

THE BEST TEN SCHOOL ESSAYS

FOR

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY
REVIEW PROJECT**

2000/2001



*Botswana
Institute for
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Best Ten School Essays for Rural
Botswana Institute for Development Policy
Book 307.1412 BES

School Essays

The following ten school essays were winners in the school essay competition. The competition was judged jointly by BIDPA and SIAPAC. There were ten cash prizes, P300 for first prize, P200 for second prize, P150 for third prize, and P100 for prizes 4-10.

The eleven winning essays are included below, without any editing of content. First prize was an outstanding effort by Obakeng Modiakgotla of Maun Secondary School. The remaining prize winners were as follows:

- Second prize - Tebogo Moseki, Matshekge Hill Senior Secondary School
- Third prize - Onkabetse Gareanna, Patikwane Community Junior Secondary School
- Four-Ten:
 - Onthatile Kesolofetse, Matshekge Hill Senior Secondary School
 - Joseph Monametsi, Bakgatle Community Junior Secondary School
 - One Kapaletswe, Matshekge Hill Senior Secondary School
 - Onalethata Diloru, Kgatladi Community Junior Secondary School
 - Tshireletso Baloi, Bakgatle Community Junior Secondary School
 - Botlhale Ntsimane, Bakgatle Community Junior Secondary School
 - Masego Ramatokwane, Dithejwane Community Junior Secondary School

1st Prize

Name : Obakeng Modiakgotla

School : Maun Secondary School Form 5J

Place : Maun

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN BOTSWANA

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN BOTSWANA

Poverty, which is becoming increasingly rampant in Botswana, is defined as the line between living and mere existence, a situation whereby a family is officially recognized, by the powers that be, as being unable to fend for itself. Poverty can also be defined as a socio-economic factor experienced by those whose income falls below a poverty datum line decided by the country in question and is becoming increasingly critical within rural sections of the country. Multiple factors contribute to its severity upon rural life. Lack of knowledge and a poorly developed infrastructure, contribute to a lack of enhancement for inhabitants. These factors, when linked to the reluctance on the part of big business, to invest in community development have a devastating effect.

Poverty in rural areas also has a serious effect on the country as a whole. Social services in both urban and semi-urban centers are severely strained by the demands put on them by individuals that migrate from rural areas. A poor educational background and overstretched health facility in rural areas tends to encourage migration to urban areas in search of financial stability and a better lifestyle. These conditions are compounded even further when already poverty stricken areas are stricken with other natural disasters such as drought and floods. Other contributing factors are that family sizes are disproportionate to the finances that are available which leads to dependency by large non-working members on the working few. Other underlying causes such as discrimination against certain tribes (Bakalaka, Baye and Basarwa), unequal access to technology, high population growth and the dependency of Botswana on one single commodity, all have an effect on the poverty datum line. There is no doubt that the HIV epidemic will also seriously effect the efforts of the Government to eradicate poverty as even more demands will be made on the social services.

With poverty manifesting itself in many forms in accordance with the lifestyles of a given area it is often difficult to identify and evaluate measures and methodologies to use to combat it. One highly effective method would be to encourage members of particular communities to assist themselves in order to escape their precarious situations. This may prove to be easier said than done as it is now wildly believed that the problem with Botswana is not necessarily one of mediocre facilities and services but rather with their actual culture. There may well be an element of truth in this belief but I feel that by allocating financial services around affected areas and also by providing an economic infrastructure then people would be encouraged to use them. It is my perception that once these services are in place then individuals will begin to save thereby building up their working capital which in turn will enhance their future choices. In addition long term investment should be encouraged to ensure continuing benefits. One such aspect would be to reduce the high drop out rate of children who are forced to leave

school early in order to help their parents. If this temptation could be resisted then children could remain at school, graduate and then move into high income employment and start earning enough money to support the family.

It would be highly advantageous if individuals refrained from having excessively large families as it would reduce the economic pressure imposed on them by their progeny and the extended family. The spirit of entrepreneurship should drive them into the new millennium and less dependency on government based schemes such as SMME, the now defunct FAP and other venture capital portfolios established by the state. Instead of searching unsuccessfully for employment, groups of people could form their own associations or companies in other business sectors such as tourism and commercial farming. A good example of such an approach can be seen in the people that live in the shanty shacks of Soweto who have, over the last few years, opened their town up for tourism. Foreigners are now encouraged to visit the township in order to understand the historical significance of the area. This is a clear example of a determined people making good out of a bad situation and I strongly believe that this is the type of enterprise that poverty-stricken areas can harness and implement in order to provide for themselves.

