

JPIC Moment of Feb. 12, 2017

**Rights, Responsibilities and Options
for the Poor and Vulnerable**

“The basic moral test for a society is how the least are faring. How can we ignore the poor?”

Some issues associated with the presence of the poor and vulnerable in our society include:

- 1. Embarrassment and shame over being poor or illiterate.**
- 2. Children and elderly not receiving proper nutrition and care.**
- 3. Unemployment and underemployment.**

The Issues

- 1. Embarrassment and shame over being poor or illiterate.**
- 2. Children and elderly not receiving proper nutrition and care.**
- 3. Unemployment and underemployment**

Responses to the Issues

- ‘Charity’ responses and ‘Justice’ responses.**
- What do you think these two terms mean?**
 - How do they differ?**

**Basically, ‘charity’ responses alleviate some
symptoms of the issue while**

**‘justice’ responses address the
underlying causes of the issue.**

Some of the ‘Charity’ responses to the issues that we have mentioned might be the following:

- 1. Providing driving assistance.**
- 2. Fundraising to provide food.**
- 3. Volunteering at a school breakfast program or soup kitchen.**
- 4. Donating to the food bank.**
- 5. Volunteering with the PEI Association of Newcomers to provide literacy and social support for refugees and other newcomers to PEI.**

‘Justice’ responses

How can we address some of the underlying causes of these issues?

1. How can we build community awareness of the problems of :

- ☐ **Poverty**
- ☐ **Lack of nutrition**
- ☐ **Illiteracy**
- ☐ **Unemployment and underemployment**

2. How can we educate people on these issues?

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