

Poverty: A Spiritual or Material Issue?

What is poverty, and why does it still exist in today's world? Poverty is more than just a lack of money, food, or clothing – it is a complex social issue that affects many aspects of life, including the spiritual and emotional well-being of people.

In the 21st century, many people experience spiritual poverty, often caused by the influence of the internet and online lifestyles. For example, teenagers are particularly affected. They may have a limited vocabulary for expressing their thoughts, struggle to write essays, and spend excessive amounts of time on social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook. These problems may not be immediately obvious, but they are real and significant.

When discussing poverty, people often focus on unemployment and financial difficulties. However, there is another side to the issue: spiritual poverty, which exists within society. Why do teenagers often choose an online lifestyle over real-life experiences? Perhaps they feel the need to be heard by others – parents, teachers, or other important figures. If they are not listened to, they may withdraw, lose their sense of self, and stop developing personally. Spiritual poverty is not limited to teenagers; adults also experience it.

The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns have intensified these problems. Some people could not maintain their normal lives, lost their jobs, or struggled to adapt to online work. Others experienced uncertainty about the future or lost everything they had, facing the challenge of starting anew. This type of uncertainty is a form of spiritual poverty.

So, who is responsible for these issues today? Many would remain silent. Parents, often absorbed in technology themselves, find it difficult to protect their children from these problems. Despite this, the issue exists and must be addressed.

Some possible ways to address spiritual poverty include:

- finding a balance between online and real-life activities;
- encouraging personal motivation and creativity;
- inspiring people through their ambitions and goals.

While these strategies may help reduce spiritual poverty, material poverty remains a significant global challenge. Many people, especially children, suffer from hunger, lack of access to education, unemployment, and inadequate healthcare. Rich individuals could make a meaningful difference by supporting charity projects without seeking publicity, as self-promotional efforts do not address the deeper issue of spiritual poverty among the wealthy themselves.

In conclusion, if people help one another and show more kindness, the world will become a better place. By addressing both spiritual and material poverty, we can create a society with more opportunities, hope and well-being for everyone.