



# A Study on the Impact of Poverty on Attendance and Academic Performance

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**ABSTRACT:** It is well acknowledged that education is responsible for building an individual and societal life of every country. But the dream of building an individual's life is still not up to certain level due to poverty. India is such a beautiful and diverse country, and these diversities on the other hand have many consequences where one side is moving ahead and the other side remains to be deprived in various fields. Poverty has a tendency to extremely effects human's life and nobody ever encourages to get effected by it. But most get effected by it which itself is due to lack of education and lack of financial stability found to be barred from getting good education. A large number of communities, rural and disadvantage groups are not accessible to education due to lack of financial stability and security. There is need of bringing the possible ways of getting closer to solution for prevention of poverty and formulation of effective policies. The paper highlights various problems related to economic issues and its impact on the performance of the children.

**Keywords:** Education, Poverty, Attendance and Performance.

## INTRODUCTION

The country with more educated at large there is higher development in the country. The necessity of getting more education in the country from lower to higher strata of the society would benefit for the development of the same. The development will reduce illiteracy, there will be more opportunities in job and strengthen to industrial development of the country. Poverty affects the school going children in various ways both in their education and mental course of health, including their home work, class attendance, and performance in and outside of the classroom. <sup>1</sup>The student from a poorer background gets highly affected, both with disappointment and irresponsible treatment everywhere. Humiliation, exploitation, indignity, inequality, a fear environment they get at every place whether college or secondary school level. The financially worse situation takes a toll on a good student. Children from a poor economic background are seen to have poor performance in class. The attendance record reduces due to the pressure they have at home for money and are even seen working for earning or even managing household works at home since the parents are daily wage earner where the parents hardly have time to stay at home. While talking about the amount of concentration they have, children from

<sup>1</sup> The Kashmir monitor, impact of poverty on education, by [Monitor News Bureau Feb. 24, 2020 Updated 1:05 am. IST](#), visited on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

poor family background are often found to have attended the class with almost an empty stomach since they are forced to have with less amount of meal. Without such adequate meal at home are unable to concentrate the attention in the class lecture and perform badly. Even if perform the class activities, the children are often lacking in behind the rest of the others students. The importance of going to school as children is the needed responsibility we are often taught. Taking education with enough degree, having adequate knowledge and become skillful in particular area is the key to finding a job, in living successful and happy life. It is often seen many become jobless and remains poverty in life. Various studies have shown that children who are living below poverty are seen to have exposed to less interest in the class and their studies leaving them in stress.

<sup>2</sup>Thus, once people have access to education in a country and proper facilities, resources and materials are provided for teaching and learning, the outcomes will be great and the country will be blessed with strong Human Capital.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To study the causes of poverty.
2. To study the impact of poverty on children.
3. To study the impact of poverty on academic attendance.
4. To study the impact of poverty on academic performance.

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Edward Martey et.al. (2022) conducted a study on Parental Time Poverty, Child Work and School Attendance in Ghana and found that there is an increase in declining the enrollment of public school from 9 percent to 6 percent among the poor family background. The attendance of children is reducing due to involvement in work at home. There is greater impact of poverty on children's attendance due to low household income let to involvement of child work for earning.
2. Kendra McKenzie (2019) conducted a study on The Effects of Poverty on Academic Achievement and discussed that poverty is an over growing concern and that impacted on academic achievement in today's school. The children raised from poor economic background are seen to experience emotional and social challenge, cognitive lags and chronic stressors due to alternation of brain structure in memory and emotion areas. The more the poverty increases the greater effects on behavior and the capacity of students' learning. The educators should be aware about the strategies to help overcome the larger gap in the academic achievement among poverty and well affluent family.
3. Lisa Breger (2014) conducted a study on Poverty Effects on Student Achievement: A Look at Chicago Public Schools. The paper studied the relationship of poverty and school performance from both public and charter schools and found that poverty has negative impact on academic achievement. The increase of attendance record and size of school has an improvement in test scores.
4. Radhika Kapur (2018) conducted a study on the Impact of Poverty on Education in India

<sup>2</sup> Amzat, "The effects of poverty on education in Nigeria: Obstacles and solution". Research Gate, Aug.2020.

