

GLOBAL POVERTY- AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

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Abstract

All over the world people are discussing about the rise of poverty due to the pandemic. We are preoccupied with a myth that those who are getting income less than a prescribed amount or those persons who cannot satisfy their basic necessities are considered to be poor. We will not try to think beyond this point of view. But the truth is poverty is not merely the lack of adequate income. It goes beyond that; it can be the deprivation of free and dignified life, basic human rights, basic necessities, fundamental needs, opportunities etc.

Global poverty is a serious threat to society. It will create various problems in our world and the most ignored outcome of poverty will be armed conflicts. When the people living in a society get caught in the web of poverty, they will be having some grievances and when those grievances are not met by the respected authorities it will lead to conflicts. Prolonged conflicts will deepen poverty. Therefore, the need for eradication of poverty and controlling armed conflicts has arisen especially during the pandemic. It's now becoming a global goal rather than a national goal.

Keywords- Global Poverty, Karl Marx, Amartya Sen, Bentham, Dworkin, Rawls, Capability approach, Utilitarianism approach, Equality of resources approach, Primary goods approach, Basic needs approach, Armed Conflicts, UN.

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I. Global Poverty

Poverty means deprivation of basic necessities in life such as food, shelter, clothes etc. Usually, the rate of poverty is measured in two ways. They are;

- 1) Absolute poverty means that the poverty rate is measured based on income. If the people have an adequate amount of income to meet their basic necessities then they are not considered to be poor.
- 2) Relative poverty means that the poverty rate is measured by the economic status of the other members of society. If a person falls below the prevailing standard of the people living in that particular society then they are considered to be poor.

For instance, we can imagine that there are 10 families in one society. And out of that 10 families, one family is getting income less than 15000. All others are getting more than that. So even though that family can meet their basic necessities but they cannot meet the standard of living in that particular society, they are considered to be poor.

But the above mentioned two ways are not the accurate way to measure poverty. Poverty is not merely a lack of adequate income. It goes beyond that by depriving fundamental needs, opportunities, and basic human rights and also they are deprived of their economic, social, political and cultural rights i.e. the right to work and have an adequate income is an economic right, right to access to health care and education is a social right, right to freedom of thought, expression and association is a political right, right to maintain one's cultural identity and be involved in a community's cultural life is cultural right.

Moreover, it's the violation of the principles of social justice because social justice includes principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Those who are poor have to get assistance from the authorities then only principles of social justice can be fulfilled.

Thomas Pogge once stated that economic poverty is considered to be a violation of human rights. According to him;

- a) Human rights are moral claims on the organisation of one's society.
- b) Citizens are collectively responsible for the organisation of their society.
- c) It follows from this that human rights make demands on the citizens.
- d) These demands mean citizens are responsible for reorganising their society's institutions if those institutions are responsible for human rights violations.
- e) If citizens failed to do so, they are human right violators.

Therefore, according to Thomas Pogge to eradicate poverty is not a duty on one person, it's a collective responsibility of all the people. It's the duty of rich people to support the poor. He also states that citizens of economically prosperous western countries are the violators of the human rights of citizens of the more economically deprived countries.¹

Nicole Hassoun also stated that every person has a prima facie obligation to enable all people to meet their basic needs. There is a global institutional system which has an impact on the lives of

¹ Wendy Mitchell; *Notes on Thomas Pogge's Human Rights and Global Justice and Recognized and Violated by International Law: The Human Rights of the Global Poor*, 2 INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY REVIEW, 113-114 (2006).

individuals and communities in morally significant ways. Those who are living in such a setup have to preserve the integrity of one's body and mind to meet their basic needs. Hence, if it's a global institution then everyone has to ensure that the global institution system enables all people to meet their basic needs.²

Therefore, we can say that poverty is not merely a lack of adequate income. It has various manifestations. It includes the concept of lack of adequate income, productive resources sufficient for livelihood, hunger and malnutrition, ill-health, illiteracy, homelessness, unsafe environment, social discrimination and social exclusion, lack of participation in decision making, physical as well as mental ailments, emotional as well as social instability, unhappiness, sorrow and hopelessness for the future. It means that not only income that matters, every other aspect can also be included while calculating the poverty rate.