Governments are a politically elected body instilled with the responsibilities of looking after land, the people and the finance of a nation. Though the responsibilities of this body have far reaching implications I believe, at the end of the day, it is the responsibility of the populous of a particular country to provide for themselves with minimum assistance from the elected body. Though perverse, I believe that the government has done all that is humanely possible to achieve this especially in terms of 'free' basic education for anyone who wishes to take part. In addition the government greatly helps those in a low income bracket by providing them with basic services such as water, roads and healthcare. Such services contribute greatly to the reduction of perpetual poverty. The main criticism that can be leveled at government is that there are many instances when its actions, aimed at helping poverty stricken families, have been open to question. The 'financial muscle' of government has, in the past, been known to have favoured relatively well off individuals and not the poor as was originally envisaged. Once this low-end corruption is terminated I believe that the services that could be rendered by the state would greatly improve the lives of all groups both morally and financially.

Although the primary goal of private enterprise is to maximize profit the moral and ethical issues should also be addressed. Big businesses should attempt to play a positive role in the alleviation of poverty by making access to 'high end' technology easier and at a lower cost than the normal commercial rate. Donations in terms of raw material and monetary units would be an ideal beginning as this would help families not only to escape from poverty but also encourage them to help themselves.

Attitudes of all interested parties should be altered and focused on the core problems. Only after this has occurred can we expect the concept of a poverty datum to become a symbol of the bitter past and therefore be able to look forward to a brighter future for all concerned.

2nd Prize

Name : Tebogo Moseki
School : Matshekge Hill Senior School
Place : Bobonong

HOW POVERTY PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED IN RURAL - AREAS?

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS ARE SOLVED?

Poverty is a phenomenon that brings about hunger, distress and beggary due to deficiency of necessities of everyday life. It is mostly ascending in rural areas as compared to urban areas and for a number of years poverty has proved remarkably intractable. Though difficult to solve, the people, government and probably the business community ought to strive hard in order to overcome it hence paving a way for the emergence of a productive, prosperous and prominent Batswana.

The main elements of poverty range from political, social to economic dimensions as they include shortage of proper roads, housing and shelter, food, water and electricity. To solve poverty hardships, people ought to first and foremost eradicate their poor rigid attitudes - that is their unease to accept new innovations and or changes that emerge in this societies as forms of new developments. If this attitude is terminated then developments shall be rapid and hence poverty being reduced.

Furthermore, over-dependency on the government should be minimised for people should realise that the future does not lie entirely on the hands of the government, for example, instead of demanding or seeking employment from the government people can set up primary industries such as backyard industries that make full utilisation of the locally found materials (basketry and manufacturing of clay pots for example). In this way self-employment as well as rural market are improved and incomes are created hence poverty problems shut down.

Moreover rural to urban migration (urban - drifts) must be minimised. People need to be courageous enough to fight hard against hardships and penury. They should not run away from their problems in rural areas for they are meant to be solved, for example, most people in rural areas tend to neglect Agriculture and spare it for the unable-bodied/old who can never be productive, then run away to urban areas. This is an absolute ignorant behaviour and must be guarded against if poverty has to be overcome. People in rural areas have to acknowledge the fact that not everyone can work in an office and that outdoor jobs - like farming are also worthwhile.

Also as a way of solving poverty problems such as insolvency, people need to come together and work in collaboration. They should contribute small fees and form co-operatives that help members with money during hardships. These co-operatives should furthermore go around asking for donations and possibly sponsors, from different financial organisations such as the private companies. This will show a spirit of unity as emphasised in the book entitled "long term vision for Botswana, 2016" page 2 that "The developments of Botswana are all based

mainly upon the principle of unity". It should be the responsibility of every Motswana in rural areas to participate in this co-operatives for as long as he/she wants to get rid of poverty and this is also further emphasised by the book "Vision of Botswana," page 63 that "Botswana should be active participants in all elements of development not passive beneficiaries of additional services infrastructure and improved quality of life".

