

Supporting Human Flourishing
Week 6

Dignity - Poverty and Homelessness



Aim of Session

- Flip Learning Sessions - Working with your group & 15 minute Presentations
- Definitions Dignity, Poverty, Homelessness
- Further Resources and Understanding

Group Work



Flip Learning - Mini Presentations

- November 6th Dignity, Poverty - Child Poverty /Homelessness
- November 13th Dignity, Domestic Violence - Refugees
- November 20th Dignity, Dementia Care

Concept of Dignity

Nordenfelt (2003) describes human dignity as a complex multi-faceted concept with four distinct constructs, namely:

1. Universal human value
2. Dignity as merit
3. Dignity as moral stature
4. Dignity of personal identity, including sense of self and sense of social recognition

Nordenfelt L (2003) Dignity of the elderly: an introduction. *Medicine, Health and Philosophy* 6, 99-101.

Poverty

- The United Nations has defined absolute poverty as 'a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information'.

According to Joseph Rowntree Foundation:
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/our-work/what-is-poverty>

- Poverty is when your resources are well below your minimum needs
- Poverty affects millions of people in the UK. Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation - and even discrimination - because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.

How is poverty measured in the UK?

There is no single best measure of poverty. It is a complex problem that needs a range of measures telling us different things.

JRF has launched a comprehensive strategy to **Solve Poverty** for all ages and places in the UK. We have set out a long-term and wide-ranging approach that looks beyond temporary political change, aiming for a major shift in attitudes, society and the economy.

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/our-work/what-is-poverty>

- JRF's **Minimum Income Standard (MIS)** - MIS itself is not a measure of poverty, but is what the public has told us is sufficient income to afford a minimum acceptable standard of living
- relative income poverty, where households have less than 60% of contemporary median income
- absolute income poverty, where households have less than 60% of the median income in 2010/11, uprated by inflation
- material deprivation, where you can't afford certain essential items and activities
- **destitution**, where you can't afford basics such as shelter, heating and clothing

- Relative and absolute poverty can be presented before and after housing costs (these include rent or mortgage interest, buildings insurance and water rates) and are presented after direct taxes and National Insurance, including Council Tax.

LEVELS OF POVERTY



What causes poverty?

- The causes of poverty are things that reduce your resources or increase your needs and the costs of meeting them. Some of these causes can also be consequences, creating a cycle that traps you.
- Life events and moments of transition - getting sick, bereavement, redundancy or relationship breakdown - are common triggers for poverty.

- Unemployment and low-paid jobs lacking prospects and security (or a lack of jobs)
- Low levels of skills or education:
- An ineffective benefit system
- High cost - housing, essential goods and services
- Discrimination:
- Weak relationships
- Abuse, trauma, and chaotic lives

Some of the Consequences of Poverty

- health problems
- housing problems
- being a victim or perpetrator of crime
- drug or alcohol problems
- lower educational achievement
- poverty itself - poverty in childhood increases the risk of unemployment and low pay in adulthood, and lower savings in later life
- homelessness
- teenage parenthood
- relationship and family problems
- biological effects - poverty early in a child's life can have a harmful effect on their brain development

Joseph Rowntree Foundation JRF 2018

- The proportion of households living in income poverty in Wales has fallen over the last 20 years, especially among pensioners and lone parents, but remains higher than in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- In the three-year period 1994/97, 27% of people in Wales lived in poverty; compared to 23% for the last few years.
- Poverty among pensioners has fallen, but by less than in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In 1994/97, pensioner poverty, after housing costs, was similar to England and lower than Scotland; by 2013/16 it was higher.
- Poverty among couples with children has been rising since 2003/06.
- <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-wales-2018>

Homelessness - Shelter Cymru

<https://sheltercymru.org.uk/get-advice/homelessness/help-from-the-council/what-will-the-council-check/what-is-the-legal-definition-of-homelessness/>

- The council should consider you to be **homeless** if you can't live in your accommodation with everyone who normally lives with you. The council should also consider ...

First Minister - Ending Youth Homelessness

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtu+ube+homelessness+in+Wales&view-detail&mid=36216815CC2B8133387656216815CC2B813338766&FORM=VIRE>

NEXT WEEK

- November 13th Dignity, Domestic Violence - Refugees
