

Lesson on Poverty

This lesson can be adapted to KS3 and KS4. 60 mins.

Aims and Objectives

Students engage in a variety of activities to develop an awareness of the consequences of poverty and its wide ranging nature. The lesson aims to develop empathy and understanding from an individual to a global perspective to encourage enthusiasm and support for the CNCF sponsorship programme.

Activities

Individual spontaneous response/free thinking
Paired work
Group discussion
Class feedback session. Written activity

Starter Activity

10 min

Students put word 'childhood' in centre of paper or draw outline of a child. Then, label quickly, all the things that a child needs to thrive.
Share ideas with class/discuss.

Main Activities

15 min

In groups (5?), students look at following list of statements a child might make
Using 2 highlighters, divide what you think are 'needs' and what are 'wants'.

1. 'I can't afford to go on the trip'
2. 'We can't afford to buy medicine for my sick brother'
3. 'We can't afford to go on holiday'
4. 'I go to bed hungry every night'
5. 'I can't buy a birthday present for my friend'
6. 'I can't go to school as I have to work'
7. 'We have no money to buy fuel to keep warm'
8. 'I can't buy a new Smartphone'

Use the list to create a definition of Poverty. Feed back to class

i.e. Poverty can be described as a person's inability to access the basic needs for survival.

Then, **10 min**

Fill in the following grid, which allows students to think of the consequences of poverty.

Basic Need	Consequences of not getting these.	What is society doing about this?
Food	Malnutrition Disease Poor concentration at school/work	Food Banks Aid from International Agencies
Water		
Shelter		
Sanitation		
Medical Care		

Then, **10 min**

Read information on Mongolia and Sponsorship scheme
Add a new column to the grid 'What can we do?'

Then, **15 min**

Answer, in groups the following questions.

1. What are the challenges facing Mongolian children? Are they the same or different from those you face. Which are the same and which are different?
2. Which 'needs' are struggling to be met?
3. How can education help Mongolian children?
4. How can sponsorship help?

Finally, each group comes up with a proposal for ways of raising money to support the sponsorship scheme. Feedback to the class.

Plenary.

Leave students with a question to think about regarding their definition of Poverty. We have defined it here as basic needs. But, how far do they agree that a new definition should address the idea that Poverty is when a person cannot

access what is considered as a normal expectation within their society i.e.
buying Christmas presents, buying a new video game.....