Besides people themselves, the government also has a major role to play as far as solving of poverty problems is concerned. Policies and Programmes such as Financial Assistance Policy (FAP) and Small Livestock Owner in Communal Areas (SLOCA) should be reviewed and at least be modified at their weakest structures. SLOCA will be useful, as it would assist small herd owners in rural areas by providing them with infrastructures such as boreholes, dip tanks and reservoirs. FAP will also be useful, as it will fund people so that they establish small/medium enterprises, which are certainly vital components of strategy to achieve full employment and self-sufficiency.

Ploughing subsidy schemes should also be established. Here poor people should be assisted with draught power, given small sums to buy in puts such as fertilisers and viable seeds to overcome the problem of infertile soils which is also a major contributory factor of poverty. Moreover poor and illiterate people should be lecture on better modernised farming methods that will help them produce high yields leading to incomes from sales of surplus.

There should also be a nation water and electricity strategy that makes sure that these resources are made affordable and accessible to all people in rural/remote areas. The government also needs to equip people in rural areas with training and skills so that they too can take up opportunities offered by foreign investors (job opportunities). In this way poverty would be reduced, as rural dwellers also would have regular incomes. Moreover, further measures must be taken to insure that corruption is reduced especially by government officials so that people in rural areas are also catered in the national cake.

Perhaps the business community also ought to take part in rural development to reduce poverty. Businessmen and women should form dedicated charity societies that generally take care of the destitutes. These charity societies should offer a wide range of everyday basic needs like food and clothing. Furthermore, business people should come together and see to it that better shelter is provided to the poor. They may formulate co-operatives that build few houses for the poor every year, if possible. In this way poverty will be reduced slowly but showily.

So, the basis for poverty reduction in the long run must be continued existence of the main pillars of the Botswana Society. Peace democracy and prudent financial and economic democracy and prudent financial and economic management. These are necessary conditions for economic expansion and employment creation.

3rd Prize

Name : Onkabetse Gareanna

School : Patikwane Community Junior Secondary School

Age : 15 Years Old

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS RURAL AREAS CAN BE SOLVED?

ESSAY

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED?

Poverty in Botswana has been increasing since the day the country got its independence. In rural areas, people are dying of hunger and some children are failing to have proper education since their parents are unable to pay for their school fees and buy them school uniform. Some of the families are under pressure of this poverty because of floods, which swept away their homesteads. Although the government is trying hard to help these people, the help is still not sufficient and does not solve this problem of poverty.

As the citizen of Botswana I understood that the government had been trying hard to solve this problems, even though the poverty is still increasing at an alarming rate. From my opinion, I think that the government can try other ways in which they can help poor people. The government should provide physical infrastructure to facilitate agricultural development in rural areas. It should support agricultural research to develop new technologies in rural areas so that rural people could work for themselves, grow vegetables and sell them to help themselves.

The government should develop water resources for irrigation through construction of dams and channels so that people can water their plants well and not rely on rainfall. Also by doing this, people could get jobs in construction of dams. These can help people earn money and help their families with their needs. The government should build roads so that rural people could have a better way to sell their products in some towns where many people do not practice agriculture, thereby providing goods purchase.

It might be a good idea to have the Ministry of Agriculture involved in this process. So it might be a good more by the government to identify rural with a good potential for horticulture irrigated agriculture, poultry and dairy. There is a lack of access to markets in rural areas. This is due to food chain stores buying dumped food and produce from outside the country under the rule that the small farmers do not have capacity to meet their demands. The draught relief scheme most of the time is implemented during the dry years when we are hundred percent sure that farmer will not harvest anything. So we have to see how much can these people produce if assisted during way years.

If the government can be able to do this, rural people should work and sweat to help themselves. They should starting practising better rearing of livestock and grow crops to help solve the problems of poverty in their villages by selling crops and livestock to the Botswana Meat Commissions and buy needed materials to supply poor people like blankets and food.

People in the village should build committees, which are based on the development of the villages, and poor people like the health committee to find whether poor people live in a good environment. This is because poor people are weak and vulnerable so they need special care, love and support so that they can feel that they are part of the society. The Setswana proverb says, "a weak cow can even raise itself" so also those poor people should try by all means to be involved in projects.

People should also form committees in rural areas, which raise funds by selling the products that are produced in projects. They should hire people to sell this and sell some of their animals to the Botswana Meat Commission and sometimes offer loans from the government to provide people with materials they need. These projects can also help people get money and develop the village. The Village Development Committees should be active talk to their Councillors about the poverty that is destroying our lives. By doing all this poverty in rural could be solved.

