

Poverty (2) - Causes of, Effects of and How to Overcome Poverty (1)

Advanced (Classes 11-12)

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)



Social Justice/ Reform (A Pestalozzi Approach)

The facilitator displays the lists made in the previous session – ‘The Causes of Poverty’ and ‘The Effects of Poverty’. The participants briefly review the two lists.

The facilitator and participants brainstorm what is needed to overcome poverty and the facilitator links the needs stated by the participants (such as better health care, trained engineers, sharing of resources) to Pestalozzi’s solution - an all-round education of the Head, the Heart and the Hands.

The facilitator and participants brainstorm what is included in Pestalozzi’s all-round education of the Head, the Heart and the Hands and include the following:

- **Ability to help oneself and others (Head, Heart and Hands)**
- **Generosity (Heart)**
- **Knowledge of how to change things (Head)**
- **Love for others (Heart)**
- **Motivation to help (Heart)**
- **Practical ability to change things (Hands)**
- **Selflessness (Heart)**
- **Social skills (Hands)**



Materials Needed

The lists made in the previous session – ‘The Causes of Poverty’ and ‘The Effects of Poverty’

The facilitator divides the participants into pairs and instructs each pair as follows:

- Choose a cause of poverty
- List the likely effects of this cause of poverty
- Write down how a Pestalozzi education would help someone to overcome both the cause and effects of poverty you have chosen
- Illustrate your work

The facilitator asks different pairs to explain their work to the rest of the participants.



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Continued

Pestalozzi believed that an all-round education of the Head, Heart and Hands for everybody, is the only way to overcome poverty. This is because an all-round education gives people the knowledge (Powers of the Head), the love and moral will or motivation (Powers of the Heart) and the common sense, social skills, practical ability and determination (Powers of the Hands) to successfully fight the causes of both their own poverty and the poverty of others.

For further information about Pestalozzi's Head, Heart and Hands philosophy refer to the bold typeface at the end of the Teaching Idea 'Head, Heart and Hands (4) - The Importance of Our Actions'.

Pestalozzi saw that a vocational training alone, as many of the poor of his day received, degrades people because it gives people no opportunity to improve their inner natures. He also recognised that an education which makes people knowledgeable but gives them no practical means of putting their knowledge to use, as many of the rich of his day received, is also useless. This is because such an education does not show people how to help others in a practical way, nor does it teach them the morality necessary to give them the will to help others.

Pestalozzi believed that everybody has the right to education and that the education provided must be relevant to people's needs so that it can enable them to help themselves and others.

