

# The Role of Education in the Fight against Poverty

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*"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."  
-Frederick Douglas*

THERE have been numerous endeavors to combat poverty in human society. Material backing alone may temporarily relieve financial distress of impoverished people but can hardly eradicate the roots of poverty. Comparatively, poverty alleviation through education (PATE) have been widely recognized as a more effective and sustainable strategy for reducing poverty. Education can change the lives of the underprivileged by equip them with valuable knowledge and skills, which predict better job opportunities and brighter prospects of personal development.

Specifically, the significance of education in fighting poverty lies primarily in the following aspects: (i) Enhancing the knowledge and competence levels of the individual to increase their competitiveness in the labor market and consequently their incomes. This is supported by Janjua and Kamal' (2011) study, which suggests that there is a significantly positive correlation between the education and income levels in individuals. (ii) Halting intergenerational transmission of poverty. As per Majumder and Biswas's (2017) research finding, better educated members of a disadvantaged household have less likelihood of developing a poverty-stricken family. It is evident that children from impoverished families, through education, can access more opportunities and manage to avoid the financial predicament their parents experienced. (iii) Promoting social inclusion to diminish social exclusion. Education can enhance self-confidence and willingness of social participation in those living in poverty, enabling them to successfully integrate into society (Mihai et al., 2015). (iv) Elevating individuals' health standards. Well-educated individuals are more likely to adopt healthy lifestyles, access better medical services, and make decisions that are favorable to health (Omoniyi, 2013). (v) Assisting individuals to adapt to economic dynamics. Education helps increase people's capacity to cope with economic crises. According to Awan et al. (2011), individuals with higher educational attainments are relatively less likely to fall into unemployment in economic recessions.

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PATE is playing out in many countries. For instance, the Bangladeshi government, along with its non-governmental organizations, helps impoverished families improve their income levels through offering them basic education and vocational training. The program has produced significant outcomes in alleviating poverty (Majumder & Biswas, 2017). In Kenya, the local governments provide high-quality educational resources to students in underserved areas via distance education and online learning platforms. This practice is effective in overcoming geographical barriers to balanced distribution of educational resources and lowering the cost of education, facilitating underprivileged children accessing basic education, which is a steppingstone to their economic status improvement in the future (Mihai et al., 2015).

*Poverty Alleviation through Education: A Crucial Move in Combating Poverty* in this issue is a review of China's PATE experiences. The article delineates the evolution of PATE policies and highlights major PATE programs in China, showcasing PATE's roles in improving the educational standards in China's underdeveloped regions and the financial states of the impoverished persons (Zhou, 2025). Due to the limitations of its research method, the study lacks an in-depth evaluation of the content and outcomes of China's PATE policies. Still, it demonstrates the vital significance of PATE for personal development of the underprivileged and the promotion of social fairness and justice. It is hoped that China's PATE practices can provide implications for global fight against poverty.

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