



This PowerPoint file is a supplement to the video presentation. Some of the educational content of this program is not available solely through the PowerPoint file. Participants should use all materials to enhance the value of this continuing education program.

Understanding Poverty and Poverty Alleviation



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Goals

- **Define poverty and poverty alleviation in holistic terms**
- **Understand life situations and circumstances that lead persons to be vulnerable to experiencing poverty**
- **Discuss role of community development in poverty alleviation efforts**

Goals

- **Understand three levels of poverty alleviation efforts and when it is appropriate to use each**
- **Evaluate where you and/or your organization can improve in working alongside people experiencing poverty in your context**

Privilege Exercise



Photos Courtesy of Jaime Wheeler

Understanding Poverty

Definitions of Poverty

- **Brokenness within our four primary relationships**
 - relationship with God
 - relationship with self
 - relationship with others
 - relationship with rest of creation



Corbett, Steve, and Fikkert, Brian. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers. 2009.

Definitions of Poverty

- **Poverty can be seen as a lack of opportunity**
- **“...the opposite of poverty is not wealth. The opposite of poverty is justice.” – Bryan Stevenson**

Corbett, Steve, and Fikkert, Brian. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers. 2009.

Understanding Poverty



Poverty is “the extent to which an individual does without resources.”

– Ruby K. Payne

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Understanding Poverty: Resources

- Financial
- Emotional
- Mental
- Spiritual
- Physical
- Support systems
- Relationships/role models
- Knowledge of hidden rules
- Coping skills

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Financial/Material

“Having the money to purchase goods and services.”



Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Emotional

“Being able to choose and control emotional responses, particularly to negative situations, without engaging in self-destructive behavior. This is an internal resource that shows itself through stamina, perseverance, and choices.”

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Mental



“Having the mental abilities and acquired skills (reading, writing and computing) to deal with daily life.”

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Spiritual

“Believing in divine purpose and guidance.”



Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Physical



“Having physical health and mobility.”

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Support Systems

“The feeling of being homeless is feeling unwanted, feeling not belonging, feeling different. Feeling that people – you’re not part of society. That you’re separate. You live on a totally different planet....”

– Tamara, *Hard Lives, Mean Streets*

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Support Systems

“Having friends, family, and backup resources available to access in times of need...These are external resources.”

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Relationships/Role Models

“Having frequent access to adults who are appropriate, who are nurturing to the child, and who do not engage in self-destructive behavior.”

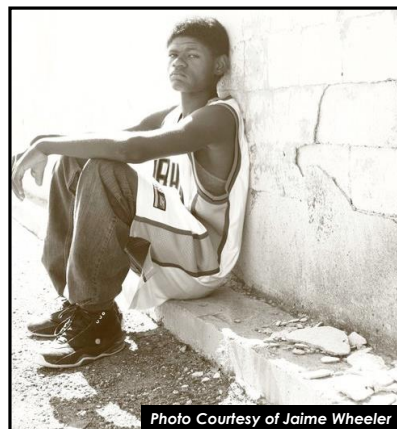


Photo Courtesy of Jaime Wheeler

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Knowledge of Hidden Rules



“Knowing the unspoken cues and habits of a group.”

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Knowledge of Hidden Rules

Language and meaning/formal register:

“acquired skill and constitutes the vocabulary and sentence structure necessary for navigating school and work”

Payne, Ruby K. (1996) A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Texas; Aha Processing Inc.

Coping Skills



Photo Courtesy of Jaime Wheeler

**Tools of resilience
developed over time
to handle stressors in
a healthy way**

What about you?

**How have you or groups
you've been a part of
addressed poverty?**



Photo Courtesy of Jaime Wheeler



Photos Courtesy of Jaime Wheeler

Poverty Alleviation

Learn the ABCDs

- **Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)**
 - “asset-based community development draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future”
 - when first encountering a place, instead of asking, “What needs are present?” or “How can I help?”, ask “What gifts and strengths are present?”

www.abcdinstitute.org

Community Development

- **Relocation**: the needs of the community become my own
- **Reconciliation**: to both God (creator) and Man; I need you and you need me
- **Redistribution**: the goal of redistribution is not absolute equality, but a more equitable distribution of resources

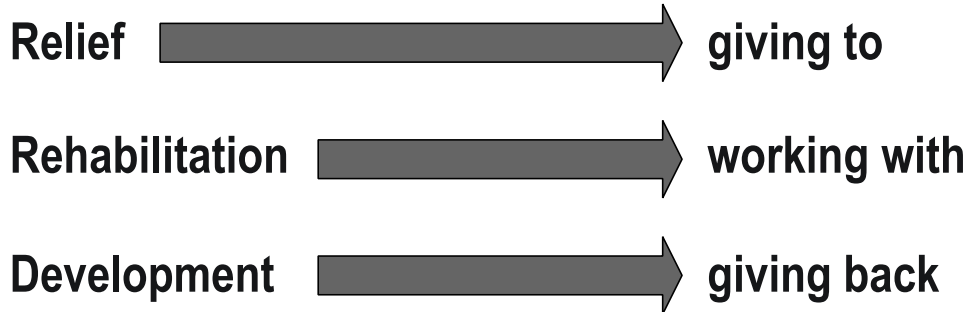
Perkins, J. *With Justice for All*. Regal Books, 1981.

Oath for Compassionate Service

- I will never do for others what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves.
- I will limit one-way giving to emergency situations.
- I will seek ways to empower...
- I will put the interests of the poor above my own...
- I will listen closely to those I seek to help...
- Above all, to the best of my ability, I will do no harm.

Lupton, Robert D. *Toxic Charity: How Church and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It*. 9.2.2012 edition. New York: HarperOne, 2012.

When Helping Hurts Poverty Alleviation Efforts



Corbett, Steve, and Fikkert, Brian. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers. 2009.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that a system that produces beggars needs to be repaved. We are called to be the Good Samaritan, but after you lift so many people out of the ditch you start to ask, maybe the whole road to Jericho needs to be repaved.

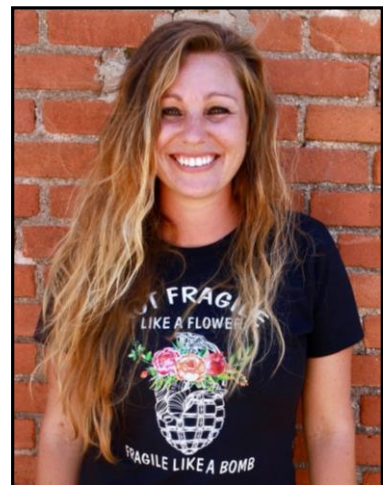
Martin Luther King, Jr

End Goals of Poverty Alleviation = Systemic Change, Justice, & Community

- Inequality: unequal access to opportunities
- Equality: evenly distributed tools and assistance
- Equity: custom tools that identify and address inequality
- Justice: fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities

Contact

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RESOURCES

- Corbett, Steve, and Fikkert, Brian. **When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself.** Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers. 2009.
- Lupton, Robert D. **Toxic Charity: How Church and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It.** 9.2.2012 edition. New York: HarperOne, 2012.
- Payne, Ruby K. (1996) **A Framework for Understanding Poverty.** Texas; Aha Processing Inc.
- Perkins, J. **With Justice for All.** Regal Books, 1981.
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