

Poverty as the Worse Form of Violence

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(Paper presented at the **6th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences** held on 11-13 July 2011 at the University of New Orleans, New Orleans, USA)

RISALAH

Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya



A515212813

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Abstract

Poverty and violence are difficult concepts to address from conceptual and definitional perspective, merely these two concepts receive appropriate attentions. Poverty can be the worse form of violence because it leaves effect until to the future generation. In other words poverty can lead to physically and mentally abuse to individual and their heirs. Thus, poverty as a form of violence must be seen as any act or condition that causes injury to health and well being of others. The purpose of this paper is to explore the concepts of poverty as a form of violence. This paper suggests, these two concepts are ultimately significant and having positive correlations. Thus this paper begins with the literature review of poverty as violence. Second part explores poverty as form of violence through personal violence, structural violence and cultural violence. We compare these situations between developed country and undeveloped country. We also propose the hypothesis of vicious cycle's poverty and violence in the third section and finally a conclusion.

Keywords: Poverty, Violence, Vicious Cycle, Personal Violence, Structural Violence, Cultural Violence.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This paper addresses poverty and violence from structural perspective. Economic inequalities such as wealth distribution, unemployment, discrimination, racism, racial segregation and economic recession are happen due to misallocation of resources by government. Obviously, poverty could create conflicts in societies, which considered here as structural violence. As whole, conflicts can bring disharmonious situation, create stress in society and dissatisfaction feelings between individuals. Thus, this may trigger to violence behavior. Poverty that accompany with lack of power comprises individual into low status group, neglected and rebellions. Poverty is defined as deprivation of economics opportunity and can be distinguished between *absolute poverty* and *relative poverty*⁴.

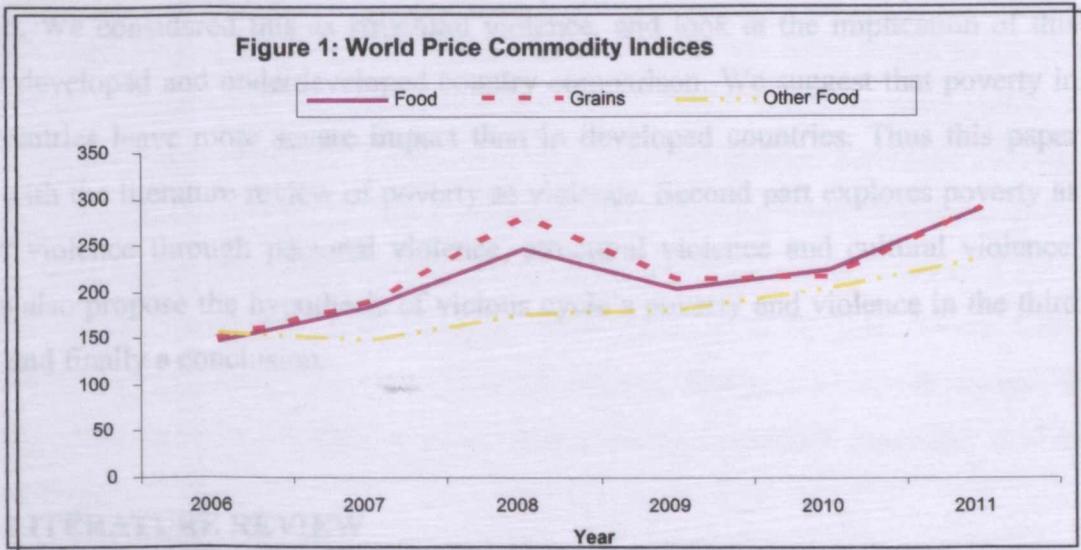
Figure 1: World Price Commodity Index

Meanwhile structural violence is a result of an explicit decision of formal institutions such as government or bureaucracies. It is an outcome of many years policy implication. Structural violence occurs when people are harmed because they lacked access to resources available to others. If identifiable groups are suffering physically from conditions that could be changed given the existing state of knowledge, while other groups are not suffering, then there is structural violence (Galtung, 1969). Galtung was the first person ascribed the concept of violence, defined it as the cause of the difference between the human potential and the actual, between what could have been and what is achieve. He asserted that violence occur when the potential is higher than the actual. Poverty, unemployment and discrimination are examples of structural violence. It is a consequence of policies that have occurred and accumulated over a long period of time and may involve many decision-making bodies (Galtung, 1964).

Changes in economic climate, global financial crisis and global food price spike expose poor people to the most vulnerable situation, especially those in poor countries.

⁴ *Absolute poverty* refers to the situation in which a person lacks basic human needs, such as food, shelter and clothing that help to sustain human life. Meanwhile, *Relative poverty* exists when necessity to one person is not uniformly a necessity to others. Needs may be relative to what is possible and are based on social definition and past experience (Nunes, C, 2008).

According to World Bank commodity price indices for low and middle income countries, price indices for food rose from 147.0 in 2006 to 224.1 in 2010, and was peak in 2008 at 247.4 (2000=100). The similar trends occur for grains and food at 149.8 and 156.4 respectively in 2006 to 215.8 and 204.9 in 2010. The latest data had shown prices indices for food, grain and other food were at 288.8, 290.8 and 235.2 from January to February 2011 respectively (The World Bank Development Prospects Group, 2011), as shown in Table 1. They also estimates around 68 million people will fall below the \$1.25 poverty line, and about 24 million net food producers will escape poverty due to the rise in food prices since June. The net increase in poverty is around 44 million people in low and middle income countries (Food Price Watch, 2011).



Source: World Bank Development Prospects Group, <http://www.worldbank.org/prospects>

Note: * 2011 comprises from Jan-Feb 2011

* Base year 2000=100.