Education is an important area that is necessary for the progress and development of the individuals, society and nation. The individuals, who are facing the problem of poverty, are seen to suffer with various hindrances for getting education and for improvement of skills and competency.

5. HB Ferguson et.al. (2007) conducted a study on the impact of poverty on educational outcomes for children. Family incomes are the key factors that are found to be influenced on educational outcomes of children. Children of low-income families are often running behind the children of more affluent families. The overall condition of poverty greatly influences a child's educational performance, attainment, societal characteristics and social connectivity.

### **Causes of Poverty:**

The concept of inequality comes when one different group of people have different rights or when one group has lesser rights than the other groups although from the same area, based on caste, community can also be based on gender and social status. When these people have lesser rights than the rest of all that means they have lesser opportunities to further go ahead in life for development. There is a common problem in regards to gender inequality around us when women have lesser rights in their social and economic. So these are the victims of causing poverty in the country. There is very little space for the country to move forward in life in these situations with the people. To prevent from the issue of inequality, we must consider all distinguished groups of people in a community. Enlarging our thought and practice to build equality we have to consider equality of results, and not to equality of resources.

Lack of education generally refers to people who drop high school, drop in college and others are responsible for causing poverty. Let us point out some ways that contributes poverty, like drop out students are often found unemployment and live their life in an unsecure jobs. It becomes difficult for them to live a life of self sufficient without others help. Lack of education can also cause unwanted and disgrace behavior and remained living jobless because others do not accept them to let occupy a job and have to face the life of poverty. It is difficult from the family under poverty of low income to afford their children education. And there is also a case that children of poor families could not attend school due to workforce from the parents for inability to support families. Many families could not supplies necessary needs for education such as a uniform, pen, books and many others material which is needed for accomplishment of information and knowledge. It becomes challenging for the particular children to complete the education in an effective and fruitful way.

### **Impact of Poverty on children:**

Children grown up in poverty usually seen to have physical and emotional stress. The economic imbalances in the family often increase a child to be exploited in child labor and trafficking. The children also face many different health issues like cardiovascular, neuroendocrine, and emotional imbalances which have impacted on the learning and education. Children below poverty line also faces social deprivation, which developed in them with low self-esteem and that give them to have long term implication with less self confidence in their life. Even while going to school they live a life of unsafe and marginalized from the rest of peer. Growing up in poverty often get improper sanitation, improper clean water, food, they live a life of unhealthy environment,

which at large impacted to have lived in unhealthy manner. The overall unhealthy environment adversely affected the children with improper physical development. The children from low economic background have worse educational outcome compared to high economic family background regarding learning like cognitive development and academic performance. There may be also some children from low economic background who have good academic achievement but their performance are quite challenging in compare to better economic background. The children should be given keen attention for the proper development so that the following generation does not face the same circumstances. For these the parents should engage with the child's education, quality education should be provided to poor economic children. The children should be guided with different curricular support.

### **Impact of poverty on attendance**

According to study done by Bijaya Kumar malik on Child Schooling and Child Work in India, It was found from most of the economic background are very high in dropout rate, failed in the same standard, and low attendance rate as compared to the state from better economic background. Although education is needed as much as food and shelter, but many could not effort all of these needs due to poor. Students from poor family often found to be lacking behind in various activities in school. Majority of the families could not enroll their children to school, even though enrollment to school become free and compulsory but still parents are unwilling to give full attention for the education of their child, instead they make them do work for earning, even if not for earning but make them busy for household work while parents are engaging for daily labor. Such types of children often found to be late at school, and low rate of attendance is found, concentration to the class teaching found to be very less compared to others children. Due to the pressure given at home for work, student does not take interests for attending the class. The students of poor families who have less attendance often have low academic achievement. Their performance in school curricular and extra-curricular activities often found to be poor. The student of poor families have to enroll in free educational institution often found to stop their education since they could not afford taking extra tuition fees, and students who hardly complete the schooling are unable to continue their education for higher studies like for some professional and technical institute for being unable to afford for admission and others related cost, such as rented fee, food and shelter.