To understand more about poverty, we have to understand about the ingredients which are necessary for the wellbeing of the individuals. Wellbeing means it's a state of being comfortable, healthy and happy. It can be studied under the following heads.

- a) Sen's Capability approach
- b) Bentham's Utilitarianism approach
- c) Dworkin's equality of resources approach
- d) Rawlsian primary goods approach
- e) Basic needs approach

a) Capability Approach

It was introduced by Amartya Sen in 1980. He got influenced by the works of Karl Marx, Aristotle and

Adam Smith. Adam Smith and Karl Marx discussed about the importance of functioning's and the capability to function as determinants of wellbeing. Sen also supports Adam Smith's view as economic growth and the expansion of goods and services are necessary for human development.

Sen's capability approach means that the wellbeing of an individual is measured according to the ability of the individuals. He identified this approach based on human development.

He has defined basic capabilities as the ability to satisfy certain elementary and crucially important functioning up to certain levels.³ It means that if they have the ability to satisfy basic needs which are necessary for their survival and can avoid poverty or other deprivations then they are not considered as poor. Therefore, capabilities mean the various opportunities which help an individual to have a dignified life.

Amartya Sen always uses the term freedom in connection with capabilities. According to him freedom is necessary for survival and to eradicate poverty. But he fails to specify what kind of freedom he is referring to capabilities. As per him, freedoms will differ from one person to another.

He also mentioned about the functioning's. According to him, "functioning's and capabilities are conceptualizations of wellbeing achievements and freedoms."⁴ It means that the functioning's and capabilities are connected with the wellbeing and freedom of the individuals. He concentrated more

³Mubashshir Sarshar, *Amartya Sen's theory of poverty*, BEPRESS, (Sep. 1, 2020, 4.00. PM) <https://works.bepress.com/mubashshir/16/>

⁴ Thomas Well, *Sen's Capability Approach*, INTERNET ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY (Sep. 1, 2020, 4.15 PM), <https://iep.utm.edu/sen-cap/#:~:text=The%20Capability%20Approach%20is%20defined,they%20have%20reason%20to%20value.&text=Within%20academic%20philosophy%20the%20novel,attracted%20a%20number%20of%20scholars.>

² Nicole Hassoun, *World Poverty and Individual Freedom*, 45 AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL QUARTERLY, 191-192 (April 2008).

on the functioning's which the human beings are able to achieve. Functioning's are achievements and capabilities are the abilities to achieve.

For instance, we can assume that there are two persons, A and B, their functioning is to become well-nourished. A is the victim of a famine in Africa and B has gone for a hunger strike. Their freedom to avoid being hungry is different. To find out the distinction we can take the help of capabilities. The capability of B to achieve functioning is more than A.⁵

But the critics argued that his theory is not complete. His theory doesn't ensure a full theory of social justice. He failed to distinguish the necessary capabilities.

Later on, Martha Nussbaum, an American Philosopher, had modified capability approach. She was influenced by Aristotle - the Greek philosopher. Aristotle gave importance to the character formation for creating an environment in which a person can live well.⁶ She had made a specified list of capabilities such as life- live peacefully to the end; not premature death, good health, bodily integrity-able to move freely, etc. But critic argues that her theory is also not complete. She concentrated more on human dignity.