The number of people living in extreme poverty fell almost 60 percent to 1.4 billion people from 1981 to 2005 (World Bank Indicator, 2010). Despite of decreasing in poverty rates from 51.9 percent in 1980 to only 25.2 percent in 2005 base on less than \$1.25 a day purchasing power parity, the global financial crisis and food price spikes may cause poor people remain in poverty through unemployment and worsen their income,

which we know the biggest portion of their budget is food consumption. The World Bank foresaw around 100 million will fall into this poverty line due to global crisis (World Bank Indicator, 2010). Also, increasing in food prices may lead to rise in malnutrition among the poor, because they eat less and switch from more expensive, nutritious food to cheaper staples. Consequently, the poor children not only experience lack in basic necessities but also malnutrition that can damped their entire physically and mentally growth.

This paper addresses the link between poverty and violence. As discuss above, the government inefficiencies, misallocation of resources, and global crisis (financial and food price surges) had damped the poor welfare and made them fell into deepest poverty situation. We considered this as structural violence, and look at the implication of this through developed and underdeveloped country comparison. We suggest that poverty in poor countries leave more severe impact than in developed countries. Thus this paper begins with the literature review of poverty as violence. Second part explores poverty as form of violence through personal violence, structural violence and cultural violence. Authors also propose the hypothesis of vicious cycle's poverty and violence in the third section and finally a conclusion.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Ashcraft's (1995) uses political framework to understand poverty and institutions in society. He says political economy as analytical perspectives helps us to understand the society's economic, political and institutions. In the seventeen centuries, the condition of poverty, or being '*paupers*' was not viewed as social maladies or violence. The poor form an intrinsic part of an organic society and were not responsible for their condition. Prosperity and poverty were attributed to the *God Laws*, where human kind should accept their condition with humility. Locke's 'Law of Nature' says individuals have duties to preserve the mankind according to religion by helping the needy (Ashcraft, 1995). Locke postulates human kind need to subdue the earth for benefits of life and has right to claim

as their property. The government plays an important role as it is instituted to protect life, liberty and property of individuals (Locke, 1960). However, Ashcraft argues that the failures of the Public Workhouses⁵ show that poor relief cannot be administered according to laws of the competitive market and they are receiving wages that are inadequate to maintain their family's income. As a conclusion, poverty as structural violence exist even in medieval era and the failure of government to play role in achieving the harmonious socioeconomics conditions, such as their failure in antipoverty programs, were focuses for structural poverty critiques.

It must be highlight that poverty could lead to delinquent activities and thus dampened social harmonious and stability. Structural disadvantage through income inequality, unemployment, education, health care and others has been shown as among the important determinants for delinquency activities. Various studies have shown a positive relationship between economic inequality and delinquency activities in many countries, for instance in United States (Fleisher 1966, Becker, 1968, Freeman, 1972, Morgan, 2000, Fajnzylber, 1998, 2002). The same investigation has been done in other country such as United Kingdom (Wolpin, 1978, Machin & Meghir, 2000), Latin America (Fajnzylber, 1998), Argentina (Cerro & Meloni, 2000), and Italy (Buonanno & Montolio, 2008). All of the studies conclude that poverty as structural inequality lead to severe violence activities.

Three dominant theories are useful in understanding the relationship between poverty and violence. The Theory of Economic of Crime⁶ states that criminal behavior as a rational response to the opportunities available to potential criminals where individuals maximize their expected utility (Becker, 1968, Freeman, 1972, Morgan, 2000, Fajnzylber, 1998, 2002, Cerro & Meloni, 2000). Merton's strain theory posits low status

⁵ In order to cure the vicious habits, Public workhouses were designed to let idle poor acquire 'a habit of industry' through labor. Workhouses were designed to be 'nurseries of religion, virtue and industry.' Not represent of a punishment, moral value deprivation during the English Poor Law.

⁶ This theory states an individual decides whether to engage or not in criminal activities by comparing the costs and benefits involved in legal and illegal activities. At the same time they also judge the likelihoods and severity of punishment as a cost to commit in criminal activities.

individuals are frustrated by their failure to attain the material attributes of success. This failure is more obvious when they are confronted by the success of those around them. Unsuccessful individuals become alienated from society and commit crime in response. Individual alienation can arise from income inequality or from belonging to a racial minority (Braithwaite, 1979 and Stack, 1984). Furthermore, Barlow (1984) argues a rapid rise in percapita GNP is likely to make a society more materialistic and anomistic⁷. Meanwhile, the social disorganization theory considers factor that diminish the effectiveness of social control. They argue that inequality causes crime by being associated with poverty. Shaw and McKay (1942) and Kornhauser (1978) identified poverty, ethnic heterogeneity and residential mobility as the factors that weakened networks of social control and undermine the ability and willingness of communities to exercise informal control over their members.

Not only poverty leads to violence activities but it also could expose this poor group as a victim of crime activities. Urban researchers argue economic inequality and racial segregation are causes for higher crime incidents. They argue that inequality is a central explanation for differences in levels of violence across neighborhoods and cities. In addition, inequality which can be socially based or economically based is often the product of broad societal problems such as racism, poverty, unemployment and family disruption as mentioned in social disorganization theory (Shawn & McKay, 1942, Like 2009, Blau & Blau, 1982, and Crutchfield (1989). For instance Blau & Blau (1982) find positive relation between crime and income inequality, racial income inequality and racial composition in South areas, by his 125 American metropolitan areas (SMSAs) data. While, Like (2009) examines the link between racial inequality and economic inequality for non fatal violent victimization in United States 12 cities by using National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), concludes with both inequalities effect disadvantage among Black compared to White in urban cities. She also states Black

⁷ Anomie is the normless state where individuals' goals are more important than the means adopted to attain them. It is likely to be a feature of periods of rapid economic/social change. Under conditions where anomie is prevalent, all types of crime may be expected to rise in a society.

living in cities with higher levels of racial segregation and economic disparities are significantly more likely to be victims of violence.

