

TOPIC: POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Definitions:	
poverty	The condition of being poor, or a critical lack or deficiency
inequality	Lack of equality, being unequal in amount, size, value, rank or lack of evenness, regularity or uniformity
THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY & INEQUALITY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Variance in the distribution of wealth/corruption causing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Favoritism – Tribalism – Selfishness – Greed – Lack of accountability/transparency
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Slavery mentality - Prov. 23:7; 3 John 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of information – Low self esteem – Lack of self actualization – Wrong perceptions – Dependency syndrome – Lack of education/illiteracy
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Lack of value driven thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Narrow vision – Lack of proper planning – No sense of belonging/no sense of identity
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Lack of unity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Civil uprising – Disagreement

THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY & INEQUALITY (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Lack of working culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inability to render goods and services – Abuse of time – Dependency syndrome – Poverty mentality
IMPACT-FAMILY LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divorce 2. Teenage pregnancy 3. Prostitution 4. Disobedience 5. Lack of education
COMMUNITY LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Increase crime rate 7. Low level of health care 8. High mortality rate/death rate 9. High level or rate of illiteracy 10. Poor health facilities 11. High level of prostitution 12. High level of teen age pregnancy 13. Lack of infrastructure, good roads network, electricity, pipe-borne water

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL	1. Lack of education
	2. Trauma
	3. Rebellion
	4. Lawlessness
	5. Teenage pregnancy
	6. Single parenting
	7. Lack of ownership
THE WAY FORWARD	Poverty and inequality are international phenomena and are present in every country just as prosperity and development are. However many countries, especially Liberia, welcomed the former.
	Here are some other things to do in order to all alleviate poverty & inequality:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing mindset & attitude: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developing a “possibility mentality” – Developing positive mindset – Developing value-driven thinking – Breaking the “dependency syndrome” – Breaking the attitude of complacency – Developing merit system – Developing self-esteem – Developing an attitude of self-actualization – Develop standard learning systems and programs – Develop an ownership attitude – Develop national identity – Construct cohesive national agenda – Develop the attitude of proper planning
	2.

THE WAY FORWARD (cont.)	3. Long-term national unification program
	4. Develop programs for sports and athletics
	5. Resuscitate the students exchange program – In-country exchange program
	6. Prioritize decentralization of the education system
	7. Promote development through communication
	8. Develop a rapid and effective health care delivery system
	9. Be time conscious
	10. Developing a good work ethic/culture
	11. Develop concepts of effectiveness and efficiency
	12. Develop a high value for money
	13. Structure national development policies in line with God's guidance
	14. Church should get involve with national policy and development
	15. Church must get directly involved in developing human resource capacity
	16. Church must involve itself in empowering the citizen
	17. Church must get involved in creating awareness and sensitization programs which include: – National unity – Corruption-free society – Hygiene and sanitation
	18. A holistic vision which requires the involvement of all stakeholders including youth groups, women groups, international partners, professional groups, religious groups, disable