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : Onthatile Kesolofetse
School : Matshekge Hill Senior School
Place : Bobonong

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED?

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED?

Poverty as a unique sociological phenomenon has proven to be a daily-light spectre, which exist among the remote area dwellers. Its defined as a state of being without good or money, poverty has prevailed more especially among rural areas and seems to browbeat the brotherly coexistence of mankind. It therefore lies upon each and every affected party, regardless of whether directly or indirectly affected, to pull up their socks and entrench ways of eradicating poverty.

The first way through fighting poverty lies with the directly and mostly affected party that is the poverty-stricken community itself. Even though such affected seem not to be affected physically and psychologically only, but the effect persist up to an extent of making them loose and therefore have limited ambitions, that should not be the case. Learning to accept the facts of life and take them the way they come, is one major step of tackling a problem. The poor have to first of all accept and understand their status and know that they are still human beings so that they can develop the urge to achieve being non-poor and seize the opportunity that are available like every other person.

Such opportunities include education and training, which are the basics for civilisation and opening up people's minds and exposing them to the outside world. If the poor could develop within themselves, the desire of learning, then through that they will acquire skills and technology and therefore demolish the poverty wall. Through education the poor can develop a sense of productivity and in the factors eradicate poverty.

There are also some government programmes, which mostly assist the community financially, to establish their businesses. This therefore lies with the poor to do their utmost, to utilise these government policies efficiently and effectively. The poor could also as an important alternative, come together as a group, the way Batswana have been doing, for example with the "letsema", and form self-help organisations. Through such organisation, the poor could link with some churches, non-governmental organisation to source financial and technical assistance. Through such organisations, the poverty-stricken communities may get an access of educating the young generation on values and the need to work and to always remember their roots. These might help the poor, to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and throw aside the poverty culture and become enterprising and full of initiative like their middle class mentors. In such situations the poor should erase the negative attitude of viewing employment by a black person being slavery as it is usually the case, and face facts positively for a positive response.

Not implying that culture should be abandoned, but the poor also have to practice liberation and put aside their backward looking attitude of, "we have always done it this way" to adjust to the modern ways of living. Through determinations, discipline and dedication, the poor will proceed for a better lifestyle. Even from the biblical point of view, it is known that, "by the sweat of ye know shall ye get bread to eat!"

Money makes the world go around most of the weapons of eradicating poverty fully depend on the money talk. The poor needs a very stable financial back up. This is where now the government fits. The government should start by raising the educational standards as education has surfaced as one key to unlock the doors to a non-poverty community. The government need to educate the poor, foster ambition, motivation and initiative training. As once stated by Julius Nyerere that, "Education gives in our schools must be a complete education itself. It must not continue to be simply a preparation for secondary school. Instead of the primary school activities being geared to the competitive examination, they must be a preparation for life, which the majority of children will lead. They must prepare people for life and service in the villages and rural areas of this country." This is very true in the sense that, the government should have a long-term vision for the future. It should not only be concerned with the situation at present but rather focus on the future too.

It is then after education that the government can advance policies to cope with poverty. Direct aid should be made in the form of government warrants (G.P.O's) not cash payment to ensure that the assistance goes to where it is really meant to go. Situations of betrayal, cheating and bribery will be avoided. Through these aids, the poor will be empowered and this will boost up their interests and spray them with confidence. The government should implement prudent financial and monetary policies and liberalise current accounts.

The government should continue with its various endeavours to alleviate the plight of the less fortunate and increase job opportunity by giving a hand at refining and processing industries rather than extracting and cultivation only. The government should view that work is not a privilege but rather a right that it should grant to its people. This attitude will serve as a reminder for the government that employment is needed.

It has to be the government's responsibility that the programmes established are realistically and comprehensively prepared and are properly implemented by the bodies concerned. Well-developed and systematically administered welfare programmes in conjunction with government policies will actively assist in keeping down unemployment.

As also an approach to overcome poverty, Agricultural and industrial policies should be administered to give the poor a kick up their collective backside, to demonstrate what could be were they to grasp the opportunity, to give them a nudge forward so that they might eventually progress under their steam. To tackle the poverty culture as quickly as possible, foreign exports, accompanied by sophisticated technology should be introduced even though it will be on temporary basis. Foreign experts usually have a long-term job experience and therefore are capable of educating and sharing their experiences with the poor. During the whole process, co-ordination should be noted down if confusion and duplication are to be avoided.

