

Poverty in Wales and the United Kingdom



Alamy, 2011

1804552

Reuben Jack Dunne

Poverty – Definition



‘A person is considered poor if his or her income level falls below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is usually called the "poverty line". What is necessary to satisfy basic needs varies across time and societies. Therefore, poverty lines vary in time and place, and each country uses lines which are appropriate to its level of development, societal norms and values’

(BBC, 2014)

What is Poverty?

- Poverty is when the minimum needs of a person is not being met, it is incredibly hard to get a true measurement of poverty. People can develop physical and mental health issues from experiencing poverty. (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2018) (Alcock. P, 2016)
- As recent evidence has shows us that the levels of poverty and social exclusion have been increasingly evermore highly within the United Kingdom. This is because of budget cuts, media, higher inflation prices such as food, shelter, technology (The Guardian, 2014)
- The poverty gap between wealthy and poor has grown dramatically in the most recent years (Independent, 2017)

Statistics on poverty

- **14.3** million people are restricted by the current circumstances who are in poverty.
- **8.2** million people who are working age adults are in poverty.
- **1.9** million are pensioners.
- **8** million people live in poverty and they have at least one person in their household who is in full-time employment. They are classed as the (new working poor)

Types of Poverty

Relative poverty

Relative poverty is when a person has his or her basic human needs are being met, but will look at the material properties that a person has such as a mobile phone, television and being excluded from social events. It could be argued that relative poverty is one of the easiest ways to get true measurement of inequality. (new working poor)

Mark, 2016

Absolute poverty

Absolute poverty is when person is deprived of their basic human needs such as shelter, healthcare, clean drinking water, education, basic information and food.

Joseph Roundtree Foundation (No date)

