**What can be done to Reduce Poverty in the United States?**

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Today, poverty is among the most urgent issues affecting all nations worldwide, with about 9.2% of the population affected. Due to COVID-19, the number of people in extreme poverty grew from seventy million to seven hundred million worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, according to the International Monetary Fund (2020), have dragged down the progress made by several countries in reducing poverty levels toward attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many countries have the key objective of eradicating poverty among their citizens, as this has jeopardized a balanced society. Therefore, poverty is considered one of the main factors causing unsustainable socio-economic development that affects people’s lives.

The poverty level in the United States among its residents is about 34 million, despite being considered among the wealthiest countries in the world. In the 1950s, poverty levels were highest at 22% and lowest in 2019 at 10.5% in the U.S. Rural areas of the South and Southwest regions of the United States are mostly affected by high levels of poverty due to poor living conditions and the absence of industries. Being poor is an elaborate term that includes both inadequate material resources and the incapacity to make a significant contribution to humanity.

Therefore, it's crucial to take into account a variety of factors that contribute to poverty, including a lack of resources or knowledge, unhealthy habits, uncertainty, a lack of confidence, a feeling of invincibility, or a lack of basic freedoms like the right to free expression. According to research by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), living in poverty does not only refer to financial hardship; it also refers to a lack of access to resources and viable lifestyle options. In retrospect, this essay will discuss some of the strategies, such as Economic empowerment, Access to quality Education, Affordable Housing, and Health care access, that the U.S. government and policymakers need to implement to reduce poverty levels for its residents.

**Economic Growth and Empowerment**

Rapid and sustainable economic growth is a powerful tool for improving the quality of life in society through the reduction of poverty. Economic empowerment creates favorable cycles of fortune and job opportunities. When there are several prospects for employment and economic growth, people will be more inclined to make expenditures on the education of their children. Later, this will lead to a strong and growing network of investors, creating pressure for better oversight. Thus, rapid economic growth promotes human advancement, which in turn promotes rapid revenue generation (Lakner et al., 2022).

However, based on the situation, equal rates of growth might have quite different outcomes for poverty, the potential for employment of the poor, and other more general indicators of human advancement. The extent to which economic growth reduces poverty is dependent on how much the poor participate in the economy and reap its advantages. Based on research analyzing the outcomes of a broad spectrum of rising governments, quick and predictable growth is possibly the most successful method for eradicating poverty. These national studies frequently forecast that a 10% increase in a country's average household income will lead to a great decline in the overall level of poverty. The assumption that economic growth and empowerment play a critical role when assessing how rapidly poverty is eradicated is supported by studies that investigated both individual nations and groups of nations.

To significantly boost the cost of living for millions of poor people in the United States, the government must raise the national minimum salary paid to its workers. The current national minimum remuneration is only $15,000 per annum for a full-time job position. Salary levels have not gone up for over a decade and are inadequate to keep society out of impoverishment (Malerba, 2022). To provide the jobs critical to building a healthy economy, government funding is required. Additionally, the United States must rebuild its transportation infrastructure, develop a sustainable energy economy, increase the number of jobs for caregivers, support small-scale production, and ensure that all of its citizens, regardless of socioeconomic status, are eligible for these positions, which must also provide fair wages and benefits.

**Health Care Access**

Attention to the health of the underprivileged is a key challenge in the progress of any country subsequently health is more essential on the annual worldwide agenda. The reduction of infant and maternal fatalities as well as the spread of tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV are three of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that called for advancements in health. All nation-states agree that everyone has the basic right to the best possible level of health, irrespective of ethnical group, religion, politics, monetary status, or societal standing.

To meet the health-related MDGs, the government must provide funding for the purchase of pharmaceuticals and vaccinations, for the construction and equipment of facilities, for the provision of necessary manpower within the health system, and for higher spending in other vital areas of the economy. Additionally, more funds must be raised by development organizations to promote health goals that benefit the poor. A comprehensive health-sector program and a strategy for reducing poverty should also be put into place by the government, which includes supporting initiatives to better mobilize and manage local resources (Tiehen et al., 2012)

To enhance the health of the poor, it is not enough to only make sure they have access to inexpensive, high-quality healthcare but also the U.S. government should increase their salaries for them to be able to buy food and get medical care. Reduced exposure to the dangers of addiction to drugs and alcohol, auto accidents, and other harm, as well as the devastation caused by armed conflict and natural catastrophes in the United States government can also help improve poor people's health. The promotion, safety, and advancement of the health of the poor should be prioritized by a pro-poor health approach. This will aid in improving health and stopping the cycle of poverty and poor health, the provision of high-quality medical care, and public medical facilities with equally funded systems.

