

Mind and Body: Improving the Impoverished Physically and Mentally **MMUN Press Corps**

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Here, at the United Nations Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly (ECOFIN), there is a massive debate on the topic that's nearly impossible to solve: the eradication of poverty. This is something that has affected the world for centuries. Governments and Parliaments around the world have attempted time and time again to try and solve this issue of international proportions, but to no avail. The main goal for the UN is to help eradicate poverty, ensuring that food would be applicable for people to completely nourish themselves to maintain a healthy lifestyle and other basic needs that will allow for education.

A possible problem that was discussed was about food and water. Some ECOFIN delegates have been making the problem known to the entire committee, and further detailing issues between people in poverty and their lack of food and water. In the Republic of Mozambique, women are the people who travel many miles daily to get food. They travel through harsh conditions that can make them ill, injured, or maybe even perish if the journey is long and treacherous enough. A possible solution, made by the Delegation of Mozambique, was to allow for them to grow their own food. If every household, or every couple of households, could have access to farms, they could be self-sufficient and prevent malnourishment.

The question, however, was how the government could fund the creation of these farms, rendering the solution possible, but not completely thought out. However, this would be beneficial to these impoverished people who may not get to eat three meals a day. As far as water goes, the Delegate of Mozambique stated, "reflecting the sun's heat build water, which cleans the water and makes it safe for those without access to clean water." This was once again a solution with the exception of not knowing how they would fund the project.

Another issue raised in ECOFIN was about transparency of the government. Transparency of the government is essentially how much information the government withholds or shares with their citizens. Some governments around the world release very little information to its people. Likewise, there are many governments that expel lots of information to its people. A delegate from this committee made aware the point that if the government keeps information from the citizens of their country, then an event could suddenly occur, rendering many people below the poverty line. This delegate found that transparency of the government could be one of the roots of poverty being as catastrophic as it is.

Budgeting was brought into the conversation as well. One possibility was that 1% of the military budget could go toward the eradication of poverty itself. In response, the Delegation of Kazakhstan said that 1% of the military budget may not be enough to help with the eradication of poverty. It was unclear whether the solution was capable of a follow-through, or if it would just have to be tossed out.

To completely nourish the citizens below the poverty line back to full health, one of the delegates from ECOFIN was to set up health stations in rural areas around the world on the international level. The committee, though, never specified whether it was free or not, had the intention of helping people who don't have proper healthcare or are below the poverty line. It is uncertain whether it will be put into a final solution, it is still a very well thought out idea that could very much help the impoverished.

Access to education is something that could also benefit someone. Many delegates representing many countries and territories brought up the fact that people in poverty do not get the chance, nor can they afford, a proper education. Some suggested that lowering the cost of education would raise the accessibility of education for those who cannot afford it. Not only could this effect children, but it can also get the adult population to attend a place of education. This is also a well thought out idea, although they still must think of funding.

Social media is the largest and most popular way of communication between people today in this day and age. A possibility of making this issue more known to the world was sponsoring and supporting advertisements that would make people more aware and talk more about this problem the world faces on a daily basis. The goal of the ECOFIN committee could also be to help people think of possible resolutions to this problem that we have had for a long time. ECOFIN still would have to figure out how they are going to pay to sponsor this, but once again would be a great way to International spread the message to the world.

In conclusion, ECOFIN does not have a clear or certain resolution yet. They have come up with an abundance of possible solutions ranging from bringing food closer to those who need it, to internationally spreading a message on social media. Regardless, everyone is thinking of ways to eradicate poverty, but it goes to show how difficult it really can be to be impoverished.