Even though this capability approach has many criticisms, it has led to the development of Human Development Index (HDI). If a country scores higher HDI then it means that the lifespan,

education level and GDP are higher and fertility rate, and the inflation rate is lower.

b) Utilitarianism Approach

Sen's approach is not only a commodity-based approach but it also gave importance to the utility-based assessment. But he criticised Bentham's utilitarianism. Bentham, an English Philosopher, had given prime importance to the utility of the individuals. According to him, the best state is a

state which provides the greatest happiness of the greatest number. Amartya Sen opposed Bentham's utilitarianism approach also because he neglected the rights and freedoms of the individuals who are living in that particular society. The utility is not the sole basis to consider types of pleasure or pains or kinds of desires. He also mentions that much non-utility information also has importance for the assessment of wellbeing.⁷

Sen's concept of human wellbeing is;⁸

- Commodity
- Characteristics
- Functioning
- Utility (happiness)

For instance, we can take bread as a commodity. A's functioning is to become well-nourished. Bread has the characteristic to provide nutrition. After having bread, A will reach at a state of happiness, because his desires got fulfilled.

Therefore, from the above-shown example, we can understand that to achieve utility, the capability of that human being to use the commodity is very essential.

c) Equality of Resources Approach

⁵ Dr. Ingrid Robeyns, *The capability Approach: An interdisciplinary introduction*, SEMANTIC SCHOLAR, (Sep. 1, 2020, 4.50 PM), <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Capability-Approach%3A-An-Interdisciplinary-Robeyns/49f60b5aa9152d3789e43b8991bc6034f24f49?p2df>

⁶ Severine Deneulin, *Recovering Nussbaum's Aristotelian roots*, XXIX REVISTA CULTURA ECONOMICA, 81-82 (2011).

⁷ Robeyns, *supra* note 6.

⁸ Clark, *supra* note 3.

Dworkin's (Jewish- American Philosopher) approach is based on the equality of resources. According to him, Sen's Approach is ambiguous. So, he formed the concept of the hypothetical auction by which the people can accumulate resources equitably. So, one person will not have jealousy towards the other.

But Amartya Sen criticised Dworkinian equality of resources approach also.⁹ Because in a society there may be enough resources, but the people may not have the ability to use it. Therefore, providing resources are not only the way to achieve wellbeing, they should have the ability to use it also. Different persons need a different amount of resources to reach at the same level.

d) Primary Goods Approach

Rawlsian (American Moral and Political philosopher) theory is more focussed on primary goods approach. According to him, primary goods means;¹⁰

- a) Basic liberties (freedom of thought and conscience).
- b) Freedom of movement and choice of occupation.
- c) Income and wealth.
- d) Self-respect.

He was concerned about the wellbeing of the least advanced segment of society. Amartya Sen criticised John Rawls theory also,¹¹ because if people are similar in a society then this approach is useful. But the truth is in a society there will be

different people. He neglected about the diversity of human beings such as a disabled person. Moreover, he concentrated more on the means to achieve and not the ends for instance income to buy food is essential than being nourished. But he forgot that people's ability to convert primary goods into achievement differs. Therefore, different people need different kinds and amount of goods to reach the same levels of wellbeing.¹²

e) Basic needs approach

It doesn't mean only physical needs. It means all physical, mental and social needs which are necessary for the development of an individual. To provide opportunities to those who are not getting enough resources to satisfy their basic needs. It focuses more on mobilizing particular resources to particular groups. Sen criticised this approach because according to him, this approach concentrated on possession of commodities as basic needs.

In reality, this approach provides opportunities for the development of the people particularly the poor and deprived. But Sen's capability approach is regarded as more appropriate than basic needs approach because Sen tries to bring together many of the concerns of the basic needs approach in his approach and Sen's approach goes beyond the poor and deprived section to the general wellbeing.¹³

In short from the above theories we can understand that capability approach is better than the other theories because it acts as a general metric of wellbeing, the rest of the theories are concentrated in one particular segments of the society.

⁹ Roland Pierik & Ingrid Robeyns, *Resources versus capabilities, social endowments in egalitarian theory*, 55 POLITICAL STUDIES, 133-152 (2007).

