Poverty: Is poverty always a bad thing? If so, what are the opinions of certain groups of people? For example, do economists always/absolutely view poverty negatively? If so, what is their reasoning?

Concept: Poverty exists whether it has a direct effect on people who are/are not poor or not. The topic of poverty is an environmental, economic, and moral issue:

1. **Environmental** - poverty is present in certain areas and not in others - why? (focus will be third world countries). Third world poverty is especially environmental because the inhabitants of these areas suffer from poverty due to their surroundings and environment. What would economists say about this issue and the ways in which it has occurred? On the other hand, how would the rest of the population (not in poverty) view the issue?

2. **Economic** - what do Economists think about poverty and do they find it to be a problem? If so, how much of an effect does it have on people who are not poor? Economic Development - poverty in developing vs. developed countries.

3. **Morals/Ethics** - Is it acceptable/right for poverty to exist? What will it take to rid the world of poverty? Is it possible? Is it fair for some people to live in poverty simply because they are born into a certain environment/surrounding?

Strategy: To answer the following questions:

1. Why does poverty happen in certain countries and not in others?

2. Do poor people have the right to live in a clean environment? If so, how is this factor related
to third world countries and the idea that the environments of poverty stricken people are not “clean.”

3. Environmental justice has to do with race and ethnicity and therefore can be brought into the subject of poverty.

4. If poverty is not necessarily a bad thing, what are its positive and negative aspects? Would economists have different reasons for these aspects and if so, why?

Paper Layout:

First - Overview of poverty. Second - To define poverty and to explore (how, why, when, for how long) the areas in which it exists. Third - To compare and contrast between the viewpoints of economists versus the rest of the population.

Research:

Completed:


Shah, Anup “Causes of Poverty.”’98-'07 http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/Poverty.asp. (Provided statistics, definitions, and a better understanding of what poverty really is).

To be completed:


