

Main Causes of Poverty In South America:

1. **Unequal distribution of wealth**

In much of South America, particularly in well-known tourist countries, run-down slums exist next to wealthy urban areas in part due to unequal distribution of economic success. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Latin and South America are the most **unequal regions** in the world in terms of wealth. **Corporations, politicians and unequal opportunities contribute in part to high poverty rates among the majority of the population.** In Brazil, **wealth being hoarded by the top one or two percent of citizens has contributed to a high number of children living and earning money on the streets** because their parents can no longer support them. Despite helpful tourism revenue, poverty rates in certain popular areas of South America rise steadily because of wealth inequality.

2. **Colonialism/Racism**

In South and Latin America, poverty can become a generational epidemic because of leftover institutions and sentiments from the **Casta system**. Casta was a complex system of written rules based on racial segregation similar to the Hindu Caste, where people were separated into **societal classes** based on appearance and ethnic makeup that determined where they could live, who they could marry, what jobs they could work and more. **The system was popularized by early white colonialists in the region and the lingering effects of it have been among the causes of poverty in South America.**

3. **Political turmoil**

Honduras, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and others have undergone **major changes in political leadership in recent months and years, and the lack of clear democratic process in a lot of these countries has been among the causes of poverty in South America.** According to **the Economist**, Brazil and Colombia are set to elect new presidents in the coming months, but “they will do so amongst rising public anger over corruption, amid a plethora of corruption scandals across the region in recent years that have in many cases implicated high-level politicians.” In Peru, for example, President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski narrowly avoided impeachment after it was discovered he had ties to corrupt Brazilian construction company Odebrecht, which has admitted to paying bribes to governments. **As has been proven multiple times, corrupt or destabilized governments often prove disastrous for the economies of the countries they oversee, which can only have a negative effect on the poverty level in the country.**

4. **Education**

In South America, the education gap mirrors the income gap between rich and poor. **According to WorldFund**, “74 million South Americans (about 12.4 percent of the region’s population) live on less than \$2 per day. Over half of them are children. Children in the bottom income quintile complete an average of eight years of school versus over ten years completed by children in the top income quintile.” Access to quality education in South America for those living below the poverty line is incredibly rare and difficult to achieve. **WorldFund states that “education investments are inadequate, poorly directed and favor high-income students.”**

Current events such as protests and political upheavals in Venezuela and Brazil have drawn attention to problems plaguing **South America**. Some of those problems, having been left unaddressed, have caused higher rates of poverty in Latin and South America. Below are several factors considered to be major **causes of poverty** in South America at present

While conditions in South America are improving, progress in certain areas is slow. Those living in poverty in South America are often directly affected by the factors above. The introduction of more efficient and generous international aid programs to people in the region that need it is becoming more and more essential to help combat some of the causes of poverty in South America.

<https://borgenproject.org/causes-of-poverty-in-south-america/#:~:text=Corporations%2C%20politicians%20and%20unequal%20opportunities,because%20their%20parents%20can%20no>

Main Causes of Poverty In Africa:

The [causes of poverty](#) in Africa cannot be narrowed down to one single source. As a developing country, [Africa](#) has a lengthy history of external, internal and man-made forces at work to bring about the circumstances this continent suffers from today.

In sub-Saharan Africa, almost [220 million people](#), half the population, live in [poverty](#). Worsened by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, cultural conflict and ethnic cleansing, Africa faces many challenges that directly correlate with its impoverished status.

Poor Governance -[Poor governance](#), one of the major causes of poverty in Africa, [involves various malpractices by the state and its workers](#). This malpractice has led many African leaders to push away the needs of the people. Having created the "[personal rule paradigm](#)," where they treat their offices as a form of property and personal gain, these leaders openly appoint underqualified personnel in key positions at state-owned institutions and government departments. This type of governance affects the poorest people and leaves them vulnerable, as they are denied basic necessities such as healthcare, food and shelter.

Corruption -Corruption has been and still is a major issue in the development of and fight against poverty in Africa, specifically sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). SSA is considered to be among the most corrupt places in the world. According to a survey conducted by World Anti-Corruption, corruption in Africa is "due to the fact that many people in Africa believe that family relations are more important than country identity. Therefore, those in power use bias and bribery for the gain of their relatives at the expense of their country."

[Corruption costs SSA roughly \\$150 billion a year in lost revenue](#). While some countries in Africa, such as Ghana, Tanzania and Rwanda, have made some progress in the fight against corruption, there are still many lagging very far behind. A lack of effort to solve this issue only worsens the [causes of poverty](#) in Africa today.

Poor Education -Lack of education is also a serious issue that contributes to the causes of poverty in Africa. This absence is especially felt in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the highest rates of educational exclusion. Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about six and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youth between the ages of about 12 and 14. Almost [60 percent](#) of youth between the ages of about 15 and 17 are not in school.

Education for girls has become a major focus of support groups like UNICEF, UNESCO and the UIS. With poor access to school, lack of sanitary facilities and social norms like female genital mutilation and child marriage, the right to women's education is even less of a priority in impoverished communities.

However, [education, especially girls' education, has been proven to be one of the most cost-effective strategies for promoting economic growth](#). [According to UNICEF](#), "studies have shown that educated mothers tend to have healthier, better-nourished babies and that their own children are more likely to attend school; thus helping break the vicious cycle of poverty."

Healthcare -**Poor healthcare** is a major cause of poverty in Africa because the poor cannot afford to purchase what is needed for good health, including sufficient quantities of quality food and healthcare itself. With a lack of education on preventing infectious diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS, as well as the costs of consultations, tests and medicine, people living in poverty are at a severe disadvantage that only perpetuates the poverty cycle.

With a strong fight against many forces still ahead of this nation, Africa must weed out the corruption and poor government, and promote strong education and efficient healthcare for all, in order to take a big leap forward in its development as a continent.

<https://borgenproject.org/causes-of-poverty-in-africa/>

Main Causes -

1. Unequal distribution of wealth- SA
2. Racism- SA and I believe A
3. Political Problems- SA/A
4. Education!!- SA/A
5. Corruption- SA/A
6. Healthcare- A

Both continents/ regions have **education** and **political problems/corruption** as a main cause for poverty.

Targeting the women and helping them to get educated will help to break the cycle of poverty.

The best thing to target is to get money in the hands of the people instead of having to rely on the government for food and resources. With a lot of government corruption it is hard to get jobs and when problems occur like war, political uprising, and more it is even harder to move or to flee to a safer or more stable area.

Making it so that the people in these areas are able to gain money independently. This makes it easier for them to seek help elsewhere if their government is corrupt and if they need healthcare for themselves, or their children. Also it can cause people to be able to afford schooling elsewhere which will help to reduce the rate of poverty.

If I want to find a solution to this problem the best way to approach it is to find a **solution that helps to tackle both education and political corruption.**

