

Topic: Does Poverty Leads To Crime?

1- Introduction

Poverty is one of the leading causes of crime as it induces social unrest, inequality and resource struggle. It compels an individual to use unlawful means for pursuing their goals.

2- Understanding the relationship between poverty and crime

3- Poverty : A significant cause of crime

- i- Poverty creates illegal resource struggle.
- ii- Poverty instigates social unrest thereby increasing crimes.
- iii- Poverty affects purchasing capacity
- iv- Link between crime and unstable living conditions
- v. Direct effect of social pressure on crimes.

4- Poverty : Not a Significant Cause of Crime :

- i- Crime : A inherited trait
- ii- Psychological disorders as cause of crimes
- iii. Involvement of elites in crimes
- iv. Parents negligence : as cause of child delinquency
- v. Social gatherings as cause of crime.

5- Poverty is powerful contributor to crimes :

- i- Chronic poverty inherit crimes.
- ii- Poverty triggers psychological disorders: A factor to criminality.
- iii- High ratio of blue collar crimes over white collar's
- iv. Unstable living conditions : A persuading force for committing crime

v. Survival needs of Poor class : Contribution to criminality.

6- Conclusion.

According to World Bank report 2022, Democratic Republic of Congo is among the five poorest nations in the world. In 2022, around 60 million of its population lived on less than \$2.15 a day. The country has highest crime rate of around 7.75% according to Global Crime Index. It is pertinent to say that poverty and crime are interlinked. States which have higher level of poverty are more prone to crimes as suggested by data. Crimes has many causes, but one of the leading causes of them is poverty. Democratic Republic of Congo is involved in illegal activities such as poaching and trafficking of natural resources as well as it is a home to many armed groups. Poverty induces crimes by creating struggle for resources. Moreover, social unrest is generated in poor states which affects the purchasing power of people. To fulfil needs, people adapt illegal and violent practices. Furthermore, unstable living conditions and social pressure also add fuel to the fire. To this aspect, another perspective exists which refers that poverty is not the sole cause of crimes. It argues that some people are born criminals and they have inherited traits. As a result, they involve themselves in illegal means and practices. Also, negligence of parents and psychological disorders play significant role in causing crime. This perspective further argues that it is not the poverty which forces one to commit crime but his social gatherings that influence his behaviour.

This perspective is in contradiction with different reasons which identify poverty as significant cause of crimes. Firstly, sociological perspective of crime is widely accepted in contemporary time which refers social unrest as leading cause of crime. Secondly, psychological disorders are triggered by poverty. Thirdly, ratio of blue collar crimes is more than white collar crimes. Fourthly, poor and unstable section of society is forced to use illegitimate means to cope difficult situations. Therefore, poverty is one of the leading causes of crimes as it induces social unrest, inequality and resource struggle. It compels an individual to use unlawful means for pursuing their goals.