The positive correlation between poverty and violence has been argued very convincingly for many years (Fleisher 1966, Becker, 1968, Freeman, 1972, Morgan, 2000, Fajnzylber, 1998, 2002, Buonanno & Montolio, 2008, Like 2009). Unfortunately, poverty and violence are difficult concepts to address from conceptual and definitional perspective. Merely people can understand the connection between two due to indirect injuries or impact to the victims. Generally, the actors and the victims of structural violence are hard to determine compared to interpersonal violence and the victims usually unaware of those responsible for their injuries. However, we argue that it can leads to unstable and disharmonious conditions especially when it refers to unequal power of society. It became worse when it is associated with inequality of economics, races, ethics and gender. Structural violence is problematic and dangerous since it leads to direct violence. For instance the long life discrimination or tortured by structural violence encourage people to involve in direct violence such as terrorism.

We argue that violence in physical, mental, spiritual, psychology, intellectual, emotional, social, legal and political sphere is rise due to poverty problems. It can be more severe than other type of violence because it leaves effect until to the future generation. The poorest are also typically marginalized from society and have little representation or voice in public and political debates, making it even harder to escape poverty. As Josephine (2001) says poverty must be seen as any act or condition that causes injury to the health and well being of others due to unequal distribution of resources and opportunities. In addition, she argues that poverty is a structural violence if it causes by government inefficiencies. Moreover, Soest, D (1997) also makes a strong case by linking poverty, violence, and development of a nation. He expands the definition of violence that concentrates on criminal acts toward people or property to one that includes discrimination, economic inequality and social injustice. This concept incorporates a set of cyclical interactions over time, and also argues structural violence

may not involve direct relationship between the victims, the institutions or the person's responsibility for the injury. In addition, he postulates that poverty as violence cannot be seen only as a direct violence, it is far beyond that and it takes years for the victims or the actors to realize the impact. Furthermore, Mahatma Gandhi conceptualized poverty as the worst form of violence and emphasized the need to understand violence in its more passive forms, as discrimination, oppression or exploitation. Gandhi stressed that legislative and other actions must be taken to eliminate poverty (violence in its passive form) and to prevent physical acts that can more easily be seen and understood as violence. Indeed the link between the two is everywhere apparent (Dasgupta, 1968).

3.0 POVERTY AS FORM OF VIOLENCE

This section delineates poverty as the worse form of violence, violence encompasses three different types namely; interpersonal violence, structural violence and cultural violence. Basically, this paper postulates that violence from poverty occurs due to lack of purchasing power to attain better conditions. This situation is even worse when we do comparison between developed and underdeveloped countries. In other words, poverty in underdeveloped country leaves severe consequences than in developed countries (Wilkinson and Pickett, 2011).

3.1 Personal Violence

Violence exists when harm or injury acts has taken place between two individuals or parties. It is also call as direct violence, where we can identify the actor(s) and the victim(s). Crime activities such as burglar, thief, murder and racist are some examples of interpersonal violence, as summarized in Table 1. However, this paper suggests child poverty is a severe form of personal violence due to its intergenerational effects. These situations become even worse when we do countries comparison.

Child Poverty

Children with poverty usually underdeveloped and portrayed delay in physically and mentally developments. Material poverty affects their emotional capacity, makes them feel inferior and unfortunate, and can also destroy their potential development. (Wilkinson and Pickett, 2009) in their study on inequality in industrialized nation concludes that child well-being is better in more equal rich countries, unrelated to average incomes in rich countries, life expectancy is longer in more equal rich countries and infant mortality rates are higher in more unequal countries. The State of The World's Children (SOW), 2009, stated under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is the critical indicator of the well-being of children. In 2008 Sub-Saharan Africa showed the highest U5MR with 144 deaths per 1000 live birth, in contrast to only 6 deaths per 1000 live birth in industrialized countries. Neonatal mortality (death during the first 28 days of life per 1000 live births) accounts for a large proportion of child deaths in many countries, especially in low-income settings. For instance, 60 deaths in Afghanistan compared to 4 deaths per 1000 live birth in United States in 2004. In general, wealthier countries have far lower levels of child mortality than poorer ones.

Child growth is the most widely used indicator of nutritional status. In term of health and nutrition, most of poor children are less healthy and vulnerable to disease. Burundi, Afghanistan and Yemen had shown the highest percentage of stunting⁸ children aged below five years old with 63.1, 59.3 and 57.7 percent respectively, between 2000 to 2009. Meanwhile only 3.9 percent in United States and most data were not available for other wealthier countries such as Canada, Italy, Sweden and Japan for the same period. We also found 43.5 percent and 43.1 percent children under five years old were underweight in India and Yemen respectively, in 2000 to 2009. Evidence of this condition indicates chronic malnutrition among children, which is likely to have the most serious and long-

⁸ Stunting (i.e. low height-for-age) reflects the cumulative effects of under-nutrition and infections since birth.

lasting impact on health (World Health Statistics, 2010). Obviously poverty is severe violence for these unfortunate children.

Unhealthy and unsupportive childhood's environment makes poor children feel inferior, unfortunate and hopeless towards life. It constraint them from having better education, better healthcare or better economic prospects due to lack of purchasing power of their parents. It also has been argued merely poor parents view education as profitable investment, because it takes longitudinal effect to view the outcomes. Since, they need more income, they want their children to have job as soon as possible, this leads to child labor especially among poor families and poor countries.

In 2008, there were 1,586,288 children in the age group of 5 to 17 years old in a world, an increased only by 1 percent from year 2004. The biggest portion come from age 5 to 14 year old with 1,217 million compared to 369 million from age 15 to 17 in 2008. It also shows that 305,669 million were involved in employment (19.3 percent) in 2008 compared to 20.6 percent in 2004. Between 2004 and 2008, employment in the age group 5 to 14 year core age group declined by 1.7 percentage points, from 196 million (16.2 per cent) to 176 million (14.5 per cent), a decrease of 20 million. Over the same period, employment among children aged 15-17 years rose by 2 million, or from 127 million (35.2 per cent) to 129 million (35.0 per cent) (Diallo, Hagemann, et al, 2010).