¹⁰ Ingrid Robeyns and Harry Brighouse, *Measuring Justice, Primary Goods and Capabilities*, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1-10 (2012)

¹¹ Ingrid Robeyns, *The Capability Approach*, STANFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY, (Sep. 1, 2020, 5.15 PM), <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/capability-approach/>

¹² Ingrid Robeyns & Harry Brighouse, *Introduction: Social Primary Goods and Capabilities as Metrics of Justice*, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1-10 (2012)

¹³ Paul P Streeten, *Basic Needs, Premises and Promises*, WORLD BANK, (Sep. 1, 2020, 5.30 PM) <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/912301468190752919/pdf/REP62000Basic00remises0and0promises.pdf>

According to the Global Finance magazine in 2020 based on the GDP, the poorest country in the world is Africa and India is the 68th¹⁴. Now eradication of poverty is a global goal. In a discussion of eradication of poverty, Thomas Pogge (German philosopher) said that the rich people have an obligation to eradicate the poverty because they have violated the social justice by harming the poor by causing them poverty.¹⁵ But they are not the only one's who are responsible for that. The eradication of poverty is the responsibility of the governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs etc.

The charter of the UN was the first international treaty which was based on human rights. In that, they had mentioned in Article 55 and 56 that one of its goals is to promote higher standards of living, full employment, conditions of economic and social progress and development through international cooperation.

To empower these objectives, they empowered ECOSOC to study about the problems and to report and make recommendations about Economic, social, health, educational related matters. To live a life free from poverty and hunger is one of the human rights and fundamental freedoms which is given in UDHR. Article 25(1) of UDHR states that everyone has the right to have a standard of living, adequate health and wellbeing of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services. Later on, these rights were reaffirmed in ICESCR and ICCPR.

The world summit for social development in 1995 at Copenhagen stated that poverty eradication is one of their main goals and it is one of the main pillars of social development. Though the poverty rate is decreasing as per the World Bank estimates in 1998, but it has only limited change.¹⁶ The millennium summit in September 2000 at UN headquarters in New York had set a goal to half the poverty by 2015. UN on 25th September 2015 adopted 2030 Agenda for sustainable development to eradicate poverty and hunger by 2030. Later in the General Assembly in the 72nd session decided that the 3rd UN decade for the eradication of poverty is from 2018 to 2027. The main objective of this decade is to maintain the momentum generated by the implementation of the 2nd UN decade i.e. from 2008 to 2017 toward poverty eradication and also sustainable development.¹⁷

Therefore, we can understand that though poverty is still prevailing in many of the countries. The international mechanisms are trying hard to eradicate poverty through various means.

II. ARMED CONFLICT

Conflict means a serious disagreement or argument; in simple words, it means a clash between two or more people. When conflict turns into open combat which means fighting with armed forces then it will be called as an armed conflict if such an act leads to death of at least 25 people in a year.

According to Galtung (Sociologist, mathematician, principal founder of the discipline of peace and conflict studies), "conflict arises where the parties come to have incompatible interests, values or

¹⁴ *Poorest Countries in the World, 2020*, GLOBAL FINANCE MAGAZINE, (Aug. 28, 2020, 4.30 PM) <https://www.gfmag.com/global-data/economic-data/the-poorest-countries-in-the-world>

¹⁵ Pablo Gilabert, *The Duty to Eradicate Poverty, Positive or Negative*, 7 ETHICAL THEORY AND MORAL PRACTICE, 537-550 (Jan. 2005).

¹⁶ Timothy Besley and Robin Burgess, *Having global poverty*, 17 JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES, 3-22 (2003).

¹⁷ *Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet*, UNITED NATIONS (Aug. 28, 2020, 4.30 PM) <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/poverty/>

goals". It means that if two person's goals or interest are incompatible then in such situations the conflict arises."

There are mainly two types of armed conflicts. They are;

- a) International armed conflict
- b) Non-international armed conflict

Armed conflicts occur between the government forces i.e. interstate conflict and between government forces and organised armed groups or between two such groups within the state i.e. intrastate conflicts. Non-international armed conflicts are same as intrastate conflicts. International conflicts are the same as interstate conflict.

