

Teacher Guide – Poverty – Causes and Effects

ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. Do you think a hard working person can overcome poverty on their own? If yes, explain how.

If not, what would they need to be able to overcome poverty?

Student responses to this question will vary. They should come to the conclusion that it would be difficult for someone to lift themselves out of poverty without assistance.

2. What are some of the obstacles a person might face when trying to lift themselves out of poverty?

Students may come up with a range of answers for this question. People may have poor education and thus find it difficult to get a well-paying job, which makes it difficult to have a nice home etc.

3. Explain the difference between the social causation hypothesis and the social selection hypothesis.

The social causation hypothesis states that people escape or remain in poverty due to the social and economic structures of the society they live in. The social selection theory places responsibility on the individual, stating that they remain in or escape poverty due to their own skills, motivation, and mental and physical health.

4. What is the poverty cycle and why is it important to break it?

The poverty cycle is when children who are born into poor families are more likely to then experience poverty in their adulthood. This cycle occurs because children born into poverty have a higher likelihood of delayed mental and physical development, leading to poor educational outcomes and low job prospects. It is important to break the cycle otherwise poverty is passed from generation to generation.

ACTIVITY 2 – POVERTY TREE

After students have created their trees, you may like to create a class poverty tree on the board, using the best answers from each student.