

Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Reducing the poverty gap between the indigenous and non-indigenous parts of population
Student Officer:	Chae Yeon Joo
Position:	Head President

Introduction

Colonialism, or the process of occupation of a land through exploiting its economical values, can cause indigenous populations to be mistreated in various forms. The most notable problem is that their lands are gradually dispossessed by themselves. In view of the fact that these indigenous populations' economical values are exploited, a vast majority of them face bottom levels of poverty.

Through the acknowledgement of the complications that indigenous people face in different parts of the world today, the United Nations have given an attempt to come up with a solution on protecting the most fundamental rights of these people. However, even with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) getting passed by the United Nations, the issue at hand is still yet to be resolved.

Out of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, devised in 2015, at least 7 of them pertain to the addression of the issue on indigenous populations. Thus, more or less of the governments and various organisations are less likely to be compelled to formulate plans for the issue and is gradually departing the hands of each nation.

Today in society, there are 370 million people spanning approximately over 70 countries. Most of whom are experiencing lots of obstacles in overcoming poverty gap, which consists of but is not limited to - lack of special resources, human capital, health care, social service provisions and spatial impediments. These are all correlated causes to why there is a crucial, persisting poverty gap between the indigenous people and the non-indigenous populations.

Definition of Key Terms

Indigenous Population

Ethnic groups who have descended from and is in accordance with the original inhabitants of a certain region, contrasting to the groups that have occupied, settled or colonized the area more recently.

Non-indigenous Population

Group of people who are not descended from a given region, who are not the original inhabitants and have colonised an area either intentionally or not.

Poverty

The conditional state where people's basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter are not met.

United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

The document which was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007 in order to protect fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

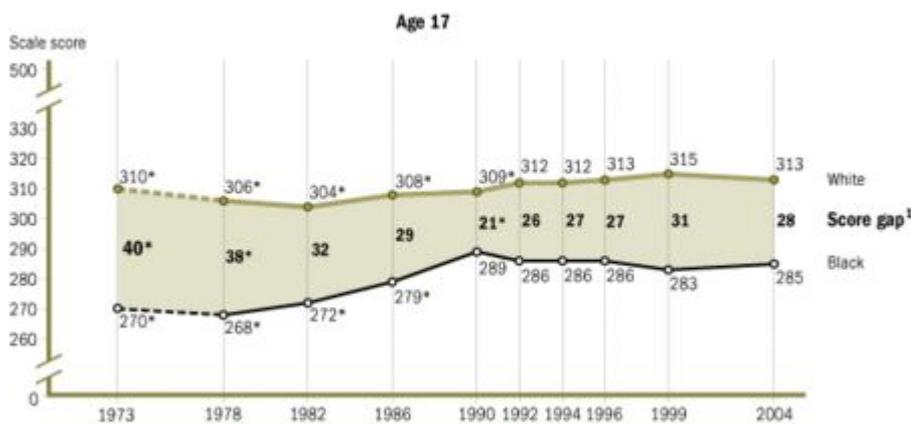
The Sustainable Development Goals are an governmentally linked set of yearning goals with 169 targets and 17 goals. The second SDG states the issue of taking attempts to end hunger, achieve improved nutrition and food security, along with promoting sustainable agriculture. These all directly relates to the question, thereby is correlatable.

Key Issues

In previous years, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has not been targeting all populations in whole. Lots of them has been benefitted; nevertheless, excluded groups (marginalised), have not been getting equal opportunities in terms of education. They do not get the same quality and quantity as the non-indigenous learners. In order for Article 14 of the UNDRIP, to be recognised and put into action, indigenous people must be initially empowered to take the lead in adapting and further polishing up quality education systems. Although in the year 2000 and on - lots of progress has been made, the progress for indigenous groups has not been marked as for mainstream groups. Thus, work still has to be done and is in reach.

Digging deep

Achievement gap, or an education gap, is the ceaseless and continuous disparity of educational factors amongst the performance of groups in students, especially defined by their socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity and gender. Seeing below, the graph shows how ethnicity differentiates the amount of education one receives. Although this graph represents one leading country (the United States), there are bigger gaps within other countries as well.



Caption 1: The achievement gap in the US between Caucasians and African Americans in terms of their education levels.

Poverty Gap

Indigenous populations all over the world continuously suffer from disproportionate high levels of poverty. This further leads to crime and human rights abuses. Drawing attention to the United States, a Native American is 60% more likely to commit suicide than the mass. This is just one of innumerable problems caused by poverty gaps and unhappiness amongst populations. While indigenous people consist of around 370 million of the world's population as a whole, they constitute approximately one third of the world's rural (extremely poor) people. These people are made up of one-third of the world's destitute poors, which includes unemployed ones and the illiterates. As an pointed example, Vietnam, Laos and Gabon can be noted.

