

## Poverty and the Social Problems

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### Abstract

This concept paper discusses the issue of poverty in society. There are many factors that lead to this situation. In fact, unemployment is seen to contribute to this poverty problem. Statistics on unemployment rates among community are also increasing day by day. The paper also outlines the continuity between poverty and social problems among the society today, especially youth. Furthermore, the methods used for this conceptual paper by using secondary data sources in online databases and library collections. It is hoped that the findings of this study will contribute to the existing social literature, particularly in relation to studies on the issue of poverty from emerging socio-economic perspectives.

**Keyword:** Poverty, Social Problems, Social Issue, Unemployment, Youth

### Introduction

In the era of globalization, which is increasingly challenging now, the modern trend is evolving in tandem with the sophistication of technology and the development of a country. However, the civilizational life of a society becomes uneven when we are often surprised by the news of moral depravity and social problems in society now. Undeniable, achievement in the aspects of economy, education, politics, sports and other fields are very boast and inspiring but we still fail in the social aspect. These problems are closely related to each other. The causes and factors that contribute to each of these things need to be emphasized and examined so that these symptoms can be adequately contained. All parties have a role to play together. This is because united we stand, divided we fall.

### Poverty

Literally, there are some definitions and dimensions of poverty. Generally, poverty is likened to a state of income of a family or individual who does not qualify for a living standard of living in a community. Poverty has been defined, measured and investigated about the causes or factors that contribute from various aspects of life. Hence, programs to address poverty need to be implemented where it emphasizes on the economic, social and political contexts that are closely related to the poor (Suzuki, Pramono & Rufidah, 2017). Meanwhile, Liu, Liu, & Zhou (2017) stated that imbalances in socio-economic development could contribute to the

existence of poor settlements. In addition, there are various views of economists on the dimensions of poverty. Wagle (2018) argues that economic prosperity is a measure of poverty to a poverty line based on the definition of absolute, subjective and relative concepts. Among the elements used are income, consumerism and welfare.

### Social Problems

Social problems in society are increasing from day to day. Starting from juvenile cases among students in school until criminal cases are much more worsening. According to Taftazani (2017), a society is considered to have a social problem when the situation in the community becomes severe, unstoppable and unsafe so that solutions come to address these symptoms. The cause of these problems comes from various aspects of life. Citing a line of the hadith that states that poverty can lead to disbelief. In this context, the meaning of disbelief is through moral misconduct and disobedience to religious, shari'a law and demands (Hafid, 2011). Therefore, in order to fulfill their desperate need they are able to do wrong and harm. Bahrom (2004) has relate the family economy as a major cause to social problems in today's society. Based on a survey conducted at the East Coast's moral rehabilitation center, the majority of juvenile trainees come from poor families earning less than RM500. This group was caught in the urge to meet their needs and had to be involved in a crime scene. The proof is that most of these juveniles are involved in stealing, drug trafficking, escape from home and others related to socio-economic families. In fact, unemployment is closely related to the increased risk of poverty (Gallie, Paugam & Jacobs, 2003) and this will lead to the increase of social problems (Hafid, 2011). In addition, Allmendinger & Ludwig-Mayerhofer (2017) also have the same opinion and added that unemployment is also often associated with problems such as crime, illness, right-wing extremism, suicide, and so on. In 2017, the Department of Statistics Malaysia revealed that the index crime ratio for 100,000 Malaysians recorded a figure of 309.7. Based on the figure, six states recorded index crimes above the national level, Wilayah Persekutuan (716.9), Selangor (408.6) Negeri Sembilan (356.6), Melaka (339.2), Pulau Pinang (318.3) and Kedah (315.3).

### Conceptual Framework

Based on the discussion, there are conceptual framework proposed in this concept paper. The framework indicates that there are relationship between unemployment, poverty and social problems. Based on the framework, the root cause of poverty is the onset of rising unemployment issues. Subsequently, an increase in the level of poverty contributes to increasingly uncontrolled social problems. This is becoming more severe when this unstoppable social problems contributes to unemployment issues in the future.

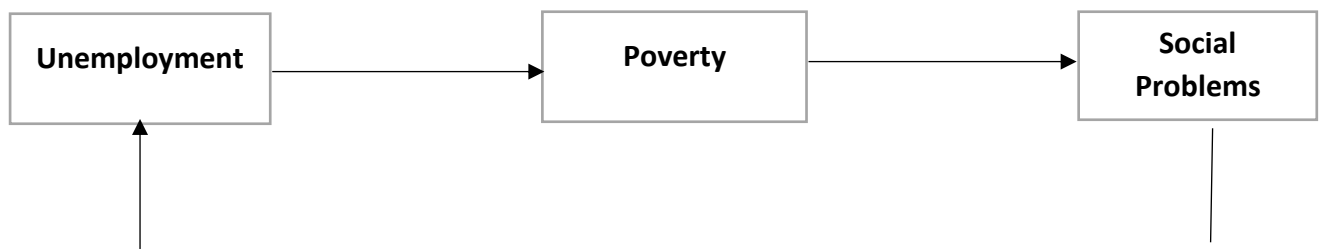


Figure 1. Relationship between Poverty, Unemployment and Social Problems

### Conclusion

In the nut shell, there are many factors contributing to social problems, but the most one is poverty. Undeniable, poverty is a biggest issue today in this century. There are many approaches and theory used to understand and define it. To eliminate poverty is impossible, but we are able to reduce it regularly. Moreover, the high and uncontrolled unemployment rate also becomes the cause of this poverty issue. It is a great responsibility for the government to make greater efforts in providing various initiatives such as more job opportunities as well as financial assistance to start up a business. On the other hand, another alternative that can be applied is social protection which is giving a better life to the poor so that they can survive in the challenging world (Khairullina, Ustinova, Sadykova, Tretyakova & Bogdanova, 2016). Ironically, these problems are keep on relating to each other. Problems are interconnected and become a symbiosis in the lives of the people.

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