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Academic ESL World History Unit 5. Decolonization. Urban Poverty in India. Tracing Cause and Effect

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A. Reading and Writing Assignment – Tracing Cause and Effect

India and Urban Poverty

Source: <https://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/blog/2018/08/causes-urban-poverty-india/>

Causes of Urban Poverty in India

Most academic texts involve a subject matter, a question or problem which is discussed in the text from different angles and for different purposes.

The most common pattern is introduction, presentation of question or problem, a main statement that directs the organization of the article or paper, background information, elaboration with explanations, sources and examples, and a forward pointing solution or conclusion. Each of these segments can be treated differently. Sometimes we compare, sometimes we interpret, and sometimes we argue for or against something etc.

As you read articles for academic purposes, you will find that by tracing the thesis statement, or main position and the development of the main idea contained in the thesis statement, you will be able to navigate a text more easily. The title of this text is *Causes of Urban Poverty in India*. By looking at the title, you already get an idea of what this text will describe, explain, and discuss. You know that it will try to answer the question: What are some of the reasons for urban poverty in India? We also call this cause and effect. What are the reasons? And what are the results of these reasons?

All texts form relationships within the text. In this case, it is the relationship between cause and effect. By tracing this relationship, you will be able to follow the discourse pattern or structure of this article. To find these links in the text will be the main purpose of this exercise.

- 1. Brainstorming:** What are some of the reasons for urban poverty in your opinion?

Write down your thoughts in the box below.

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2. Thesis and Problem: Paraphrasing exercise

Thesis Statement	Paraphrase
“In India, the causes of urban poverty can be linked to the lack of infrastructure in rural areas, forcing inhabitants of these regions to seek out work in India’s mega-cities.”	
Definition of problem	Paraphrase
“However, as more and more people make this migration, the space left to accommodate them becomes less and less. Urban development can’t keep up with the growing numbers of informal settlers and no one wants to be held accountable for the slums or their residents.”	

3. The problems and their impact on poverty

Scan the text for a definition of the problems and their impact on urban poverty in India.

Problem	Definition	Impact according to text
Lack of opportunities		
Lack of affordable housing		
Overcrowding		

4. Explain the problem and its relationship to poverty according to text.

Problem -What is it?	Urban poverty
Population growth	
Government accountability	

5. Reflective Summary

Which are some of the possible solutions to urban poverty? Summarize. Add a paragraph in which you reflect on the discussion in the reading. Are there other reasons for these problems in your opinions? Do you have a similar problem in your country? What causes these problems? If not, what is different? Why do these problems not occur?