



Working with Children in Poverty



Open our EARS, walk in their SHOES, and RISE up to the challenge



Safety



Children living in severely distressed neighbourhood environments suffer from unhealthy development. This contributes to persistent inter-generational poverty. In order to counter this complex and daunting problem, reducing crime and violence is crucial. This will help children and their parents to feel physically safe and psychologically secure as they are not subjected to repeated traumas.



Health



Research has shown that nationwide effort to bolster social safety net is necessary to counter intergenerational poverty. Therefore, it is essential to provide health-promoting services and amenities, including affordable sources of healthy food; physical and mental health services for children and parents. Constructing safe places for children to play and exercise; and homes, schools and safe community spaces holds equal importance as well.



Opportunity



Based on research, expanding employment opportunities, boosting wages, and strengthening systems of work support are necessary in helping prevent intergenerational poverty. Hence, there is a need to expand access to job opportunities, financial stability and economic advancement.



Education



In order to end inter-generational poverty, there is a need to free these children living in poverty. One way is to increase high-quality educational opportunities, from early childhood through to higher levels, and this would include after-school care, enrichment and holiday activities.



Social Networks



Supporting social networks is important, as it helps to strengthen the capacities of residents to work towards shared goals; mutually support one another and each other's children, and secure resources.

Parents



All children share the same foundational needs. Children require responsive care giving, safe and secure environments, adequate and appropriate nutrition, and health-promoting behaviours and habits.

To meet these needs, parents must have 4 clusters of capacities



(Psychological) Resources



Investment of Time



Source of Finance



Employment Capability



Social Worker

To address issues of low-income and the poor at the family level, family-centred practice will help families to improve their capacities.

The practice includes 3 key elements



Emphasise strengths, not deficits in families



Promote family autonomy (choice & control) over resources



Develop a collaborative relationship between parents and professionals