Table 2 shows the declined trend of children employment in all regions both in absolute and relative terms, from 2004 to 2008, except for Sub-Saharan Africa (an increased of 2.0 percent). The Asia-Pacific region saw a remarkable decline in children involved in economic activities, about 4.0 percent (from 18.8 percent to 14.8 percent) in the same period. In contrast, Sub-Saharan Africa, increased sharply from 49.3 million to 58.2 million, also noted it has the biggest

portion of child labor⁹ in the world with 25.4 percent in 2008. The number of children in hazardous work declined by 30 percent, from 76.4 million in 2004 to 52.8 million in 2008. Asia-Pacific region has the biggest number of children work in hazardous area (in absolute term) with 16.3 million, while and Sub-Saharan African shows the biggest percentage (in relative term) with 25.4 percent in 2008. Children engaged in child labor work in all the three broad groupings of economic activity (agriculture, industry and services). Among child laborers ages 5 to 17 in the world, 60 percent are involved in the agricultural sector, 7 percent are employed in industry and 26 per cent in services. The large majority of child laborers in the age group of 5-17 years are unpaid family workers (68 per cent), 21 per cent are in paid employment and 5 per cent in self-employment (Diallo, Hagemann, et al, 2010).

Table 2: Regional Estimates of Various Forms of Children Work (5-14 years old), 2004 and 2008.

World/Region	Year	Children ('000)	Children in Employment		Child Labor		Hazardous Work	
			('000)	%	('000)	%	('000)	%
World	2004	1,206,500	196,047	16.2	170,383	14.1	76,470	6.3
	2008	1,216,854	176,452	14.5	152,850	12.6	52,895	4.3
Asia and the Pacific	2004	650,000	122,300	18.8	-	-	-	-
	2008	651,815	96,397	14.8	81,443	12.5	16,332	2.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	2004	111,000	11,047	10	-	-	-	-
	2008	110,566	10,002	9	9,722	8.8	4,529	4.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	2004	186,800	49,300	26.4	-	-	-	-
	2008	205,319	58,212	28.4	52,229	25.4	26,045	12.7

⁹ Child Labour and Children In Hazardous Work are a narrower concept than *children in employment*. It is defined by the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Please see Table 3 in appendix for details.

Other Region	2004	258,800	13,400	5.2	-	-	-	-
	2008	249,154	10,700	4.3	9,456	3.8	5,989	2.4

Notes:

- The final estimate of *child labour* is then obtained by adding to the total number of children in *hazardous work*, the number of other children aged 5 to 11 years who were engaged in any economic activity during the reference period (*employment below minimum age*), and the number of other children 12 to 14 years old who were engaged in an economic activity that could not be considered as *permissible light work* during the reference period.

- 'Other Regions' comprises the Middle East and North Africa, the developed countries and the former transition economies of Eastern Europe and Asia.

Source: Diallo, Hagemann, et al, 2010

We argue that child poverty is a personal violence, even as a severe form of violence because it is a root cause of poverty in adulthood. Impoverished children often grow up to be impoverished parents. Obviously, poor children experience lack in cognitive development, attend lower quality public schools and more likely to drop out of high school, and merely have a college degree. Consequently, they thus enter adulthood with lower levels of education and lower economic opportunity and prospect. They are more likely to become single parents or engage in criminal activities. We argue they carry the poverty impact throughout their life and their generations, even merely it is their fault for unfortunate fated. Thus, it is violence if parents could not afford better condition for their children. It is violence if community could not provide equal opportunity for these poor children for their bright and permissible future. It is violence if the government could not provide assistance for this children lift out from poverty.

3.2 Structural Violence

Structural poverty refers to the macro structure of society that produces inequality and consequently poverty. For instance, the structure of global capitalism gives rise to inequality and large scale poverty all over the world. Poverty becomes worse if it associates with government inefficiencies in distributing resources and wealth among nations (Ho, 2007). Therefore, poverty

as violence can be seen from structural perspective, where the poor group experiences unequal opportunity of economic resources, political power, education, health care, law and others. We argue that inefficiency in distributing resources by government institution preventing the poor people meet their basic needs. Thus poverty can be a severe violence since the poor has been neglected their human rights. They experienced limited opportunities and resources to achieve needed income and well being status, which solely determined by institutional distribution such as employment opportunities, economics conditions, government economic incentives and power distribution.

As mention earlier in this paper, the number of people living in extreme poverty shrunk from 1.9 billion in 1981 to 1.4 billion in 2005 (World Bank Indicator, 2010). Poverty rates had also decreased by double amount to 25.2 percent in 2005 (base on less than \$1.25 day purchasing power parity). But the global financial crisis and food price spikes may cause 100 million more people will fall into poverty incidents (World Bank Indicator, 2010). For countries comparison, the greatest reduction in poverty occurred in East Asia and Pacific region, where the poverty rate declined from 77.7 percent in 1981 to 16.8 percent in 2005 and the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day dropped by 75.3 percent from 1,278 million people. This is due to economic growth of China that leaves out their poverty rates by almost 70.0 percent from 1981 to 2005. In contrast, the poverty rate fell only slightly in Sub Saharan Africa, from 53.4 percent to 50.9 percent in the same period. It was even worsened when the numbers of people living below the poverty line were doubled to 388 million people from 1981 to 2005 (World Development Indicator, 2010). It also notable that while the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day has fallen but the number living on \$1.25-\$2.00 a day has increased. The poverty rates fell from 69.4 percent in 1981 to only 47.0 percent in 2005, but the number of people living in on less than \$2.00 a day increased from 2.5 billion in 1981 to 2.9 billions in 1999 and to 2.6 billion in 2005. Surprisingly, the only region showed an

