Difference Between Absolute Poverty and Relative Poverty

Poverty is an economic condition where humans experience a lack of certain commodities essential for stable living.

Absolute Poverty and Relative Poverty are two terms used to measure this poverty level.

Absolute Poverty is used to describe a condition where an individual does not have the financial means to obtain commodities to sustain life.

Relative Poverty refers to the standard of living compared to economic standards of living within the same surroundings.

This article will further highlight the significant differences between absolute poverty and relative poverty within the context of the IAS Exam

The difference between Absolute Poverty and Relative Poverty is given in the table below:

Differences between Absolute Poverty and Relative Poverty	
Absolute Poverty	**Relative Poverty**
Any person not in a position to obtain essential commodities like food, shelter and clothing are said to experience absolute poverty	Relative poverty does not concentrate on biological needs but rather makes a comparison between two people in the environment
Income Level is considered in Absolute Poverty	It is not considered when measuring relative poverty as a person will still be considered poor despite meeting his.her basic needs
Absolute poverty, however, does not include a broader quality of life issues or the overall level of inequality in society. What the concept fails to recognize is that individuals also have important social and cultural needs.	Although people living in relative poverty are to an extent well-off compared to those living in absolute poverty, they still cannot afford the same standard of life as other people in society.
Measured using Poverty Line	Measured Using the Gini-Coefficient and Lorenzo Curve
It is not possible to completely eradicate absolute	There is a small margin of success where its eradication is concerned
Quality of life is poor	Quality of life is marginally better as those living under relative poverty have access to health care services