



# Poverty around the World

IDENTIFYING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY  
AND HOW IT EXISTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD  
A TWINS PROJECT PLAN

## General Overview

This TWINS project aims to raise awareness about today's living standards, which vary greatly among nations, communities and individuals. Students will learn how to define rich/poor, understand what resources are needed to fulfil basic human needs and what is considered as a luxury in different parts of the world. They will analyse their perceptions of poverty and recognise that it exists in all countries.

Students will be made aware that while most of us live in comfort and security, over one-fifth of the world's population lives in poverty and are unable to achieve the standard of living that is usual for their society. This project will help students to understand that poverty is not only about not having money, but also about not having access to employment and basic health care, education and essentials like clothing, water and food. At the same time students will look at the aspects of being rich and why it might not automatically mean being happy and healthy.

## Key areas covered

This project can span across many different school subjects as well as providing the students with the opportunity to explore various global dimension themes:

- Sustainable development
- Geography and natural resources
- Public health
- History
- Social Science
- Economics
- Home science

## Method

- The TWINS Coordinators of both schools agree to share this project and set a deadline for its completion
- The teachers agree on how the project will be presented
- A class is held where the teacher discusses the definition of poverty and the class can discuss their perceptions of poverty in their own country as well as in the country of their TWIN school.
- Students work as a class or in small groups to research the project.

- Once the relevant information has been collected by students (using the Internet, Library, questioning local authorities, questioning community members, consulting, researching support networks, etc.) the project will be prepared to be exchanged with the TWIN school overseas
- A class is held to analyse and discuss the findings – focusing on the differences of the concerns, how they are managed by the governments, questioning what everybody as a global citizen can do to improve the situation

## The Final Product

On completion, this project can include:

- Illustrations, photos or magazine cut outs
- Findings and photographs from a field trip/visit
- Quotes from people interviewed
- Information about the poverty situation, support networks in place, nutritional value of students food, students situation referring to bench marks like Housing, Education, Work prospects, Family life, Entertainment, etc.

## Critical Thinking

Student's critical reflection could include:

- What is the definition of poor?
- What is my perception of rich and poor?
- Are there rich and poor areas in my community?
- How can I recognise rich people from poor?
- Where do poor people live? Are there poor people in all countries?
- How does my country help poor people?
- What would I feel like if I was poor?
- What would I feel like if I was rich?
- How do poor people get treated in my community?
- Are rich people happier?
- What are the UN Millennium Development goals? What do they say about poverty?
- What is pursued to achieve the UN Millennium Development goals? What does my country do? What do other countries do?
- What are caste systems? Are there caste systems in every country? Are there benefits and disadvantages of caste systems in society?
- How can I help poor people?
- How does my government help poor children with education?
- Are there differences in daily life for rich and poor people such as: -  
Entertainment  
Clothing  
Education  
Cosmetics/Jewellery

Housing and Furniture

Food and Cooking

Marriage

Family Life

Work and Economic security

- What are causes for poverty?
- What is economic security?
- What are privileges people with economic security have?
- What is nutritional value in food and why is it important?
- How nutritious is my food?
- What are effects of malnutrition? How much calories does a child need to develop?
- Where do undernourished people live? How are following concern related to hunger:
  - poor terms of trade
  - fast growing population
  - unfavourable weather
  - government collapse
  - war
  - environmental problems with resources being used at or beyond capacity
  - uneven land holdings