

Poverty in Mozambique

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Introduction:

- The poverty phenomenon is frequently studied from a macro-sociological standpoint.
- The purpose of my research is to contribute to these studies by taking a micro-sociological standpoint, specifically in Mozambican society.
- Taking a more personal approach, my research delves into the realities of the poverty experience in Mozambican society.

Method:

- This research incorporated collection of data from existing based materials such as photos, magazines, videos, and news articles.
- I developed the following rationale for the photo selection process: “the first 5 photos depicting human life when I search for poverty in Mozambique”
- Finally, I used content analysis to develop key themes and major points for the final product.

Figure 1 is a photo that was used for research and content analysis.



Figure 1

Findings:

- Through this research, I was able to learn that there is no baseline for defining the lived experience of poverty in Mozambique.
- Several factors such as violence and trauma have contributed to the poverty aesthetic in Mozambican society.
- The lived experience of poverty in Mozambican society is a reality that may appear different from one individual to another.

Theory:

- The theorist I selected for my research was Emile Durkheim.
- Emile Durkheim developed the structural functionalism theory, or simply functionalism, that claims that society is a complex system whose parts work together to create structure and stability in society.
- According to this theory, poverty would then be a necessary part of society that contributes to its structure and stability.
- My research uses this theory to explore the lived experience of poverty in Mozambican society.

Sources:

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- Mowafi, M. & Khawaja, M. (2005) Poverty. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 59(4),260-264. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25570683>