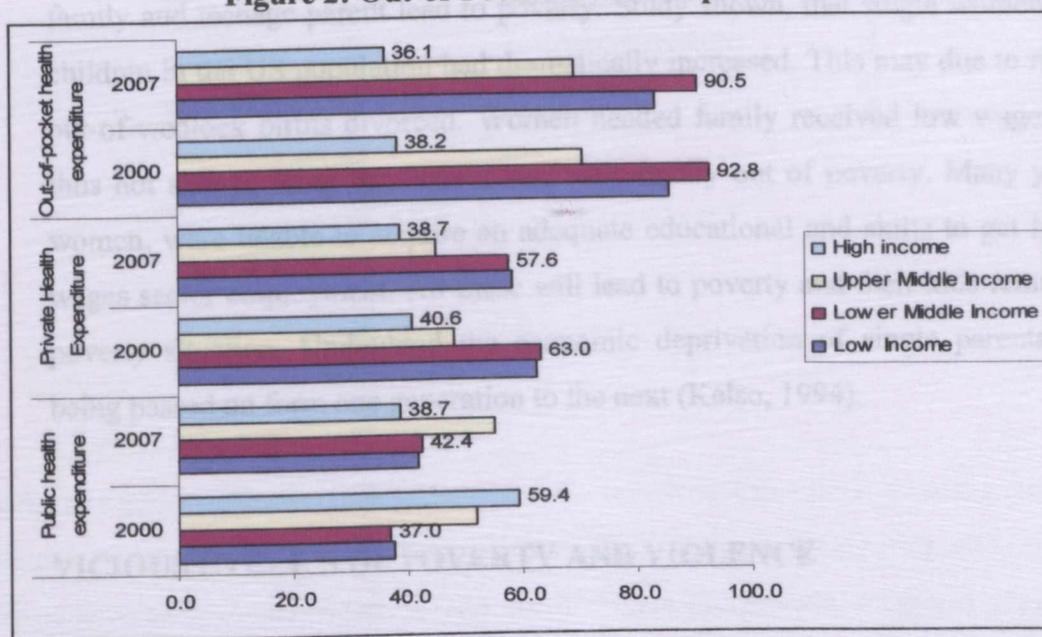
increasing in poverty rates was Europe and Central Asia. It was 1.7 percent people in this region living on less than \$1.25 a day in 1981, increased to 3.7 percent in 2005. Moreover, this region showed an increased poverty rate from 8.3 percent to 8.9 percent for less than \$2.00 a day in the same period (World Development Indicator, 2010).

In term of health condition, the poor group usually unable to achieve and maintain their health care, due to limited economics resources. Unsafe water supplies and inadequate levels of sanitation and hygiene increase the possibility for diarrhea diseases. But, the use of improved drinking water and sanitation are heavily dependent upon country income and place of residence. People living in rural areas in low income countries are least likely to have access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities. World Health Statistics (2010) shows only 61 percent population in African region using improved drinking water sources and 34 percent using improved sanitation in 2008. In contrast, Western Pacific region had better condition, with 90 percent of improved drinking water sources and 62 percent in using improved sanitation in 2008. It was even better for European region with 98 percent and 94 percent respectively in the same period. We concluded there are wide inequalities across countries in the use of both improved drinking water and sanitation facilities. Obviously the use of improved sanitation is generally far lower than the use of improved drinking water in low income regions especially in rural areas.

Moreover, poverty and health are linked in a vicious downward cycle. Since the poor have limited access to medical care and insurance, they refuse to seek health providers due to being unable to pay the healthcare fee. It becomes worse if they are unable to get employment or rise in health care cost occur. For instance, World Health Statistics (2010) shows high income countries contributed 11.2 percent (an increase of 1 percent in 2000) of their gross domestic product for health facilities and services in 2007, while lower middle income country only

able to provide 4.4 percent (shrunk by 0.1 percent) in the same period. It also showed 90.5 percent people in lower middle income countries used their out-of-pocket money for health care expenditure in 2007, shrunk by 2.3 percent from 2000. Meanwhile, only 36.1 and 38.2 percent people in high income countries used their out-of-pocket money for health care expenditure in the same period (refer to Figure 2). Poor access to health care stems from many factors, including lack of providers in low income areas, transportation problems in getting to providers, discrimination by providers, and lack of financial means and health insurance to help pay for care. Thus, poverty leads the poor to unhealthy condition because they unable to have free or subsidize price of medical services, hence it is violence.

Figure 2: Out-of-Pocket Health Expenditure



Source: World Development Indicators (2010)

3.3 Cultural Violence

Cultural violence refers to aspects of culture that can be used to legitimize direct or structural violence, and maybe exemplified by religion and ideology. According to Lewis, the culture of poverty 'tends to perpetuate itself from generation to generation because of its effect on children. They have usually absorbed the basic values and attitudes of their subcultures and are not psychologically geared to take full advantage of changing conditions or increased opportunities that may occur in their lifetime' (Bradshaw, 2006). Culturalist suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generations of a set of belief, values and skills that are socially generated.

Growing of instability family such as single parents, women headed family and teenage parent lead to poverty. Study shown, that single women with children in the US population had dramatically increased. This may due to rise of out-of-wedlock births divorced. Women headed family received low wages and thus not able to bring themselves and their family out of poverty. Many young women, were unable to acquire an adequate educational and skills to get higher wages sector employment. All these will lead to poverty and their kids remain to poverty situation. Undoubted the economic deprivation of single parents was being passed on form one generation to the next (Kelso, 1994).