The government should as well cater for rural development to halt rural-urban migration, which also plays a role to poverty. The reason why poverty seems to persist alongside development is largely because the country is developed for people in big cities and towns only. If the government should try to balance the distributions of resources by establishing effective health services, sufficient water, communication facilities, education and some small-scale industries, then the problem of rural-urban migration can be sorted out. The government should post highly specialised people such as veterinary surgeons and fosters who are highly motivated, initiative and may assist in the development of the area.

The private sector a business community also should have a role to play in the eradication of poverty. They can assist in the upgrading of schools and help in equipping of such educational institutions like donating computers, furniture, stationery and other electronic equipment such as the duplicating machines.

The business community may also come together and sponsor some projects, which are intended to uplift the rural areas. They can also put up community halls for functions such as the village development committee meetings, women organisations meetings in which women can share ideas and advice each other. Men organisations are also included in such functions. As also an alternative of eradicating poverty, the business sector could train the community in various skills by employing them in their businesses as an element of goodwill.

Through all this, poverty can be eradicated within a blink of an eye and hence providing a room for sustainable development and creating a self-reliant society for peaceful and prosperous hires of Batswana

REFERENCES

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Good News Bible - "Today 'n English Version" 1999,

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : One Kapaletswe

School : Matshekge Hill Senior School

Place : Bobonong

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS CAN BE SOLVED?

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED?

Poverty is all that can be seen in rural areas of Botswana, as it seems the developments are biased towards urban areas. As a developing country most of our population is in rural areas so a good sign of development must show the betterment of lives of the majority.

It would be an exaggeration just to blame the government. Rural dwellers tend to hinder themselves developments mainly because of their traditions. Some of their cultural beliefs hamper development, for example tribalism. They undermine their fellows whereas they can only achieve their goals through teamwork. They have the so called major and minor tribes and the major tribes would not want to work with the minors through the best thing is to co-operate, work together and speak with one big voice when asking for aids from both government and non government organisations.

Furthermore people in rural areas have to stand up and work hard so that they can be recognised. For a instance, doing some voluntary work or projects which can grab the national and international attention. Things like making tourist attraction places on their historical sites, tourism as one of the main foreign exchange earners for Botswana will benefit them a lot. There is an old expression that says, "The mostly helped are those who help themselves". By so doing the government will notice their existence, and services and infrastructures shall be channelled to their places to make them receive more.

Since our government had tried much to improve Agricultural life, people must adapt to those quickly because they can bring very high yields. Improvements like the introduction

of row planting, rotational planting and placing agricultural demonstrates in most rural areas. In addition to that, because the cost of living is going up, rural dwellers must form farmers co-operatives and collective farming. This is where by a group of people own resources together or join their land together and work it as one large farm, respectively. Moreover the rural dwellers must understand the importance of formal education; that is the learning that takes place in schools and institutions. Research had shown that an illiterate person is likely to be poor, unemployed and hungry. So with education, really there is no room for poverty!

It is normal for a country to have both rural and urban areas and it is very important for that country to distribute it's resources equally and fairly among them. One may find that every time investors come to our country, are taken to urban areas, which is not fair at all. At least for the purpose of market they must be taken to neighbouring rural areas. Moreover our government must provide vital amenities such as health, education and employment opportunity to rural areas so that rural-urban migration can be reduced. Rural-urban

migration hinders developers and invites poverty because the young, being the most productive society go to urban areas in search of those' leaving the old and the young who cannot do anything productive.

In addition to that our government must follow through it's financial aid programmes. During the times of Financial Assistance Policy most projects failed because of inadequate monitoring so with the new scheme that replaces FAP it must see into it that problems like those are addressed. Furthermore the education system of our country is too academic, it does not prepare one for the field of work immediately after secondary education, which means it just caters for a few who can excel. So our government must review it and include things like technical, agricultural and commercial training to encourage self-employment, which will chase away poverty. This was even supported by former Tanzanian Prime Minister when his government was trying to deal with poverty when he said, "The education given in our schools must be a complete education in itself." [South of Sahara pg/ 257 by Robert Stock]. Moreover our government must deal with the natural disasters quickly in rural areas. Things like floods and droughts are a key to poverty if not attended to quickly. They leave people homeless, no food and even clothing.