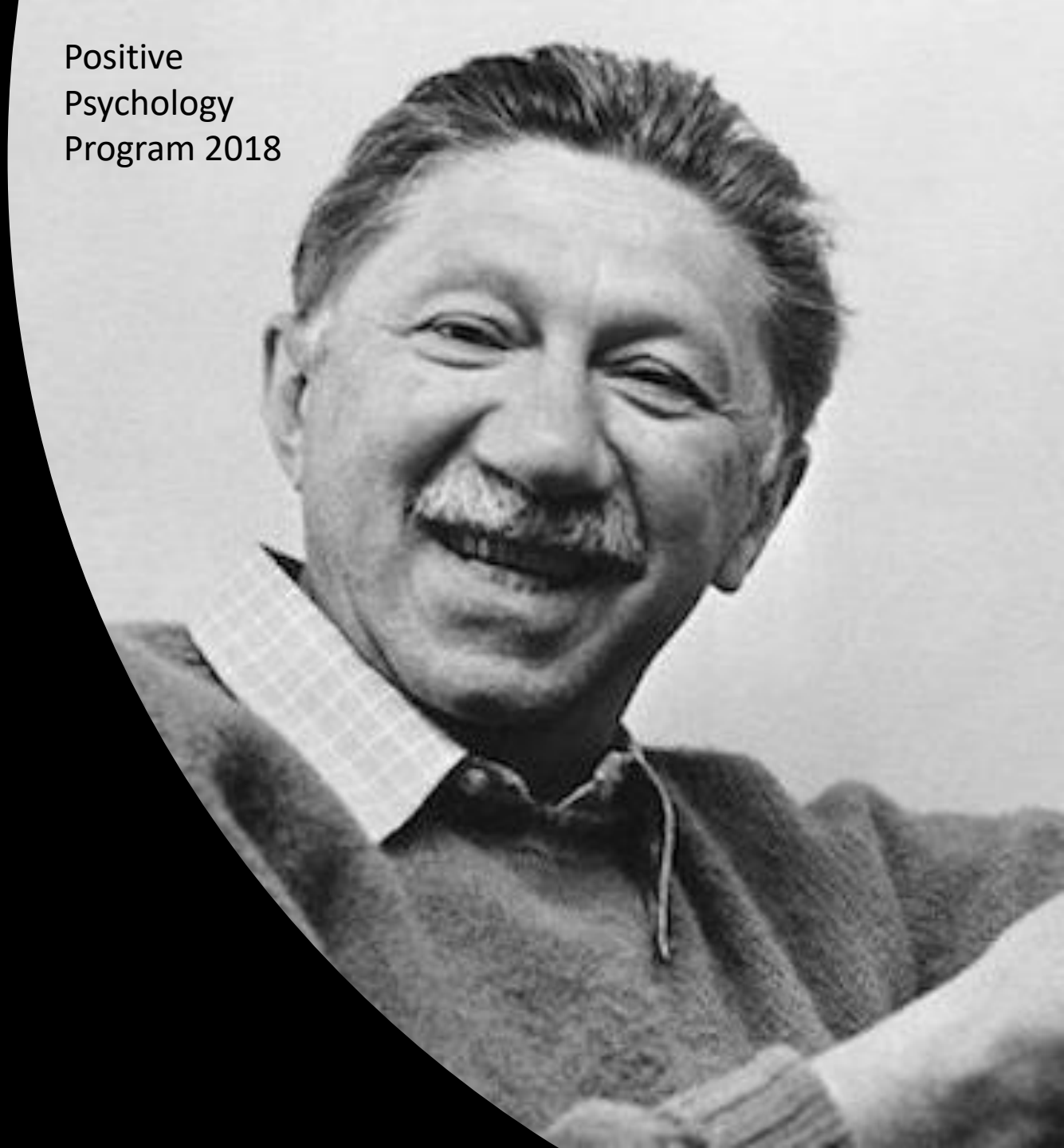
Hierarchy of Needs theory



Simply Psychology, 2018

Relative poverty and Absolute poverty and it's link to the Hierarchy of Needs theory

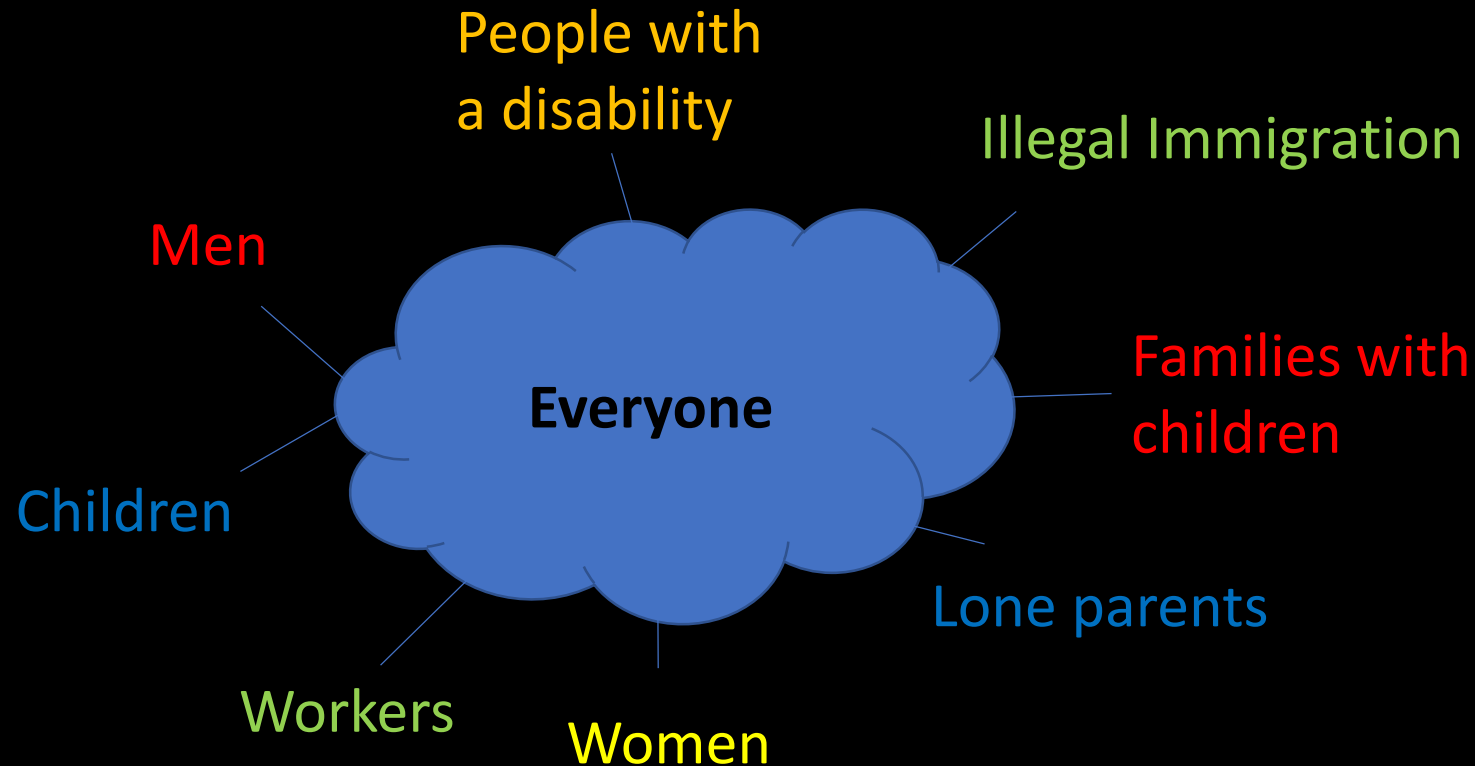
- A person experiencing relative poverty would meet Maslow's first level need – Physiological needs. Additionally, they would touch upon the second level which is their safety needs. However, they have not successfully completed this stage.
- Absolute poverty is when a person does not meet physiological needs according to Maslow's stages. The person does not even meet the criteria to get onto the pyramid In the first place.



