

Why Poor Families have Many Children in African?

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Abstract:- This paper discusses the reasons of poor family in Africa to have many children. The paper aimed at provide enlightening to the Government in African on major causes of poor having many children as to find the best way to handle them. This paper had extensively used secondary information to get the information required. Several indicators of family poverty has been discussed, factors for poor families and solutions of the problem that faced African families. Generally, poor families in Africa that have many children, 90% of population live rural areas that characterized with low production, poor health services, poor transportation system and poor nutritional balance and 10% of population live in urban areas in developing countries. The pointed reasons are; low education opportunity, early marriage, care for elders and other causes. The poor family experiences extreme social, political and economic hardships which place them in a vulnerable situation to live. Poor families experienced famine and hunger, eruption of diseases, infant mortality, low expectancy and stress.

Keyword:- Family, Africa, Children, Poor Families.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Poor families are common term broadest used in different contextual, the term poor families used by policy makers, statist, geographers and political leaders. The term used in different contextual but for the same meaning while differ in what they express about poor family. In explain the term poor families, important to know that no poor families without poverty. Therefore it is important to start with poverty to explain poor families in Africa. The families in developing countries have been the major victim of the conditions. Poverty has many dimensions, but simply poverty is a condition of which people can't meet the basic requirements per day. The poverty can determine through; income, capability or basic need measurement. There are different explanation about poverty according to different scholars and an organization.

According to Hamisi S. (2019), write meaning of poverty in Islamic point of views "Islamic Views about Poverty. In the context of Islam there two types poor persons: fuqara and masakin, who occur at the beginning of the Qur'an verse mentioning those who deserve the payment of zakah. "Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer (the funds), for those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to Truth), for those in bandaged in debt, in the cause of Allah, and for the wayfarer. (This is it) ordained by Allah. And Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom" [9:60]. Abu Yusuf, disciple of

Abu Hanifah, and Ibn al-Qasim, companion of Malim, said that they [fuqara and masakeen] are the same; the majority of ulema said they are two types for one category that is the needy. Imam al-Tabari said; "faqir is the needy who do not lower himself by asking people's help, and miskeen is the needy who do ask." Shaikh al-Qaradawi summarized those who deserve zakah from fuqara and masakin in three categories: a) One who has no property and, no source of income? b) One who has some property or income, but it is less than half of his needs. c) One who has some property or income that covers half of his needs, but does not meet all his needs?"

There are two classification of poverty; absolute and relative poverty.

➤ Absolute Poverty

It has researched and agreed that total /absolute poverty is a condition of which people minimally fail to meet the basic need to live and to work properly. At international standard, people who fail to meet minimum nutritional requirement live below poverty line. A person/family whose income fall this line is regarded as living under absolute poverty. The complete poverty has another name called subsistence poverty named by the pioneer of the term such as Charles booth. It has been agreed that complete poverty refers to the inadequate met of basic requirement to enable a human being to sustain a physical existence healthily.

The World Bank (1996), defines absolute poverty as 'the amount of spending needed to ensure a person a minimum daily diet of 2,150 calories. The poverty line corresponds to an annual income per person of about 275 to 370 dollars'. Using such guidelines, the World Bank estimated in 1990 that at least 1.1 billion people in developing (Third World) countries—or about one-third of the population of these nations—are extremely poor. In India, the poverty line is drawn on the basis of per capita (adult) daily intake of 2,400 calories for the rural and 2,100 calories for the urban.

➤ Relative Poverty

It defined as phenomena basing on relativity of deprivation. According to Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (1994), 'Relative poverty refers to individuals or groups lack of resources when compared with that of other members of the society—in other words, its relative in the sense that it depend on time and location. A person Living in America, earning 1000 US Dollar per month, can be classified as poor while the same amount of money receive to a government employees in Tanzania is classified as a rich employees in Tanzania or elsewhere. The relative poverty measure the degree level of poverty. In a general sense, relative poverty depict the condition which people

are deprived in the community such as; deprived opportunities, comforts and self-respect regarded as normal to where they belong.

We can conclude that poor families in Africa characterized with the features of Absolute poverty who experience the hardship condition in their daily, for example famine and hunger, poor health services, lack of safe water and poor housing.

