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Child Poverty is a real issue in Toronto

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is hitting Toronto city in Canada since 1980. Latest report says that 84% of the indigenous population of Toronto is suffering from poverty. In this article, I have tried to analyze the main cause of poverty in Toronto that includes high housing cost, food banks and health risks. In the end, I have also provided the solution for the people in Toronto to get rid of poverty.

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Poverty is a multifaceted component that includes social, economic as well as political components. It is a state of being extremely poor and in this situation; people are not able to meet up with their daily requirements basically due to lack of money. Poverty is a friction for developing countries. This generally leads to health risks and causes malnutrition diseases and ultimately, it leads to death. Mainly due to this, poverty has led to diminishing of many rural communities. Many countries have faced poverty and many countries are still facing it. With the increasing population, poverty too is increasing worldwide and is causing some serious threat to the country(Polanyi, Wilson, Mustachi, Ekra & kerr, 2019).

Toronto, a city in Canada, is facing extreme poverty that has started since 1980. According to 2017 report, approximately 26.3% of the children that are under 18 years of age are living in poverty (Toronto Child and Family Poverty Report Card, 2017). Also, it has been reported that the children of black families in Toronto are more than children of white families in terms of poverty. This depicts the racial discrimination in Toronto. Because of this, this city has been termed as “Unequal city”. The report of 2018 says that the poverty in Toronto has increased in the range of 33-46% overall, that too mostly in the black families. Latest report in 2018 says that 84% of the indigenous families with their children are living in poverty in Toronto. (Toronto Child and Family Poverty Report Card, 2018)

The three main reason of poverty in Toronto is homelessness, food banks and health risks. Out of these, homelessness is the main reason for poverty in indigenous families of Toronto. This is so because people there have low paying jobs and getting house there is expensive, especially for black people, South East and Arab people. Food banks are the place where people can get free food. It has now become necessity for the people in Toronto. Most of the children of low-paying job parents opt for food banks and they may or may not get healthy

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food. It totally relies on the person who owes that food bank. The homelessness together with the scarcity of food leads to many health problems. Due to poverty, children suffer from health risks among which malnutrition is on the top. Poverty has been increasing in Toronto since 1980 and it has been creating a minority poverty which was 20% in 1980 and now has increased to 78%. The basic reason for this is high housing cost and low paying jobs, especially for black people in Toronto("United Way of Greater Toronto [WorldCat Identities]", 2019).

Poverty in Toronto can be lowered with the help of government there. One of the main reasons of poverty in Toronto is high housing cost and low paying jobs. So, in my opinion, government can take initiative to provide affordable housing for the people who are having low-paying jobs. And also, government there can open up training's programs and new job opportunities for the people there, especially black people, South East people and Arab people there. For that, the city should try to avoid discrimination based on races("UNESCO in brief - Mission and Mandate", 2019).

If this happens, many problems related to poverty could be solved. If all the people in Toronto will have equal opportunity for job, poverty rate will automatically come down there. Several charity functions could also be conducted for the people who are in extreme state of poverty. For these things, government as well as the people in Toronto will have to take an initiative to make Toronto city free of poverty. It is obviously a slow and tedious process, but a small initiative can bring on a large impact on the city and the future generation will not suffer much.

References

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