**Supplemental Security Insurance**

 This program needs to be modernized as it provides monthly financial support for people with little or no earnings and assets and is a crucial anti-poverty initiative for the disabled population. In the last 3 years, over eight million people acknowledged getting incentives; however, few mechanisms have been put in place to keep this initiative going, therefore, millions of people with incapacities are still further below the poverty bracket. The U.S. government needs to make various legislative changes that could modernize the supplemental security insurance for its residents and assist in rescuing the disabled community from poverty. This can be achieved by raising the minimum benefit to reduce poverty levels among the residents.

The continuing cuts to this program have put people with disabilities at the point of famine and desperation. To ensure the stability of all societies, it is important to prioritize the economic well-being of such people in need. In 2021, the maximum payout for an individual was raised to $794 and the government needs to increase the budgetary allocation each year. The elimination of fines for financial support from close associates and an update to income disregards that have not been updated since the program's inception are important steps that the U.S. government must take to ensure that this program remains a robust safety net for disabled individuals as well as children.

**Affordable Housing**

The most vulnerable segments of the local population tend to be in danger due to inadequate housing, which contributes to the continued homelessness crisis. Rates of poverty are increasing, especially chronic homelessness. The U.S. government should invest and provide affordable housing to its people who have low or no salaries, as this will ease the burden of paying more than a third of their wages on rent and other utilities. Government stakeholders should give guarantee that money is invested in tenant-landlord negotiation, and criminal records check on applicants for affordable housing (Wade, 2020).

 Furthermore, discrimination based on the source of earnings needs to be banned by U.S. policymakers since it is harder for individuals who get housing grants to find accommodation. The diverse effect rule seeks to further prevent housing perceptions and generate societies with greater diversity. The government should support the Housing Act and implement favorable regulations to avoid racial prejudice in housing and create communities with greater diversity.

 **Access to Affordable Education**

The level of education that children receive impacts their likelihood significantly for them to succeed in life. Institutions strive to give students the relationship-building skills, materials, and awareness they need to develop into responsible adults who can contribute to the growth of the job market and humanity. Nevertheless, regardless of the U.S. government's attempts to offer exceptional schooling, there are still large gaps in achievement in education.

To end poverty and promote economic growth, education is a necessary first step. The prosperity of a country can be increased and poverty can be decreased via education. The likelihood that a home will be impoverished is greatly decreased when the individual in charge of the society's education level rises. Additionally, increasing the level of education of family leaders not only increases their production and income but also increases the efficiency of other community members possibly by convincing them to pursue education. Prioritizing promptly savings, bolstering assistance for schools that require it, and guaranteeing students complete their secondary schooling should be done for sustainable inputs in education. Approaches to improve fairness in the system and educational institutions will improve the livelihoods of the less fortunate, which may lead to increased revenues and costs for long-term investment (Galvin & Healy 2020).

**Conclusion**

A wide range of people, with various geography, ethnicity, ages, job opportunities, and interpersonal qualities, are impacted by poverty. They experience problems in addition to economic hardship because impoverishment is not an ongoing state. Poor nutrition causes children to grow up lacking the benefits of a secure home, excellent education, and constant dietary intake. Individuals in distress frequently face obstacles by a lack of training and expertise, which results in low salaries and employment options the high cost of both healthcare and housing care, as well as other requirements that persons must choose between necessities, occasionally skipping necessities like food or medication. The effects on society and the economy of poverty are still very much present and pose a threat to the social structure of the country's fiscal potential. Therefore, improving the economic well-being of poor people has to be the central focus of the U.S. government as also expanding the workers' incomes, reforming unemployment opportunities, and expansion of higher education access among the less privileged as this will play a great role in poverty reduction.

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