Growing Up in Poverty
Findings from Young Lives

Edited By Michael Bourdillon and Jo Boyden

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About the book
This collection brings together the latest evidence from Young Lives, a unique international study that focuses on children and poverty – particularly how poverty affects their development and their lives as children, and how children and their families respond to poverty. It shows how the persistence of inequality amid general economic growth is leaving some extremely poor children behind, despite the promises of the Millennium Development Goals. While schooling has become widespread to the extent that almost all children attend school, at least for a while, children from disadvantaged backgrounds often are left behind. Changing values, such as the growing belief in school education as a route out of poverty, raise questions about how children’s early circumstances and experiences, and the choices they make, affect their later outcomes and well-being in adolescence and early adulthood.

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Jo Boyden is Director of Young Lives, an ongoing 15-year study of childhood poverty based at the University of Oxford, UK. She is an international expert on issues relating to children in developing countries, how they grow up, the contributions they make to their families, and how they cope with the challenges of daily life.

Michael Bourdillon was Professor of Sociology at the University of Zimbabwe for over twenty years. An academic and activist who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of street and working children, he is recognised for his passionate defence of children’s rights to nurture and to learn the skills they need for a useful life wherever they are growing up.

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