

‘Poverty in the world’

For most of the people living in prosperous cities like us, it is hard to imagine that while we are enjoying the fruits of technological advancement and economic development, our counterparts somewhere in the world are living in dire poverty.

Prior to introducing the predicament around the world, we should first define the word ‘poverty’. People often consider poverty as the lack of money to buy something. However, this misconception should be rectified. As a matter of fact, poverty is the inability to satisfy one’s basic needs because one lacks income to buy services or lacks access to services.

You may be surprised that poverty is not the only problem happened in some undeveloped countries. By contrast, the problem is omnipresent, even in some developed areas. For instance, in our motherland, China, some African countries like Ethiopia and even in an affluent city like Hong Kong. There are many reasons for that these areas are suffering from destitution.

In the past few decades, China has developed rapidly and has been carrying much weight in the world. Regardless of the affluence in several particular cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, there are still numerous undeveloped areas and the people living there are leading a hand-to-mouth existence. Most of these unfortunate ones are farmers and they are often of low education level. They can hardly make their ends meet, let alone paying tuition fees for the education of their offspring. Without proper education, their offspring become low-skilled labour. It eventually becomes a vicious circle.

The situation is even worse in some African countries like Ethiopia. In many African countries, there are many natural disasters which badly affect the agriculture. For example, the water sources there are exceedingly limited. They have to obtain underground water in a bid to farm. And the extreme weather also gives rise to the poor harvest in these areas. Moreover, the local government does nothing to help the needy. As a result, people living in such areas are often suffering from famine.

To everyone’s surprise, the dire situation exists not only in undeveloped countries, but also in wealthy countries like Hong Kong. The fact that some people especially the elderly and the disabled in Hong Kong, are still living below the poverty line is undoubted. The plight is ascribed to the government’s negligence in social welfare and the changing of our society. People who are poorly educated can only choose inferior jobs with low income which they can hardly maintain their living.

It is high time for the local governments and charitable organizations to give top priority to helping the needy in an attempt to raise their living standards.

For the case of China, education is the key to curing the problem of poverty. As long as the new generations are educated, they can go to cities to opt for better jobs. With higher income, they can ultimately improve their families' living standard. Local government and charities should by no means waver in providing children with excellent education.

In the African countries, the government should be playing a vital role in helping the poor. For instance, it can focus on agriculture. It can put more effort into developing farming technology which helps to deal with the natural limitations. The government can also subsidize the poor farmers to gain access to some new farming technology in order to increase their harvest.

For the well-off and developed countries, in no way should the government overlook the importance of providing suitable training courses to the poor-educated people. The government should also seek to provide more job opportunities for them with a view to helping them quickly integrate into our society.

All in all, penury cannot be remedied overnight. Yet, I hold firm to my belief that with concerted endeavors, everyone in our world can live equally someday.