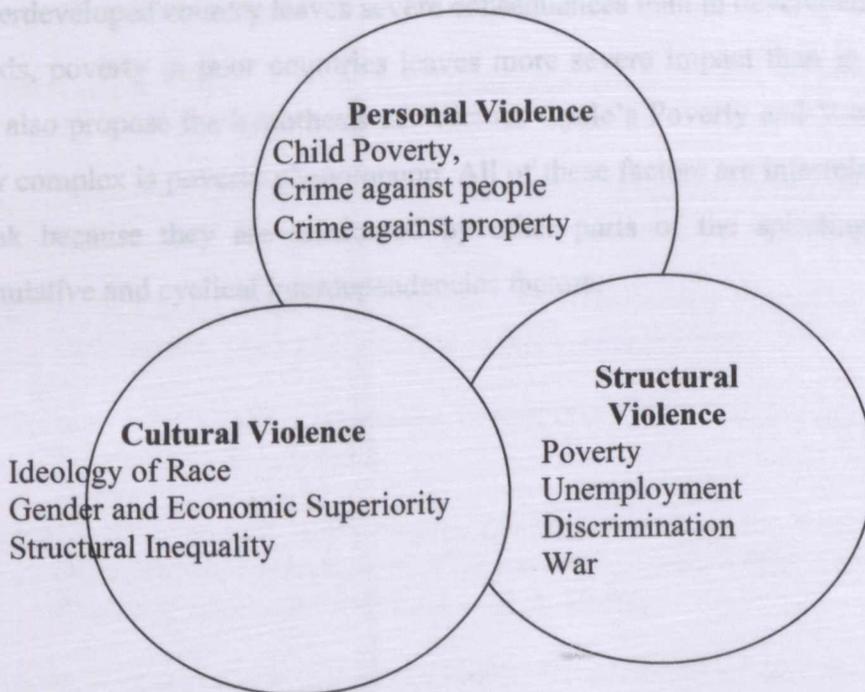
5.0 CONCLUSION

4.0 VICIOUS CYCLE'S OF POVERTY AND VIOLENCE

Poverty is a complex phenomenon that is not just because of one cause, but many and it makes linkages to each other. In this model, we postulate personal violence, structural violence and cultural violence are interdependent and overlapped to each other. Thus poverty is the most severe violence because all of these there factors embedded in it. Moreover, the linkages are hard to break because they are reinforced by other parts of the

spiraling. It is called cumulative and cyclical interdependencies factors (summarize as Figure 3 below).

Figure 3: Vicious Cycle's of Poverty and Violence



5.0 CONCLUSION

Overall this paper discusses how poverty can be severe violence from personal violence, structural violence and cultural violence. Undoubtedly, it is obviously true when we see child poverty as personal violence, and see how this unfortunate condition dampened their bright future. We suggest child poverty is the worse type of violence because it is the root of poverty and it will leave effect until future generation. We also portray how poverty can be seen as structural perspective through unequal opportunity of economic resources, political power, education, health care, and law arranged by institution, such as government. Inefficiency in distributing resources by government institution preventing the poor people meets their basic needs. We urge poverty is a severe form of violence since the poor has been neglected their human rights from structural perspective. It

becomes worse when discrimination and inequality situation blend into it. To conclude, structural violence occurs when resources are vastly unequal, exemplified by a growing disparity between those 'who are rich and getting richer and those who are poor and getting poorer'. By looking at country comparison, we see how poverty in underdeveloped country leaves severe consequences than in developed countries. In other words, poverty in poor countries leaves more severe impact than in wealthy countries. We also propose the hypothesis of 'Vicious Cycle's Poverty and Violence' that showed how complex is poverty phenomenon. All of these factors are interrelated and are hard to break because they are reinforced by other parts of the spiraling. We called it as cumulative and cyclical interdependencies factors.

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POVERTY AS THE WORSE FORM OF VIOLENCE

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6th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences,
11-13 July 2011,
The University of New Orleans, New Orleans, USA

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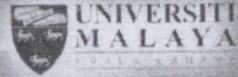


OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Poverty as a Form of Violence
 - Personal Violence → Child poverty
 - Structural Violence
 - Unequal opportunity, inefficient of resources allocation
 - Economic climate
 - Cultural Violence
- Poverty and Violence's Vicious Cycle
- Conclusion

2

INTRODUCTION

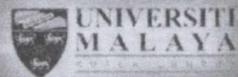


Poverty : Deprivation of economics opportunity

- *absolute poverty* : lacks basic human needs, such as food, shelter and clothing that help to sustain human life.
- *relative poverty* : necessity to one person is not uniformly a necessity to others. Needs may be relative to what is possible and are based on social definition and past experience (Nunes, C, 2008).

3

INTRODUCTION



- Poverty rates 1981= 51.9 % 2005 = 25.2 %
Hardcore = fell 60% to 1.4 billion (1981-2005)
- But < \$2.00/day ; 1981 = 2.5 B 1999 = 2.9 B
2005 = 2.6 B (World Development Indicators, 2010)
- Economic changes - i.e instance food price spiking, financial crisis
- poor → lower education → unemployed

4

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Structural disadvantages are determinant for crime activities (Fleisher 1966, Becker, 1968, Freeman, 1972, Morgan, 2000, Fajnzylber, 1998, 2002)
- 3 dominant theories:
- 1) The Theory of Economic of Crime:
 - criminal behavior as a rational response to the opportunities available to potential criminals
 - judgments between their return and cost → maximize their expected utility (Becker, 1969, Morgan 2000)
 - hypothesized people will commit in crime if their return is extremely larger than cost.

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"...some individuals become criminals because of the financial and other rewards from crime compared to legal work, taking account of the likelihood of apprehension and conviction, and the severity of punishment".

Becker (1993)

6

2) Merton's Strain Theory

- posits low status individuals are frustrated by their failure to attain the material attributes of success.
- unsuccessful individuals become alienated from society and may commit crime in response
- Braithwaite, 1979 and Stack, 1984.
- Barlow (1984) argues a rapid rise in percapita GNP is likely to make a society more materialistic and anomistic.

