

A Study on Effect of Poverty on Child Health and Development with Reference to Palayamkottai Taluk

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Abstract: *We can define poverty as the condition where the basic needs of a family, like food, shelter, clothing and education are not fulfilled. It can lead to other problems like poor literacy, unemployment, malnutrition, etc. A poor person is not able to get education due to lack of money and therefore remains unemployed. An unemployed person is not able to buy enough & nutritious food for his family and their health decline. A weak person lacks the energy required for the job. A jobless person remains poor only. Thus we can say that poverty is the root cause of other problems. According to the Noble Prize Winner South African leader, Nelson Mandela- "Poverty is not natural, it is manmade". The above statement is true as the causes of poverty are generally manmade. There are various causes of poverty but the most important is population. Rising population is putting the burden on the resources & budget of countries. Governments are finding difficult to provide food, shelter & employment to the rising population. Poverty affects the life of a poor family. A poor person is not able to take proper food & nutrition & his capacity to work reduces. Reduced capacity to work further reduces his income, making him poorer. Children from poor family never get proper schooling & proper nutrition. They have to work to support their family & this destroys their childhood.*

Keywords: Poverty

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