Table 5: Indigenous Poverty as Proportion of Total

Country	Indigenous population (millions)	Indigenous poverty rate	Number of indigenous poor
China	106.4	0.048	5.1
South Asia	94.9	0.438	41.6
Former Soviet Union (Russia)	0.4	0.002	0.0
Southeast Asia	29.8	0.515	15.4
South America	16.0	0.800	8.7
Africa	22.0	0.783	17.2
Central America/Mexico	12.7	0.800	9.4
Arabia	15.4	0.050*	0.8
USA/Canada	5.6	0.270	1.5
Japan/Pacific Islands	0.8	na	0.1
Australia/New Zealand	1.1	0.390	0.4
Greenland/Scandinavia	0.1	na	0.1
Total	299.2	--	100.1

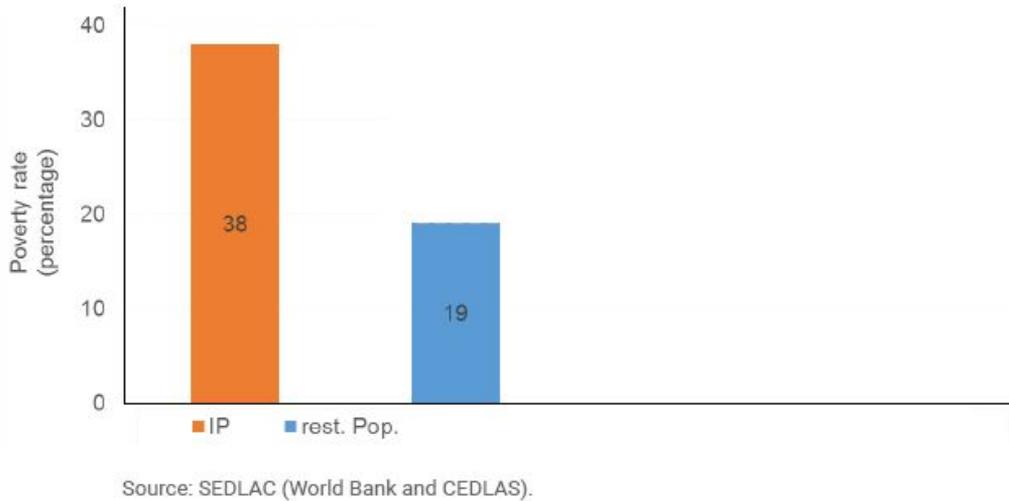
Source: Computed from country studies, using national poverty lines

*** Not representative**

Caption 2 : Rough estimation of indigenous poverty rates by region (the World Bank)

Poverty rates for Indigenous Peoples vs the rest of the population in 5 Latin American countries

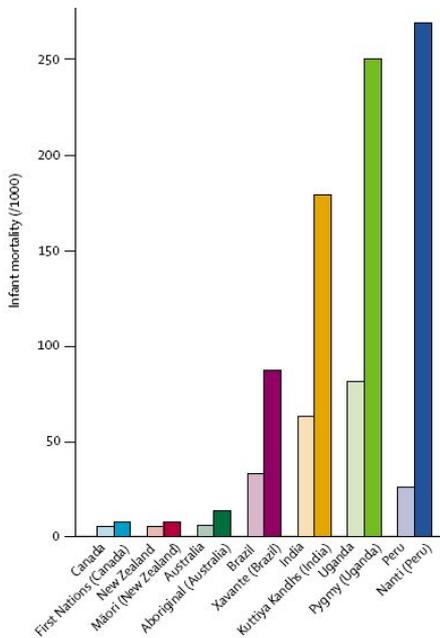
In Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru, the poverty rate among Indigenous Peoples is over 38%, almost twice as high as for the rest of the population.



Caption 3 : Poverty rate differences in Latin America and the Caribbean (the World Bank)

Health issues

Statistically, indigenous peoples' lives are expected to be around 20 years lower than the non-indigenous counterparts. They have experienced high levels of disproportionate maternal and infant mortality rates, cardiovascular illnesses, malnutrition, and etc. which infects these individuals in harmful methods. The graph below represents different countries' infant mortality rates of indigenous peoples since it has a stronger correlation with health problems.



Source: Lancet Series on Indigenous Health, Vol. 367, June 2006, p2022

Caption 4 : Mortality rates of indigenous infants per 1000 (the World Health Organisation)

Marginalisation

As continuously mentioned above and all throughout, marginalisation is one of the key occurrences that takes place within the issue of reducing poverty gap within the non-indigenous and the indigenous populations. Marginalisation, also known as exclusion, is apparent and highly correlated on this issue because one of the main barriers is that the indigenous people are separated from the non-indigenous and are given less care and attention. By somewhat attempting to close the severe gap between the indigenous and the non-indigenous populations, the problem can somewhat be alleviated though it cannot be exacerbated.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP is operating in nearly 170 areas or countries and have been working towards eradicating poverty and attempting to reduce marginalisation and exclusion. UNDP takes advantage of

this period of time, which is critical, to approach with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to advance the continuance of the previous Millennium Development Goals. They focus on helping construct resolutions in protecting minorities and the most vulnerable populations. The UNDP additionally employs approximately 160 UN Volunteers for them to help sustain the areas where indigenous people are located.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