What types of people experience poverty

- It could affect anyone – life circumstances change (ill mental and physical health, loss of job, debt etc)

(Joseph Roundtree foundation, No Date) (Full Facts,2018)



What is Childhood poverty

- **4.1 million children are experiencing poverty in the UK**
- Children who grow up in poverty can be stunted in their personal well-being and within their future life chances. For example children who grow up in poverty are more likely to have poor physical health, and increasingly more assessable to mental health Issues. which in turn will lead them to not likely achieving their potential in a school environment and in future employment within their lifetime. (*Townsend. P.1979*)

Erik Erikson's 8 stages

Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development

Approximate Age	Psycho Social Crisis
Infant - 18 months	Trust vs. Mistrust
18 months - 3 years	Autonomy vs. Shame & Doubt
3 - 5 years	Initiative vs. Guilt
5 -13 years	Industry vs. Inferiority
13 -21 years	Identity vs. Role Confusion
21- 39 years	Intimacy vs. Isolation
40 - 65 years	Generativity vs. Stagnation
65 and older	Ego Integrity vs. Despair

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The Psychology Notes, HQ, 2018

Legislation and policy to tackle poverty within United Kingdom and Wales

Legislation	Policy
• Child poverty Act 2010 • The Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 obliges the public bodies in Wales to contemplate about the long-term impact of their choices, it aims to work better with people, communities and to avoid persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change • (Future Generations commissioner for Wales, 2015)	• Free school meals -provides food for children who whose parents receive low income or universal credit. (<i>Lywodraeth Cymru Welsh government, 2014</i>) • warm home scheme -low income families and people who live in deprived communities are eligible for the warm home program within Wales. The programme will reduce climate change, help eradicate fuel poverty and boost the economic development and the regeneration within Wales. Since 2012 it has been reported that hundred 150 million pounds has been invested into the programme. The outcome of the programme, heated 27,000 homes in the UK. (<i>Lywodraeth Cymru Welsh government,2018</i>)

Universal Credit

- Universal credit is a benefit system for working age people, it is replacing six previous benefits and merging them into one overall payment. These are income support, jobseekers allowance, income -related employment, support allowance, housing benefits, working tax credit, and child tax credit.
- In August 2018 there was 1.1 million people claiming universal credit.
- It was designed to make claiming benefits much more simpler for the British people.
- However, 3.2 million working families will lose £48 a week
- The Labour government had promised it would better the system of universal credit, they stated in it's current form of universal credit simply isn't working in which is causing greater poverty, anxiety where it is being implemented.

(BBC News, 2018)