II. INDICATORS OF POOR FAMILIES IN AFRICA

A. Health Poverty

One among the best indicator of population well – being is health status. An improved health status indicates the decline of mortality and rise life expectancy in the population. Analysts could focus on the nutritional status of children as a measure of outcome as well as the incidence of specific diseases (diarrhea, malaria, respiratory diseases) or life expectancy for different groups within the population. For instance in Tanzania the rate of children who face the eruption diseases like cholera is high and other African countries like Malawi the level of health and nutritional is poor. If data on such health outcomes are unavailable, input proxies could be used, such as the number of visits an individual makes to hospitals and health centers, access to specific medical services (such as pre- and postnatal care), or the extent to which children receive vaccinations in time as an input for their future health status. The following are the part of WHO report of health and nutritional poverty in Africa.

According to Dr. Felicitas Zawaira, Director of WHO-AFRO's Family and Reproductive Health, Malnutrition,

beyond its obvious physical and development impacts also harms economic growth: worldwide, between 3 to 16 percent of GDP is lost annually due to stunting alone. Wasting, or low-weight compared to the height of a child, is a strong predictor of mortality among children under five. The Report finds that many countries in the African region still have wasting rates above the target of 5 percent or below, and persistent famine, flooding, and civil crises in some countries pose enduring challenges to meeting the target. Only 17 countries have so-called "acceptable" levels of wasting, below 5 percent, while 19 have poor prevalence (5 to 9 percent). Six countries have rates between 10 to 14 percent, representing a serious public health emergency, and three countries exceed the 15 percent critical public health emergency threshold (Eritrea 15.3 percent, Niger 18.7 percent, and South Sudan 22.7 percent). Also after the report the following are indicators of health and nutrition poverty are:-

B. Raise of Malnutrition Diseases

In poor families, children face diseases caused by lack of balance diet. Many malnutrition diseases caused by eating one type of food that produce once nutrients. Mostly in poor family eat starch food like ugali, rice only without mixing of other important nutrients like protein, vitamin, iron and others. Inadequate balance diet creates health related problems such as; goiter stunted and blood pressure. Globally millions and millions of people are suffering from malnutrition, although life style, environmental, occupation and cultural practice dictate the type of malnutrition. Generally under consumption of calories are found to poor, while overconsumptions of calories are found to rich people.



Fig 1:- The picture that show children who affected by malnutrition diseases in poor family in Africa

C. Education Poverty

In the field of education, one could use the level of literacy as the defining characteristic and some level judged to represent the threshold for illiteracy as the poverty line. Lack education opportunity led to the increase

number of children in a families because people starting early the marriage due to be idol. For example the so students who graduated with us in 2010 have three children but all students pass and now proceed with university level they don't have child. In families where

literacy is nearly universal, one might opt for specific test scores in schools as the relevant outcome indicator to distinguish among different population groups. Another alternative would be to compare the number of years of education completed to the expected number of years that, in principle, should be completed. The trend of getting education to the children from poor families were reduced, there is no proportional relationship between educated children in different levels;

➤ *Primary school in Tanzania*

Due to the trend of complete primary level in Tanzania children from poor family have low in completing primary school. Because parents did not allow their children to go in school so, but for some extent now parents allow their children whist there is low influence of parent because they use children as labor force in different activities. For example cultivation and find pasture for animal.



Fig 2:- (This is pictures that show the situations that used to get education to the poor children in Africa especially Developing countries like Tanzania, Togo, Zambia.)

An alternative to using a single dimension of poverty could be to combine the information on different aspects of poverty. One possibility is to create a measure that takes into account income, health, assets, and education. It is also possible that information on income is unavailable though other dimensions are covered. It is important to note that a major limitation of composite indexes is the difficulty of defining a poverty line. Analysis by quintile or other percentile remains possible, however, and offers important insights into the profile of poverty.

III. FACTORS FOR POOR FAMILIES TO HAVE MANY CHILDREN IN AFRICA

A. *Early marriage and gender roles*

Early marriage has wide concept as explained by the different people as follows as the marriage of fewer than 18 year old. Where by a girl get marriage before reaching the

appropriate time of being married. Example she dropped from school so finally failed to continue with schooling.