The business community has a very big social responsibility, because they rely on the community for a living [customer] so they should help the helpless in return. Efforts like volunteering to build houses for the destitutes are really worth doing. They must also offer sponsorships to train people in various skills as an element of goodwill and even sponsor the elders to do their projects so that they can earn a living. Moreover helping in the upgrading of schools will be great benefit to rural dwellers, as it would make them feel equal with those students in urban areas. Introduction of computers electronic equipment and building more classrooms shall be a real blessing.

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : Joseph Monametsi

Form : 3B

School : Bakgatle Community Junior Secondary School

Title : , **Poverty**

THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE COULD DO TO HELP THEMSELVES AGAINST

POVERTY

FORMATION OF FARMERS COOPERATIVES

This is whereby farmers come together to share ideas to achieve a specific goal e.g. to maximise profit through production.

MODERNISATION FARMING

People who are not working should be encouraged to practice commercial farming as of course subsistence farming. The money they get from selling their produce will help them in various ways and thus will improve their standard of living. Farmers should be included or should have access to credit scheme that can be used to finance their farming business.

LAND REFORMS

This involves redistribution of land so that everybody has equal access to it. This will help landless people to have piece of land to utilise for use.

RURAL INDUSTRIES

Set up industries in rural area can help in minimising the high rate of unemployment. People will be able to work in the industries to earn money and will be in a position to improve the standard of living.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

By providing clean water to rural areas will assist in development. People who are poor can be assisted by means of constructing small dams to provide water to themselves.

THIS IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO TO HELP THEM

SOCIAL SERVICE

Medical facilities such as clinic (children are normally given food e.g. Tsabana without compensation of money) and hospital should be provided to assist in rural development. These facilities will help in programmes. Provision on good infrastructure such as tarred road and telecommunication facilities essential.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

The government should assist people in rural areas by providing financial assistance to them who intend to start small scale of business project. It encourages people to establish their small business. People contribute certain amount of money before they are given a whole amount to start the business. Business covered by this police ranges from small bakery, craft, bricks moulding and other small project.

ALDEP

This programme aims at providing service to farmer to improve farming. It also assists farmers with materials such as fencing materials, ploughs, planter and seeds.

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

It aims at improving all aspects or areas of rural economy, provision of social services such as clinics and hospitals to raise the standard of living in rural areas.

THIS IS WHAT BUSINESS COMMUNITY COULD DO TO HELP THE POOR

CO-OPERATIVE

Formed by number of people with common economic need to run a business or market their products. Management committees that are democratically nominated that is to say people are voted usually runs them on a one man one vote basis.

PARTNERSHIP

This is a relationship that exists between two or more people who have come together to do a common business with the aim of making profit. In this case more than one-person make decisions on how the business should operate.

COMMUNITIES CELEBRATIONS SUCH AS MUSIC, FESTIVAL

People who are talented in music normally make festivals to raise money for the poor so that they can improve the standard of living.

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : Onalethata Diloru

School : Kgatladimo Community Junior Secondary School

HOW POVERTY PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED IN RURAL AREAS

HOW POVERTY PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED IN RURAL AREAS

Poverty, a serious state of being poor is a problem faced by most people. People in rural areas, as a problem it has to be dealt with or solved, also face poverty.

People in rural areas are sometimes poor because of lack of occupation of which one may work so that at the end of the day money is been earned and used to overcome the problem of poverty.

To prevent the increase on poverty, teenagers, especially girls should try by all means of prevent teenage pregnancies. Teenage pregnancy shutters the future of a teenager such that, when she is grown up and supposed to be independent, she has nothing for herself and ends up being poor thus making it difficult for the problem of poverty to be solved.

As seeds are given free of charge, those attacked by poverty should see to it that they possess land so that they can harvest and have something to eat or even store some if the harvest was successful. If the harvest was a good one they can also sell. At times, people may have problems with their lands, but the Agricultural demonstrators are always there in rural areas to help and advice on management of the field.

Ploughing may not be an easy thing to the poor as several things like tractors, cattle and ploughs are needed. Government strategies such as Financial Assistance Policy should help the poor plough so that poverty in rural areas can be solved.

