

Poor Economics

A Radical Rethinking of the
Way to Fight Global Poverty

ABHIJIT V. BANERJEE

AND ESTHER DUFLO

PUBLICAFFAIRS

New York

Contents

Foreword vii

Think Again, Again 1

PART I: PRIVATE LIVES

2 A Billion Hungry People? 19

3 Low-Hanging Fruit for Better (Global) Health? 41

4 Top of the Class 71

5 Pak Sudarno's Big Family 103

PART II: INSTITUTIONS

6 Barefoot Hedge-Fund Managers 133

7 The Men from Kabul and the Eunuchs of India:

The (Not So) Simple Economics of Lending to the Poor 157

8 Saving Brick by Brick 183

9 Reluctant Entrepreneurs 205

10 Policies, Politics 235

In Place of a Sweeping Conclusion 267

Acknowledgments 275

Notes 277

Index 295