In some countries, a woman's role is expected to be as a wife and mother. This may often mean she gets married younger and begins having many children at lower time. In this case led to the misinterpretation of ideas in the society because in another way a woman can contribute to the development of the country or societies, actually a woman can work and finally may earn something's such money in term of revenue or can earn something in order to fulfill their demands in their families so a woman can play great role in facilitating the development of the country even the society. In developing countries, there is a tendency of a girls be married before age 18. Married girls are often under pressure to become pregnant as soon as possible. This typically means an end to a girl's education, which can limit her life choices and help perpetuate the cycle of poverty.



Fig 3

B. High child mortality rates

Child mortality rates in the developing world are so high, parents may intentionally have large families because the grim reality is that sometimes children don't survive. In Burkina Faso, a shocking 8.5 per cent of children will die before reaching their fifth birthday; in Haiti, it's 6.7 per cent. For comparison, in Australia, not only Burkina Faso but many countries in Africa are faced with this problems and this is due to shortage of food , because the kind of crops which is cultivated did not march with their needs and they still becoming dependent to be assisted with other

countries also many children died due to the natural calamities which occurred in their home counties such as Somalia North Sudan and democratic republic of Congo the rate of children born are high in order to compensate the child who died due to these problems and also high mortality rate in African are resulted with poverty many families in Africa fail meet a basic needs such food, shelter, and clothes which made child to have unhealthy hence lead to death. Therefore many families in Africa have many children for the major purpose of compassion.

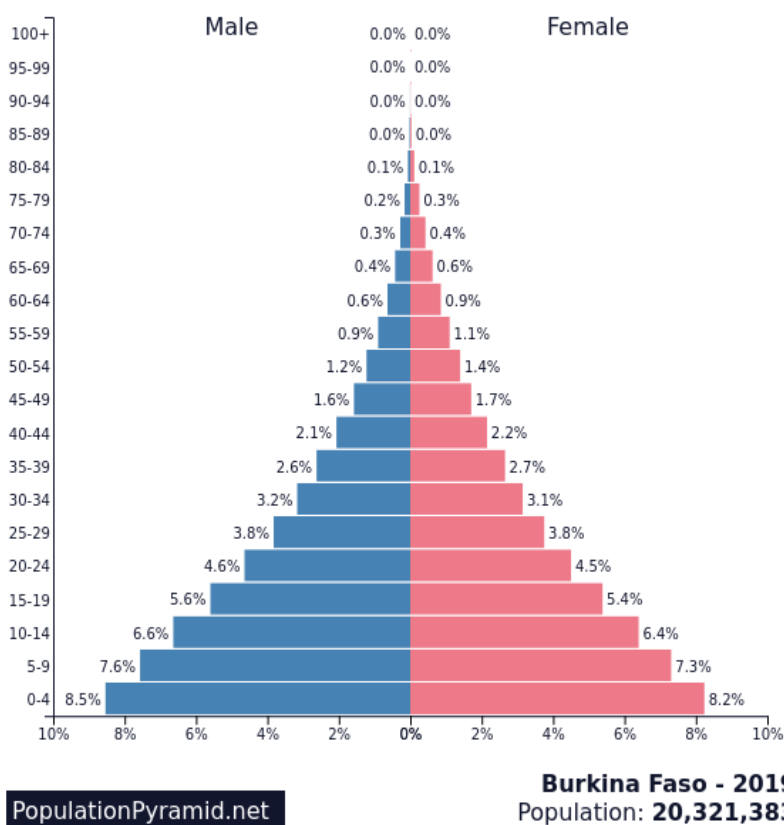


Fig 4

C. Limited access to education

There no direct links of education, GDP and low fertility, but development lower the fertility unintentionally. One-third of people in Burkina Faso are is literacy but it is among the poorest in the world. Averagely TFR lies between five and six children per women while Australia TFR stand at 1.77 per women while 99 percent literacy. Here, the average number of kids a mum has is between five and six. In Australia, where the literacy rate is 99 per cent, the average couple has 1.77 children. Women with some formal education are more likely than uneducated women to use contraception, late marriages, and ultimately fewer children.