The government also should try to develop the rural areas. Building shops and other businesses at which people in rural areas can be employed and earn money for a living.

As most of the poor are not educated, at least some can be employed as cleaners if factories are constructed in rural areas. As a result of construction of factories in rural area, most educated people may come as managers and as such, they may need housemaids. So the government should advice those who need housemaids to hire the poor so that they can overcome poverty.

People in rural areas should also take part in village development activities by drought relief as arranged by the government. By taking part, money is earned and people can as well overcome poverty.

The government should also introduce such government policies as Financial Assistance Policy and encourage people in rural areas to start small businesses as they could be given loans by the responsible policies. By starting businesses, employment opportunities would be open as some may need help and so they will have to employ others. People should not use their loans on domestic purpose, as this will be a draw back on solving the problem of poverty.

The community should also take part on solving the problem of poverty. During the season of successful harvest, people should take food to the Kgotla for storage and as well give to those who do have lands but needy or those whose harvest has not been successful.

Mafisa is also a way of solving the poverty problem, which the community can do, to help. Those who feel pity for the poor will give them cattle to look after, of which one may use for ploughing. The cattle may also be milked so as to drink. After several years, the owner may take those cows back and he will thank that person by giving him a cow. This will help that person overcome the poverty that he is going through.

So the people in rural areas should encourage each other fight poverty so that the problem can be solved.

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : Tshireletso Baloi

School : Bakgatle Community Junior Secondary School

Class : Form 2B

Title : Poverty in Botswana

POVERTY

Poverty is the condition of being without adequate food and money. Poverty can happen as a result of unemployment, natural disasters and diseases.

Also lack of Education may cause poverty because when young children grow up without being educated they will not find decent employment, which will improve their standard of living. Natural disasters such as floods and drought can cause poverty. Floods destroy crops there will be no produce from the fields.

Poverty brings certain effects to humans. These may be lack of food, lack of clothing, lack of shelter and high crime rates. Since drought leads to no produce in the fields, obviously there will be no food because most of Botswana rely on farming. And because floods destroy property, people will be left homeless without shelter. High crime rates will result because of lack of food, as people will be starving they will look for ways to get food. And the only way they find suitable may be stealing hence crime rates will increase.

The results of poverty may also be drug abuse, prostitution, teenage pregnancy, delinquency, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. People will end up abusing drugs in order to reduce stress. And youths will fall into prostitution so that they can get money to buy food and get shelter for themselves and their families. Teenage pregnancy can occur if there is lack of Education. Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS will occur as a result of prostitution. Botswana is currently the hardest hit country in the world.

People can eradicate poverty by providing education to youths, drought relief, and small-scale business and by farming. By farming in order to deal with poverty people will have to practice both subsistence and commercial farming. Small-scale businesses will also help to eradicate poverty because the little profit one gets can be used to buy food. Providing Education to youths can eradicate poverty because they will find good and suitable employments.

People can also overcome poverty by using natural resources for economic gain and by the economic harvesting of Phane. Thusano Lefatsheng produces Sengaparile for medicine, Mosukudu and Mosukujane as stimulants. By doing this, they are using natural resources for economic gain, and they play an important role to eradicate poverty. There is also the UB phane project, which covers the economic harvesting of phane mentioned.

The government must build dams for irrigation of crops to reduce the rate of which poverty has attacked. The irrigation of crops will increase yield and there will not be lack of food. The government must do what is called citizen empowerment, which means increasing the number of Batswana in high positions at both public and private sectors.

Business people should give back to the community by supplying people with clothes and food. By doing this, they will be avoiding people to be in lack of clothing and lack of food. They will be helping very much to get rid of this terrible problem, poverty.

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : Botlhale Ntsimane

School : Bakgatle Community Junior Secondary School

Title : **HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED**

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED

Poverty is the state of being poor. As a person you should be self confident, competent and autonomous to resist this state. This means that people should not be afraid of taking entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is whereby people are prepared to take the risk of investing money in business. As an entrepreneur you can be engaged in such businesses as shops, cattle farming, dairy farming and goat production. The entrepreneur can loan the money from the National Development Bank (NDB) and be engaged in such incentives as Citizens Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and the Integrated Field Service (IFS) for their adequate standard of living and they may later pay back the money with an interest.

