

Poverty

Theory, Policy and Practice

Module Code
ECGE4001Q Ass2

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What is the definition of poverty?

poverty

/ˈpɒvəti/ 

noun

1. the state of being extremely poor.
"thousands of families are living in abject poverty"
synonyms: [penury](#), [destitution](#), [indigence](#), pennilessness, [privation](#), [deprivation](#), [impoverishment](#), neediness, [need](#), [want](#), [hardship](#), impecuniousness, impecuniosity, hand-to-mouth existence, [beggary](#), pauperism, straitened circumstances, [bankruptcy](#), [insolvency](#); [More](#)
2. the state of being inferior in quality or insufficient in amount.
"the poverty of her imagination"
synonyms: [scarcity](#), [deficiency](#), [dearth](#), [shortage](#), [paucity](#), [insufficiency](#), [inadequacy](#), [absence](#), [lack](#), [want](#), [deficit](#), [meagreness](#), limitedness, restrictedness, sparseness, sparsity; [More](#)

Why do we use the term poverty, and what do we mean when we talk about it?

Relative
Poverty

Absolute
Poverty

BBC News (2017)
Poverty and Social
Exclusion (2016)



Theories of Poverty

- Persistent Poverty

➤ Theories of Poverty

- The Wicked Problem

"Poverty is a wicked issue -
complex, multidimensional,
unclear and changeable."
Spicker, 2016

■ Sociological Theories of Poverty

The Undeserving Poor

Recent variations include

- "Cultures of worklessness"
- "Troubled families"
- Families who have never worked as key explanations for poverty.

Policy

■ Child Poverty Strategy

5 Objectives

- 1) Reduce the number of families living in workless households.
- 2) To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households.
- 3) To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes.

Policy

- Child Poverty Strategy

5 Objectives

4) To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market.

5) To support families living in poverty to increase their household income through debt and financial advice.

Policy

- The Five Year Action Plan, 2012- 2016

1) Barriers to employment will be removed

2) Mitigate the impact of poverty in the short term.

Practice

- Tackling Poverty in Wales

1) Communities
First

2) Flying
Start

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