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3) Social Disorganization Theory

- theorized to diminish social cohesion and control as suggested by theory of disorganization.
- They argue that inequality causes crime by being associated with poverty.
 - Broken family – lack of supervision
 - Vacancy rate
 - Owner-occupied
 - Residential mobility
- (Massey and Denton, 1993, Gotham, 2002 and Wilson, 1997, 1987, Like, 2009, Blau and Blau, 1982).

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POVERTY AS FORM OF VIOLENCE

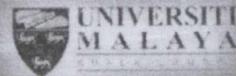


Table 1: Characteristics Types of Violence

Characteristics	Type of Violence		
	Interpersonal	Structural	Cultural
Number of victims	Usually few	Many	Unidentified
Victim(s) can identify perpetrator(s)	Usually	No	No
Perpetrator(s) can identify Victim(s)	Usually	Rarely	No
Characteristics of perpetrator(s) and victim(s)	Similar or identical social class	Different classes	Similar or identical social class and ideology
Time between decision and violence	Short	Longer	Infinite
Number of decision makers	Very few	Cumulative effect of many decisions	Cumulative effect of many decisions

Source: Adaptation from "Inequality and Violence in the United States: Casualties of Capitalism" by Chasin, B. (2004).

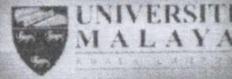
Personal Violence



Child Poverty

- underdeveloped + delay in physically and mentally developments.
- material poverty - emotional capacity, inferior and unfortunate, and destroy their potential development.
- Wilkinson and Pickett (2009)
- Eg; 2008 → S.S. Africa has highest U5MR. 144 deaths/1000 live birth.
- industrialized countries → 6 deaths/1000 live births
- Neonatal mortality → large proportion of child deaths in low-income countries.
- Eg: 60 deaths in Afghanistan compared to 4 deaths/1000 live birth in United States in 2004

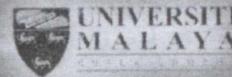
Child Poverty



- indicates chronic malnutrition among children, which is likely to have the most serious and long-lasting impact on health (World Health Statistics, 2010).
- poor children → less healthy and vulnerable to disease.
- Eg; highest percentage age of stunting children aged below five years old, 2000 -2009
- Burundi = 63.1% , Afghanistan = 59.3%, Yemen = 57.7% compared US = 3.9 %
- 43.5 % and 43.1 % children under five years old were underweight in India and Yemen respectively, from 2000 to 2009.

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Conclude



- unhealthy and unsupportive childhood's environment → child feel inferior, unfortunate and hopeless towards life.
- constraint from having better education, better healthcare or better economic prospects → due to lack of purchasing power of their parents.
- poor parents see education is not a profitable I → longitudinal effect → outcomes.
- they need > Y to survive → want children have job ASAP → child labor
- Child poverty → severe violence → root of adulthood poverty & violence → impoverish parents

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Conclude

- poor children → lack in cognitive development → attend lower quality public schools → drop out of high school → merely have a college degree -----> enter adulthood with lower levels of education and lower economic opportunity and prospect. -> CARRY IMPACT THROUGHOUT LIFE & GENERATIONS.
- poverty is violence if PARENT could not afford better condition for their children.
- It is violence if COMMUNITY could not provide equal opportunity for these poor children for their bright and permissible future.
- It is violence if the G could not provide assistance for these children to escape poverty. These children deserve a better future and we as civilized society are responsible for these future generation.

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Structural Violence

- refers to the macro structure of society that produces inequality and consequently poverty.
- Eg; the structure of global capitalism gives rise to inequality and large scale poverty all over the world.
- worse with G inefficiencies in distributing resources and wealth among nations (Ho, 2007).
- where the poor group experiences unequal opportunity
- limited opportunities and resources to achieve needed income and well being status, which solely determined by institutional distribution such as employment opportunities, economics conditions, government economic incentives and power distribution.

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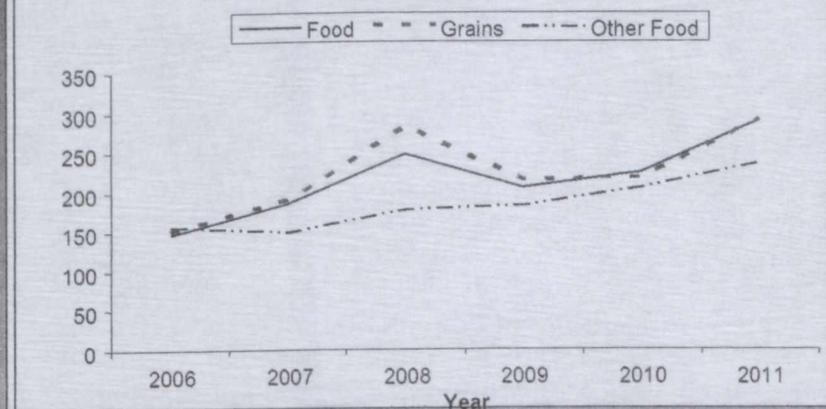
Structural Violence

- Economic changes
- le; instance food price spiking
 - Unaffordable
 - same value of C
 - decreased in real income.
 - It makes people more stress (Merton)
- price indices for food rose from 147.0 in 2006 to 224.1 in 2010, and was peak in 2008 at 247.4 (2000=100).
- Estimate more than 100M will fall in new poverty (Food Price Watch, 2011).

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Economic Change

Figure 1: World Price Commodity Indices



World Bank Development Prospects Group, <http://www.worldbank.org/prospects>

Note: * 2011 comprises from Jan-Feb 2011
* Base year 2000=100.