Gates head Council, 2018

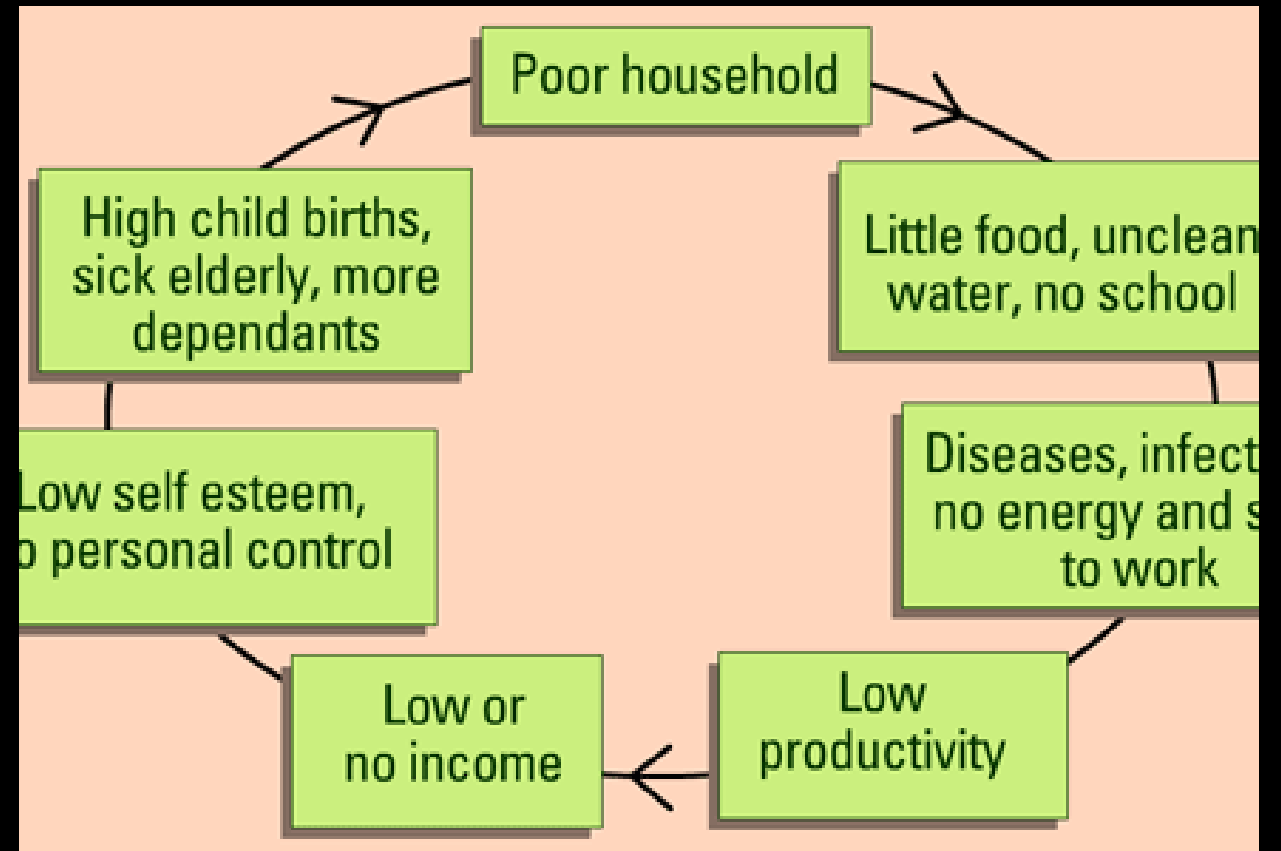
Conclusion

After the discussion of this presentation, I conclude that individuals and groups should invest in the community in which they live. For example, community programmes to educate people how they may be affected by poverty in present day circumstances. Such as, zero hour contracts, finance items, employment prospects and physical and mental health.

Additionally, the government are employing strategies that focus on a individuals physical situation, for example placing them in shelters (1 night stays) although this is a good way to support people that are struggling, their mental health needs are not being met or even acknowledged by the authorities.

The system is rigged to keep the majority of people in poverty, I have found a image that illustrates my point.....

Eschooltoday, 2017



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Image Reference list

- Image 1 Alamy, 2011 <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-the-gurnos-estate-in-merthyr-tydfil-in-the-heart-of-the-south-wales-41607782.html> (Accessed: 10/11/2018)
- Image 2 Simply Psychology ,2018 : <http://www.poverty.ac.uk/definitions-poverty> (Accessed: 11/11/2018)
- *image 3 Wales Online, 2018: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/life-gurnos-what-its-really-12422321> (Accessed: 29/12/2018)*
- *image 4 SaultOnline 2016. <https://saultonline.com/2016/10/poverty-in-the-sault-hits-15000/> (Accessed:29/12/2018).*
- *Image 5 Gates Head 2018. <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/10089/People-moved-onto-Universal-Credit-are-fighting-to-survive-> (Accessed:29/12/2018)*
- Image 6 Eschooltoday 2017 <http://www.eschooltoday.com/poverty-in-the-world/the-vicious-cycle-of-poverty.html> (Accessed: 29/12/2018)