

Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?

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If poverty eradication is to become an integral objective of all policies it will take: All Institutions:

a. To recognize the integral role of the family in the social development process and sustainability of humankind and the approach must encapsulate a futuristic orientation which recognizes the intergenerational transmission of poverty and inequality.

b. To recognize that families reflect the fabric of the larger society, and strengthening them are essential to the world's future.

c. To recognize the impact of unemployment and the deep seated problems that are embedded in it for families and productive employment opportunities are the most central objectives for eradicating poverty.

d. To recognize that eradicating poverty the approach must be 'Family Centered' and must take into account a whole sphere of potential participants i.e. children and youth and can be an effective tool for promoting social integration and sustainable development.

e. To dissolve the lacunae and divergence between social policies and economic policies and recognize the indispensable role the State has to support 'families' and facilitate the role the family plays in community development and the humanization of the person and community.

f. To recognize that families need adequate and reliable sources of human security, health care, nutrition, education, sanitation, adequate remuneration for work in both formal and informal sectors and the State must ensure that parents are able to fulfil their primary and essential tasks in caring for and raising children.

g. To not merely eradicate poverty which in many ways is a short term effort, but be re enforced by looking at its intergenerational transmission where the focus is placed on a 'strengths –based culturally responsive, educationally enlightened approaches' which utilize family strengths, builds on the family's resources, while employing an empowerment paradigm built on collaborative partnerships with families, facilitating them to become active participants and convert the approach into a long term goal for effective, sustainable and equitable social development.

h. To invest in the family as an institution which consists of female and male members, children and youth and their contributions to the formal and informal sectors, because their combined income can contribute to their enhancement in standards of living, nutrition, education and social integration/inclusion.

i. To realize that investments such as education, financial, social security and capacity building are directed to all family members for evidence indicates that investments in human resources-in people and their capacities ensures the reduction of poverty and inequality and economic growth.

j. To understand the paramount importance of developing and implementing policies that facilitate marriage stability, and family health, infant and child mortality, maternal mortality, child malnutrition and illiteracy, providing safe drinking water, housing and environmental sanitation, gender equality and equal opportunity between boys and girls will facilitate poverty reduction.

k. For Nation States to recognize that investing in families as social units are not a drain on national budgets but as investments that are crucial to economic and social development.

l. To recognize that 'family centered' policies are central to social development and economic development and indispensable for sustainable human and economic progress.

m. To recognize women especially poor women are intrinsic to placing families at the heart of the development debate.

n. To recognize that from Families being consumers to Families becoming providers and contributors to economic growth because:

- Family members become architects of their own empowerment
- Family offers the first experience of social and economic security.
- Family is first place of the experience of gender equality
- Family is key actor for 'sustainable development' and places this foundational unit at the centre of sustainable and human development.
- Policies for the eradication of poverty which are family centered are capable of achieving concrete and measurable results in time and become self-generating and replicable.