate bodies as they are also supposed to execute the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to maintain their compliance in the economy. In brief, better lives for poor individuals can only be achieved with proper guidance and training to harness their economic potentials so that they can invest more of their resources into education and healthcare instead of consuming 80 percent of their income on food. (Alve)

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