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Structural Violence

- Unsafe water supplies and inadequate levels of sanitation and hygiene increase the possibility for diarrhea diseases.
- WHO Statistics (2010) shows only 61 % population in African region using improved drinking water sources and 34 % using improved sanitation in 2008.
- BUT, Western Pacific region had better condition, with 90 % of improved drinking water sources and 62 % in using improved sanitation in 2008.
- It was EVEN better for European region with 98 % and 94 % respectively in the same period.
- the use of improved sanitation is generally far lower than the use of improved drinking water in low income regions especially in rural areas.

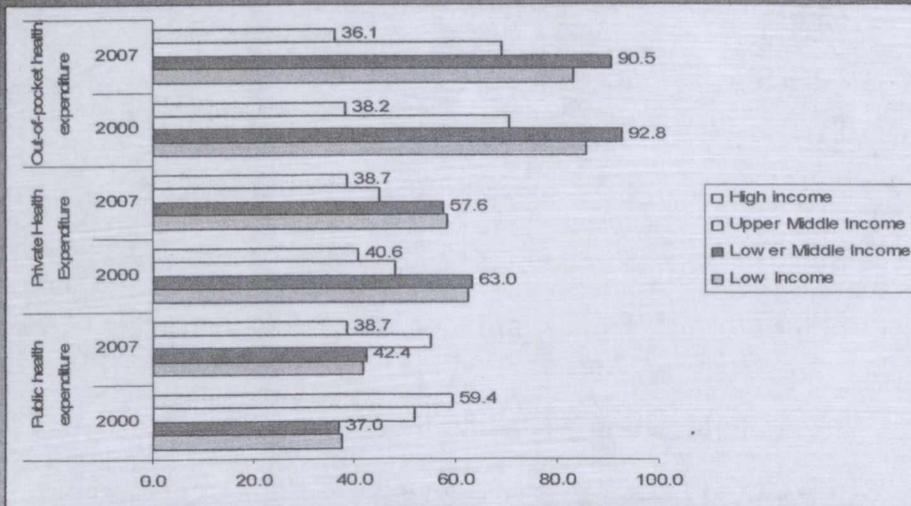
17

Structural Violence

- poverty and health are linked in a vicious downward cycle.
- the poor have limited access to medical care and insurance, they refuse to seek health providers due to being unable to pay the healthcare fee.
- It becomes worse if they are unable to get employment or rise in health care cost occur.
- For instance, WHO Statistics (2010) shows HIC contributed 11.2 % (an increase of 1 % in 2000) of their GDP for health facilities and services, WHILE LMIC only able to provide 4.4 % (shrunk by 0.1 %) in the same period.
- 90.5 % people in LMICe used their out-of-pocket money for health care expenditure MEANWHILE 36.1 % HIC.
- poverty leads the poor to unhealthy condition because they unable to have free or subsidize price of medical services, hence it is violence.

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Figure 2: Out-of-Pocket Health Expenditure



Source: World Development Indicators (2010)

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Cultural Violence

- refers to aspects of culture that can be used to legitimize direct or structural violence, and maybe exemplified by religion and ideology.
- according to Lewis, the culture of poverty 'tends to perpetuate itself from generation to generation because of its effect on children.
- They have usually absorbed the basic values and attitudes of their subcultures and are not psychologically geared to take full advantage of changing conditions or increased opportunities that may occur in their lifetime' (Bradshaw, 2006).
- Culturalist suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generations of a set of belief, values and skills that are socially generated.

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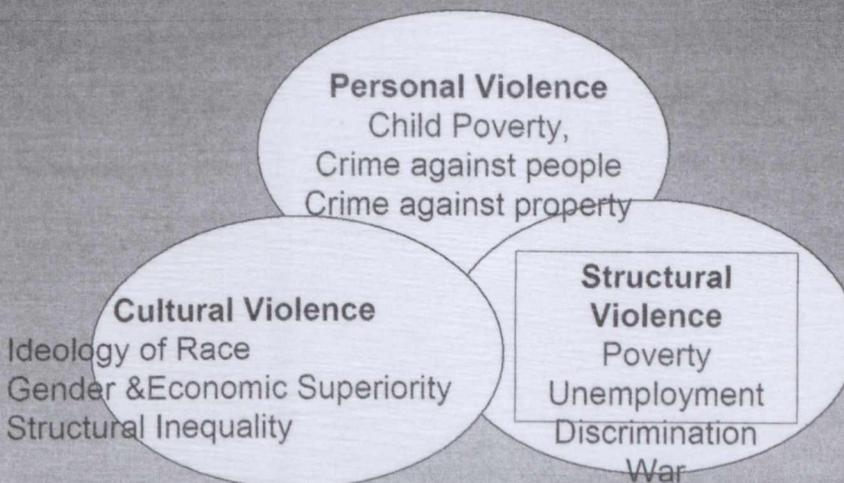
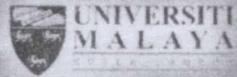
VICIOUS CYCLE'S OF POVERTY AND VIOLENCE



- "Cumulative and Cyclical Interdependencies Factors"
- poverty is a complex phenomenon → many causes & made linkages
- interdependent and overlapped.
- Eg; 1) poor parents → poor children → adulthood poverty.
- 2) Institution's inefficiency, discrimination and structural inequality make poverty more prevalent to these groups.
- 3) cultural pov → these poor may think they were fated to poverty and hope for good rewards in future reincarnation or hereafter.
- do NOTHING to escape themselves and even their children from poverty.
- SEVERE → hard to break because they are reinforced by other parts of the spiraling.

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Vicious Cycle's of Poverty and Violence



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CONCLUSION

- child poverty should see as personal violence, and how this unfortunate condition dampened their bright future.
- child poverty is the worse type of violence → root of poverty.
- portray how poverty can be seen as structural perspective → through unequal opportunity of economic resources, political power, education, health care, and law arranged by institution, such as government.
- poverty in poor countries leaves more severe impact than in wealthy countries.
- structural violence occurs when resources are vastly unequal, exemplified by a growing disparity between those 'who are rich and getting richer and those who are poor and getting poorer'.