IMF was established in 1944 at a UN conference. The 44 countries there sought to build a building block for economic cooperation in order to steer clear of repeating economical issues. The IMF's original objective is for all countries to assure the solidity of the international monetary system. For the stance of a country, if they appear to be in need of financial assistance, the country may request a loan from the IMF to meet each individual country's sustainable state. Thereby, if an LEDC needs financial support, then the country could request a loan and pay a reasonable interest rate in order to help initiate a benevolent cycle of demand stimulated economics which will benefit a lot more of the population in bulk. As indigenous populations are most likely allocated in LEDCs, it can benefit a mass majority of them. The governments could, thus afford to build more stable infrastructure and medical services which would advantageously benefit the indigenous populations who used to be in sufferings.

The World Bank

The World Bank is a conflation of five institutions in one group : The International groups for Development and Reconstruction, Development Association, Finance Corporation, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and the final centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. These groups make up The World Bank and is all, broadly aiming to help countries in economic growth, reducing poverty and to prevent marginalisation within areas. In this topic, the subordinate group - The International Development Association - since it provides credits, or interest-free loans and grants to governments of the poorest countries. This would benefit countries with the marginalisation problems since these grants and credits could help with providing indigenous populations with basic necessities. Furthermore, the latter function of the World Bank is to provide information about areas and this would further aid the issue since these countries may have problems identifying the population in need.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of Event
8 Jan 1918	<p data-bbox="486 526 837 560">Wilson's Fourteen Points</p> <p data-bbox="486 571 1370 862">This was a proposal to concede other possible wars to come, and to promote the idea of volition. Another objective was to ensure that all other ethnic groups would have the rights to rule their own countries themselves without further interferences. Although antiquated, it can be considered the first building block of the attempt to resolve this problem.</p>
13 Sept 2007	<p data-bbox="486 940 1370 1019">United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)</p> <p data-bbox="486 1041 1370 1276">Via adoption of this declaration document, myriads of member states, whom are part of the United Nations committee, arrived at a consensus on the issue of protecting the underlying rights of the indigenous people. The rights are already listed, now they have yet to become implemented.</p>
25 Sept 2015	<p data-bbox="486 1355 1109 1388">The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> <p data-bbox="486 1400 1370 1646">The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals has been created for countries to adopt a set goals in order to protect the planet, ensure prosperity for all and most saliently, to reduce the poverty gap between populations. All goals and targets are to be achieved by the year of 2030.</p>

Possible Solutions

Lack of human capital is a crucial impediment towards the development of individual countries. It is a significant multifold in dealing with the problem, poverty gap. Due to the lack of capital possessed, indigenous populations struggle to meet the core needs of people, such as education, which could have a domino effect of lower resulted incomes. Not only education, but health care and public services should also be taken into account. For instance, the Mexican Social Protection System in Health can serve as a prototype for other nations to follow. Nevertheless, as Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) may find it somewhat strenuous to have their government to fund these programs. Thus, to overcome this issue, these nations could possibly request hand from some of the international organisations for support on the funding issue.

Another solution can be implemented in relation to the discrimination issue. Legalised quotas for each sector, intercorrelated to education, health care and other services can be a method to decrease discrimination and levels of unfairness between the indigenous and non-indigenous populations.

A final, yet fairly a significant problem is the retrenchment on women. Empowering women and giving them economic opportunities would somehow tackle this problem to an extent. Curtailment of women is still an ongoing issue even in countries that open up to women and their rights, still, there are notable differences statistics wise.

Bibliography

Bonilla-Chacín, M. E., and Nelly Aguilera Aburto. *The Mexican Social Protection System in Health*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2013. The World Bank, Jan. 2013. Web. 12 Jan. 2017.

Alessandra Casazza, Programme Advisor for MDGs/SDGs, UNDP. "How Are All Countries, Rich and Poor, to Define Poverty?" *UNDP*. UNDP, 16 Oct. 2015. Web. 10 Jan. 2017.

"Overview." *UNDP*. UNDP, n.d. Web. 8 Jan. 2017.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us.html>

"Sustainable Development Goals." *UNDP*. UNDP, n.d. Web. 30 Jan. 2017.

"United Nations." *Middle East Journal* 26.1 (1972): 69-77. *United Nations*. UN, Mar. 2008. Web. 15 Jan. 2017.

Hall, Gillette, and Harry Patrinos. "Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development." *Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development* (2010): n. pag. Apr. 2010. Web. 24 Jan. 2017.

"Sustainable Development Goals." *United Nations*. UN, n.d. Web. 10 Jan. 2017.

"State of the World's Indigenous Peoples." *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* (2010): n. pag. *United Nations*. United Nations Department of Public Information, Jan. 2010. Web. 10 Jan. 2017.

"Working for the World Free of Poverty." *About the World Bank*. World Bank, n.d. Web. 01 Feb. 2017.