### **Impact of poverty on Performance**

Children living below poverty line for many years suffer worst educational outcomes. Children facing poverty in the pre-school and early school years are seen to have lower rates in completion of school education compared to facing poverty in later years.

<sup>3</sup>“Bandura (2001), social cognitive theory”. Knowing how the brain functions can have a great influence on emotional, social, cognitive and physical learning of pupils. Because it is known that perceptions and emotions contribute to learning. Considering that children of poverty may be poorly developed, both physically and emotionally stressful can explain why they encounter difficulties in schools because intelligence is linked with

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<sup>3</sup> HOW POVERTY AFFECTS PUPILS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. UNZA BY TEMWANI MFUNE, ACADEMIA, CITED ON

or to health. Nutritional plays a crucial role as well as children who grow up in poverty are exposed to lower nutritional value. This can affect the grey matter mass in children's brain and it negatively affects pupils academic achievement by adversely affecting cognition and raising absenteeism.

## IMPLICATION:

### 1. *Academics Support*

Academic supports, in all side can bring children from going to schools, the school can organized some useful platform like lunch program, forming of clubs and children join according to their choice, cultural program, guidance service, counseling service etc., this will give ample opportunities for the children to explore their interest and that will promote attendance in school.

### 2. *Student-teacher relationships*

There should be a sense of belongingness on the parts of both teacher and student, a bond of connectedness will increase in engagement opportunities to both academic and social activities. When the teacher has a positive relationship with student, the motivation of the student will increase and that will open a door for participative and active performance in the school as well in studies. But if the student and teacher do not like each other, there is hardly any interest in the class; this will open a door for absenteeism of school. When there is a positive relationship there is a positive support system and thereby bring positive environment in the school which attracts maximum of the student of all types.

### 3. *Positive school environment*

A supportive and positive school environment is the most important aspects in the administration of any sectors may it be private or government, while in the school it is for the students, teacher, staff, families and communities. There should be an environment with ample opportunities for shared decision-making among all the members, including society, leaders, administration, student, teacher, parents. These should get welcomed in the school to express their viewpoint for improvement and express the needs of society and communities and ideas for preventing unhealthy practice of harassment, ragging, drugs, alcohol etc.

### 4. *Record of attendance*

Maintaining of attendance record is essential to know the problems of the students. It is beneficial to find out the students problems to help solve issues related to various personal or family. The attendance record can help in indication of the reason to effectively pull back the students to school. There can be many reason for being absent in the school, may it be the reason of poverty, health issues, physical issues, mental issues, family issues etc. the record can help the teacher identified the student and can communicate the same with parents and the individual child that will greatly prevent from facing serious issues in future to continue education which is the backbone for fighting against poverty.

### 6. *Parent-Teacher relationship*

Both parents and teachers play a vital role in educating a child. Parents are a child's first teacher. For proper education of a child both parent and teacher are great importance. The parent too can act as a teacher to support both life and academic skills through love and affection for the healthy growth and development of the child.

On the other side the teacher can also act as parents to inspire the student with love and affection. Many studies have shown that the positive relationship between parents and teacher can improve the child's academic performance. Research have shown us that when there is close relationship between parents and teachers there is an improvement in children's performance, interest in school, and grades. A close partnership between parents and teachers also give better social skills, able to control behavioral problem, and able to adjust the existing situation. When the parents and teachers have good communication, there is lot of improvement in child's performance, since both are able to share the problems and solution.

## Conclusion

The impact of poverty not only seen in the children, but also impacted the whole nation. Numbers of policy and strategies have developed to end poverty. However the effects are still prevailing around us, due to the disparity of among society, communities and among different regions and states. The government alone cannot end the impact of poverty, the non-government agencies should also be the responsible for taking steps for providing essential needed for the improvement of poverty in the country. Education is the only key to eradicate poverty, education should reach to every corner of the country, whatever states, regions, society, community, caste and gender it may be. When every section of the society received good and quality education then only poverty will reduced to nil. Government and non-government should work together to be able to reach education to every section of society and give quality education.

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