

Title

Environmental empowerment: A new approach to poverty eradication in Africa

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Abstract

Most of the rural population in Africa is affected by poverty. High levels of poverty are witnessed through food shortages, low life expectancy and environmental degradation. Arguably, poverty in general and in Africa specifically is partly caused by a poor environment. An environment that is poor impoverishes its population. There are two types of poor environments in Africa; an environment that is inherently poor and another which is made poor by human beings. To deal with poverty and underdevelopment in Africa, social workers must empower the natural environment. An empowered environment capacitates community development. As it stands, social work in Africa focuses on empowering the poor who reside within an impoverished environment and to that effect, social work empowerment programmes are ineffective.

Key words

Africa, empowerment, environment, poverty, rural, underdevelopment

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