According to Uppsala Conflict Data Programme (UCDP); "An armed conflict is a contested incompatibility which concerns government or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths". During 1989 to 2000 there were 111 conflicts that existed in our world. In the year 2009, UCDP recorded 36 active armed conflicts, in 2010, 31 and in 2011, 37 conflicts and in 2017, 49 conflicts.¹⁸

As per the report, though the rate of armed conflicts has decreased compared to 1990, but has increased as compared to the early years of this decade. Among the conflicts, six of the conflicts turned into war. No interstate conflict has happened during these years. Only intrastate conflicts are occurring. A new type of conflict has emerged, it is Internationalised conflict. It means that the

conflicting parties will get support from an external state.¹⁹

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also explains two types of armed conflicts, they are; international armed conflicts which are opposing two or more states and non-international armed conflicts which are between governmental forces and non-governmental armed groups or between such groups. ICRC is formed by the state parties of Geneva Conventions to work for the understanding and to spread the knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts and to prepare for its development.

The Geneva conventions and their additional protocols also deal with conflicts. They concentrated more on international humanitarian law. International humanitarian law regulates the conduct of the armed conflicts and tries to limit its effects.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) stated that "an armed conflict exists whenever there is a resort to armed conflict between states or protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organised armed groups or between governmental authorities and organised armed groups or between such groups within a state."²⁰

Therefore, from the above definitions, we can understand that there exist two types of armed conflicts and those are trying to be controlled by the international mechanisms. A new type of armed

¹⁸Trends in Armed Conflict, 1946-2017, PRIO (Sep. 1, 2020, 2.00 AM)
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Dupuy%20Rustad-%20Trends%20in%20Armed%20Conflict%201946%E2%80%932017%20Conflict%20Trends%205-2018.pdf>

¹⁹ Peter Wallenstein and Margareta Sollen Berg, *Armed conflict, 1989-2000*, 38 JOURNAL OF PEACE RESEARCH, 629-644 (Sep 2001)

Lotta Themmer and Peter Wallenstein, *Armed conflicts 1946-2011 & 1946-2010*, 48 & 49 JOURNAL OF PEACE RESEARCH, 565-575 (July 2012) & 525-536 (July 2011).

²⁰ Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadic, (1996) 35 ILM 32.

conflict is also recognised. That is internationalised armed conflict. The best example for internationalised armed conflict is the conflict which happened in the democratic republic of Congo in 1998. The forces from Rwanda, Angola, Zimbabwe and Uganda intervened to support the various groups in Congo.

From the above types of armed conflict, in case of any, the international humanitarian law applies to all. It's a body of law which aims to limit the warfare and to protect the people who are not taking part in the hostilities.

III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POVERTY AND ARMED CONFLICTS

Even though poverty and armed conflicts are entirely two different concepts, but they are related to each other in some or the other way in society.

The World Bank in one world development report stated that, one of the biggest drivers of poverty in the developing world is violent conflict. One of the biggest risks for developing countries is that of being caught in a conflict trap, a vicious circle whereby poverty stokes conflict and conflict, in turn, increases poverty. From the above statement, we can understand that there is some connection between poverty and armed conflicts existing in our society.

According to Karl Marx, the social stratification divides the society into two classes; the ruling class and the subject class. The unequal distribution of wealth leads to a revolution in society. The ruling class tries to exploit the subject class and the conflict arises between them.

C W Mills (Founder of modern conflict theory, American sociologist) also believes in the social structures which are created because of conflicts in interests and resources. There are limited resources

in our world. People will compete between one another to grab those resources. Such conflict will lead to the creation of two classes such as elite and others. And conflict occurs between them.

According to Aristotle, "poverty is the parent of revolution and crime." From this statement, we can understand that even Aristotle agrees that there is a connection between poverty and conflicts.

In many countries we can see widespread poverty, increasing inequalities, social exclusion etc., in those countries we can see a lot of conflicts also. Poverty is one of the major causes of armed conflict. Eradication of poverty is the only way to control armed conflicts in our society. The best example is Africa. Out of 54 countries in Africa, 30 countries are facing conflicts.

