



During each Senior Class meeting, a half-hour period is allocated for the Open Discussion session. These sessions are designed to help raise the students' awareness in current events and other interesting topics not usually covered in the students' classes at school.

World Hunger and Poverty

- Arranged and Reported by Albert Shih

Across the world, 842 million people are hungry. And the problem of world hunger is a growing problem in the world today. And it seems that the cause of hunger is due to the poverty level of the world. Poverty, according to Dictionary.com is defined as "the state of being poor; lack of the means of providing material needs or comforts." Luckily many of us are fortunate enough to not have to experience hunger. Richard had made a suggestion for us to try and fast, skipping a meal or two and seeing how it feels to be hungry. I fasted for the day on October 10th, and it was a painful day. Keeping myself occupied, my mind was still on my stomach throughout most of the day. Tempted by food all around, but knowing I can't have any, it's a hard feeling. But I know that this pain is nothing compared to those who live like this each and everyday.

According to a study conducted by Abraham Maslow, people have certain definite needs. First was the need to satisfy thirst, hunger, and sleep. Second was the need to be secure, to feel safe. Third was the need to belong, to love and be loved. Fourth was the need to achieve, to be recognized. Fifth was the need to know, to explore and to understand. And lastly the sixth need was the need for self-actualization, to be at peace with oneself. These needs rank from greatest to least, respectively. Thus, the need to satisfy the most important. But even that first need. It is said that humanitarian crisis. It's estimated that 49% of people in Sudan lack food, 88% lack shelter, 67% lack water, and 93% lack sanitation. And with countries that are doing so bad in the world, the United States throws away about 96 billion pounds of food each year. The United States itself suffers from a large state of people living in poverty, but still all that food is wasted.



Living in hunger and poverty can and has effects that are damaging. Undernourishment negatively affects people's health, productivity, sense of hope and overall well-being. A lack of food can stunt growth, slow thinking, sap energy, hinder fetal development and contribute to mental retardation. If our later generations grow to have to suffer with those problems, what will the world become?

Despite the U.S.'s booming economics, many are still living in poverty. To these Americans, food has become an unaffordable luxury, and one out of three of these people had to choose between buying food and paying rent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the fact is one in five children in the U.S. lives at or below that poverty line and this deeply impacts our nation's future. Children who are undernourished have trouble concentrating and bonding with other children and are more likely to suffer illnesses that force them to be absent from school. They consistently perform more poorly on standardized tests and may even lead dropping out of school. And labor statistics show that one's education is the greatest indicator of job and income mobility. And thus the more children are undernourished, the more our society is degraded.

But we can help change this. If we can end poverty, we can end world hunger. By being able to support your children you prevent hunger from setting in. We can also make donations to local soup kitchens and help serve those who are less fortunate. By improving and wisely conserving food and the distribution of food, the generations that follow will have a better life to follow.

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