There are a few reasons why education is connected to a lower birth rate: Increasing girls' participation in school over time also decreases fertility rates. An educated woman is likely to marry at a later age and have fewer children. A study in Muslim University of Morogoro found that for each additional year a young woman spent in university, the age at which she had her first child was delayed approximately six to 10 months. Educating girls also helps women control how many children they have. UNESCO estimates 60 per cent fewer teenage girls in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia would become pregnant if they all had a secondary education.

D. Religion

Religion beliefs may mean families chosen not use contraceptives. Social normal and religions tradition means

family planning services aren't available to many communities. Affordable options for accessing contraception and health care for remote or rural community are in short supply. A couple's family size in their own personal decision and our local staff would never seek to denigrate it. As part of our moms and babies critical intervention in local staff share family planning methods in a culturally appropriate way so parents can make informed decision.

E. Cares for Elders

In some developing countries, the government doesn't provide a pension or social security benefits. So parents must rely on their children to care for them in their old age. Couples may choose to have large families to ensure they are supported when they are older. Poverty influence more the number of children to be increased because people they do not have money to care their children. In order to get care in all aspects of life such as socially, politically and economically, hence large number of children in developing countries like Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi. From this point of views influence the prestige of couples who have large number of children and it contrary to the couples who did not have child, become as inferior in the community and this situation become as the root causes of family conflict among couples. This problem rise especially 99% in rural areas and also to be a cause of separate of family in our community.



Fig 5

F. *Need for extra labor*

More than 70 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas, with most families depending on labor-intensive agriculture to survive. In these communities, there can be a cultural expectation to have big families to combat their need for extra labor. Usually, farmers who live off their harvest can't afford to pay extra laborers and can only depend on themselves and their children. For them, a large family might be the only assurance for survival.

IV. SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM

➤ *Woman Empowerment*

It has been confirmed that around developing world mother tend to spend a significantly higher fraction of the benefit of their children that Father do. Due to that lead many family in Africa who have many children to become poor because woman is one who woman is responsible for child development and transmit value to the next generation to make the biggest impact on development rather than father, therefore in order to reduce this malady woman should be given an assistant such as giving them method family planning so as to have less children which can be able to handle and manage them hence poverty should be eliminated in such way also to take action for those men who is not responsible for their kids .also to establish woman organization so as woman can join and gain important ideal and several strategies for development and to determine their rights so as they can stand and defend themselves in all aspects of life in economically, socially, and politically.

➤ *Government support by doing research for those who affected and delegate policy action.*

By making a research they can understand the problem better for example Good policy asserted around developed world such as China policy of one child per family enable them to handle population hence eliminate poverty. To handle the issue of child poverty, the World Bank and UNICEF are jointly researching on the number of children deprived and location they are globally. And determined that the best way for reducing such problem is to assess in education, health and sanitation and this information will be useful for government and all partner working too hard improve the lives of some of the poorest children and families on the planet. Therefore those Africa governments could employment good policy like developed world in order to reduce the womb of poverty by making a research.

Pension provision to elder, it has been confirmed that most families have cultural expedition to enlarge to engage needs of extra people to work to earn living. China pension scheme to some extent ,have proved a safety net to retirees, which is likely to improve the life satisfaction across countries and time spans [20,21,22,23,24,]has been found to like determinant of the cross-country variation in the relationship between life satisfaction and retirement[25,25].Generally, pension scheme tend to have a positive effect on the life satisfaction of the elderly. Therefore in African the governments should establish

pension fo elder in order to reduce the womb of many children like an assistant later.

V. CONCLUSION

Therefore large families in the third world countries occurred due to number of factors that has been mention above like the issue of religion, limited access to education and contraceptive ways which lead to large number of families. The high population may positively impact to the country, if the government provides good health care and other services. This large number of people will serve families through provide labour power to the society and in the government they will participate through paying of taxes which in turn will increase government revenue. So the government should provide all social, economic and political needs to the majority of African in order to serve their life.

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