A recent study in UK's department of International Development showed that a country which has \$250 GDP per capita has 15 per cent risk of internal conflict. While a country which has \$5000 per capita has only a risk of 1 per cent²¹.

The relationship between poverty and armed conflicts can be studied under two different heads. They are;

- a) Poverty causes conflict
- b) Conflict deepens poverty

In our society because of unequal distribution of wealth, there will be an imbalance of political, social, cultural opportunities among the persons, good governance will be absent, inequalities arise in every sphere of life, social exclusion, unemployment increases, lack of education etc., in these circumstances the people in that particular society may have certain grievances. When those grievances are not met by the authorities it will lead to arguments between them. Poor people will start

²¹ Susan E. Rice, *The Threat of Global Poverty*, THE NATIONAL INTEREST, 76-82 (2006).

riots because they don't have any other choice. They will start to question the prevailing government about their present situation and will join rebel groups. When they use arms and started to kill others, it will lead to armed conflicts. Armed conflicts will lead to war. So that poverty, inequalities and social exclusion lead to violent conflict.

Because of these prolonged armed conflicts, there will be mass destruction and violence, battlefield deaths and disablement. Many child soldiers will be compelled to join in these conflicts; their life will be also in danger. Because of the mass attack, there will be loss of life of many human beings, it will affect the women who are there in the households, and they will start to face a lot of problems. All these will lead to vulnerable health problems; they won't get legal protection; thus, it will deepen the poverty which is existent in that society.²²

But by the recent researches, the political economists argue that greed (opportunity to exploit others) rather than grievances (generated by poverty) tends to cause violent conflict.

However, we can say that still there is a connection between poverty and armed conflicts. Even though the concept is changing from the grievances to greed but still there is an indirect connection between poverty and conflict.

EXAMPLES

Some of the examples of armed conflicts are;

- a) The Persian Gulf crisis in 2019- 2020 began when four oil tankers were in the Gulf of Oman. The US alleges that Iran's forces are destabilising the region and threatening interests of the US. At the same time, Iran alleges that the US is trying to use military force and economic pressure to bring down their government.
- b) The India Pakistan border skirmishes in 2019 is a result of the militant attack in February 2019, when a Central Reserve Police Force convoy carrying security personnel was attacked by a suicide bomber in Pulwama.
- c) The Islamist insurgency in Mozambique (Africa) which started in October 2017 focused on the religion.
- d) Mali civil war, which happened from 2012 to 2015. It prevailed for almost 3 years. The reason for such conflict is that the groups in that state started to fight against the Malian government for independence.
- e) Syrian civil war, which is still happening, started in 2011. The main reason for this conflict is that the groups in this state started to protest against Assad's Government.
- f) Korean War, which happened from 1950 to 1953. The conflict aroused when North Korea invaded South Korea.
- g) In 2009 the conflict between Srilankan Government and LTTE caused the highest number of deaths in the world. It leads to the death of 7400-9000 people.
- h) Conflict in Democratic Republic Congo in 1998, forces from Rwanda, Angola, Zimbabwe and Uganda have given support to the various groups in Congo.

²² Jonathan Goodhand, *Violent Conflict, Poverty and Chronic Poverty*, SEMANTIC SCHOLAR (Aug. 28, 2020 3.30 PM) <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Violent-Conflict%2C-Poverty-and-Chronic-Poverty-Goodhand/7a1f613eb8acf8fcab6112aad04cfa4bb9f8809c>

Christopher Cramer, *Violent Conflict and the Very Poorest*, SEMANTIC SCHOLAR (Aug. 28, 2020, 2.00 PM) <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Violent-conflict-and-the-very-poorest-Cramer/5e8040b40c45d16a84c850534b83f719e29735dc>

The above-mentioned conflicts are some of the major conflicts which occurred in our world and which resulted in mass destruction.