The people in rural areas must also try to follow one of Botswana's national principles of self reliance. This means that people should not be more dependent on the government instead they should stand up for themselves, work hard for their adequate standard of living. They must work hand in hand that is together, plough when the rains are good so that they can yield, look after their cattle with care and also by not doing such bad habits as alcohol drinking which they could not afford time and again with their little money. The people in rural areas should also try to change their traditional practices like ploughing the same crop instead they should apply things were they are well suited.

The people in rural areas should also educate their children, take care of them by providing them with the basic needs as they are the future generations. Through education children can help their parents to manage their wealth wisely. When children are fully educated they are going to work for the well being of their parents and the community. In future when those children continue to work and mind you at those times they will no longer be children instead they will be grown ups. They are going to develop their villages and life in rural areas would be poverty free as they have the skills or ideas of better life and development. Through education modern technology can be used in rural areas and people will have the work being more easier with the use of the modern machines.

The government has done a lot in alleviating poverty in rural areas. The actions of the government that can be pointed are the establishment of the "MASIELA TRUST FUND" for the orphans, the care for the needy and the disabled, provision of free education, giving the old aged people money at the end of each month, the NDB scheme to loan people money and establishment of such programmes as Accelerated Rained Arable Programme (ARAP), Arable Land Development Programme (ALDEP), CEDA, Tribal Grazing Land Policy (TGLP), IFS and Services to Livestock Owners designed to reduce or to get rid of poverty. It seems as if the government's effort does not succeed.

What the government could do in this moment of time is to advise Batswana to take entrepreneurship. For the government to influence the people to take entrepreneurship it must reduce the fees paid by a person if his business fail to 50% as compared to 100% plus an interest paid if he loaned the money from one of the government schemes. By doing so the people could not fear the idea of entrepreneurship that much. There must also be talk shows on rural areas to advise people on setting small industries or business for their adequate standard of living. The government should also motivate people who are needy, disabled, old aged and the people who stay with orphans to register for their well being, given free most vital things in life like food, clothes and money. In terms of the business community those such people should develop virtues of kindness and sharing. The business people in rural areas should not be looking on one side that their business is paying dividends. Instead those people must be willing to help people in rural areas to set businesses or to use other alternate methods that can improve their standards of living. This can be done by the business community during the Kgotla meetings and different people of the village's ideas could be heard and put into consideration as it is said in Setswana proverb that "Moroto wa esi ga o ele".

Last Prize (4-10)

Name : Masego Ramatokwane

School : Dithejwane Community Junior Secondary School

Class : Form 2F

Title : **HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL**
AREAS BE SOLVED

HOW CAN POVERTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS BE SOLVED?

Three quarters of Botswana's population live in rural areas where there are poverty problems. The threat of drought has always hung over Botswana and may be short or long but they have always disaster.

As a result the people who live in rural areas should try by all means to collect underground and rainwater so as to grow crops and to rear livestock. These crops can help them a lot i.e. they can sell the crops to the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board and get money in return and also sell cattle at the BMC. Agriculture in particular the livestock industry should remain the real basis for most people's wealth in rural areas and depend on Agriculture for employment as well as food.

The economic growth for the future will have to come from diverse sources that generate jobs for the ordinary Batswana. An area with high unemployment is not compatible with a motivate and united nation. The Vision 2016 should include the means of creating an environment where every citizen has the opportunity to contribute to the national wealth through paid or self-employment.

The Botswana government should try to develop the agricultural sector to improve the wealth and wealth of the people and to make them more self-reliant. There must be an end to hunger and malnutrition, this means more funds for developing agriculture, irrigation, crop storage, irrigation, fertilisers, agricultural research and other aids.

There should be more national support for family planning programmes in rural areas. Funds and skills be put in a development and trade should be encouraging people in rural areas to have more part in marketing and distribution of their own goods to increase their earnings. The government should form some charities which could act to contribute resources and raise funds for the poor people in rural areas.

The government should also build secondary schools in rural areas with good educational facilities and there should also be some health posts with good facilities. Poor people should be given education free of charge especially in the primary and secondary levels.

Business communities like the co-operative societies should provide food for the poor at least every end month. They should be provided with good shelter and be given clean water. Committees such as the drought relief should help in the development of rural areas, this helps a lot because employment is created.

Many people are poor because they lack access to productive resources in some cases as a result of disability or misfortune. The vision for the future must also include mechanism for establishing a social safety for those who find themselves in the poverty trap.