IV. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS TO CONTROL ARMED CONFLICTS

The armed conflicts which are occurring today are mostly non-international armed conflicts.²³ But for all types of armed conflicts, international humanitarian law applies. The international humanitarian law and human rights laws main goal is to preserve human dignity. The armed conflicts have taken millions of lives in recent decades. In most of the armed conflicts, we can see that there were violation of international humanitarian law and human rights laws. Some of them will lead to wars and genocide also.

The international organisations can only make the participants in armed conflicts have respect for humanitarian laws. The ICRC has been working for the application of humanitarian law in armed conflicts. The UN general assembly, UN commission on human rights, International Court of Justice and several other organisations are trying hard to control armed conflicts. They all are trying to help the UN Security Council which deals with armed conflicts.²⁴

The UN has many peacekeeping missions and it didn't forget to include the human rights components in it. One of the main goals of the UN

²³ G.I.A.D Draper, *Implementation of international law in armed conflicts*, 48 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, 46-59 (Jan 1972)

²⁴ *Ibid.*

State department Legal Adviser Discusses US. Views on international law, Security Council Powers under Chapter VII of the UN charter, 99 THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, 891-894 (Oct. 2005).

Kyle Beardsley, *Peace Keeping and the Contagion Armed Conflict*, 73 JOURNAL OF POLITICS, 1051-1064 (Sep 2011).

A.G.Noorani, *Human Rights during Armed Conflicts*, 26 ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 1076 (April 1991).

charter is to maintain or restore international peace and security. The General Assembly is the main organ of the UN and it includes all of its members. The main function of the general assembly is to discuss matters which arise under the UN charter and make recommendations.

The next organ of the UN, the Security Council's primary responsibility is to maintain peace and security. The council has 15 members and all its member states are obliged to carry out its decisions. When a situation arises, which is a threat to the society, it's reported to the Council. First, the council will ask the parties to make an agreement. If such an agreement is not successful and it leads to conflicts then the council tries to make a cease-fire that is a temporary suspension of fighting. Then the council will send peacekeeping missions to those areas to solve it or call for the economic sanctions to restore the position by peaceful means.

The International Court of Justice is also an important organ in the UN if a country doesn't wish to be a party in the proceedings of ICJ then it does not have to obey it. If there is a special treaty then they have to. Once a state accepts the court's jurisdiction then later, they cannot deny it.

The role of NGOs is also inevitable in controlling Armed Conflicts.²⁵ For e.g. the Amnesty international, international commission of jurists, international league of human rights, etc. these organisations also recognised that during armed conflicts there will be human rights violations.

These NGOs rely mostly on UDHR, ICCPR and also to the Geneva conventions and its additional protocols. But they also play a vital role in

²⁵ David Weissbrodt, *Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflict-The role of International Non-governmental organisations*, 24 JOURNAL OF PEACE (special issue on the humanitarian law of armed conflict) 297-306 (Sep 1987).

combating armed conflicts. Conventions also emerged to regulate armed conflicts and the Geneva Convention is one such convention which is a body of international law that regulates the activities of armed conflict and tries to limit its effects.

Hence these are some of the International mechanisms which are trying to regulate armed conflicts and to restore peace and security in our society.

V. CONCLUSION

In short, we can say that poverty is the main cause of increasing armed conflicts and continuing conflicts will deepen the poverty. The poverty rate in our world is decreased but it's not eradicated. Many international mechanisms are trying hard to eradicate poverty from the world. The United Nations on 25 September 2015 adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or Global Goals and of their goal is to end poverty.

Among the various types of armed conflicts, non-international armed conflicts are increasing in our world. By the example of Africa, we can determine that poverty is one of the causes of increasing armed conflicts. Depending on the GDP rate, the

Central African Republic is the poorest country in the world. There are 54 countries in Africa, in which approximately 30 countries are facing some conflicts.

During this pandemic, poverty level is increasing rapidly like a fire. The sincere efforts to curb poverty is very essential during this time otherwise it will be impossible to control the outcome of it. In short, we can say that poverty is the main cause for a lot of atrocities in the world including armed conflicts and the time has come to put efforts into it to prevent further damage to the world