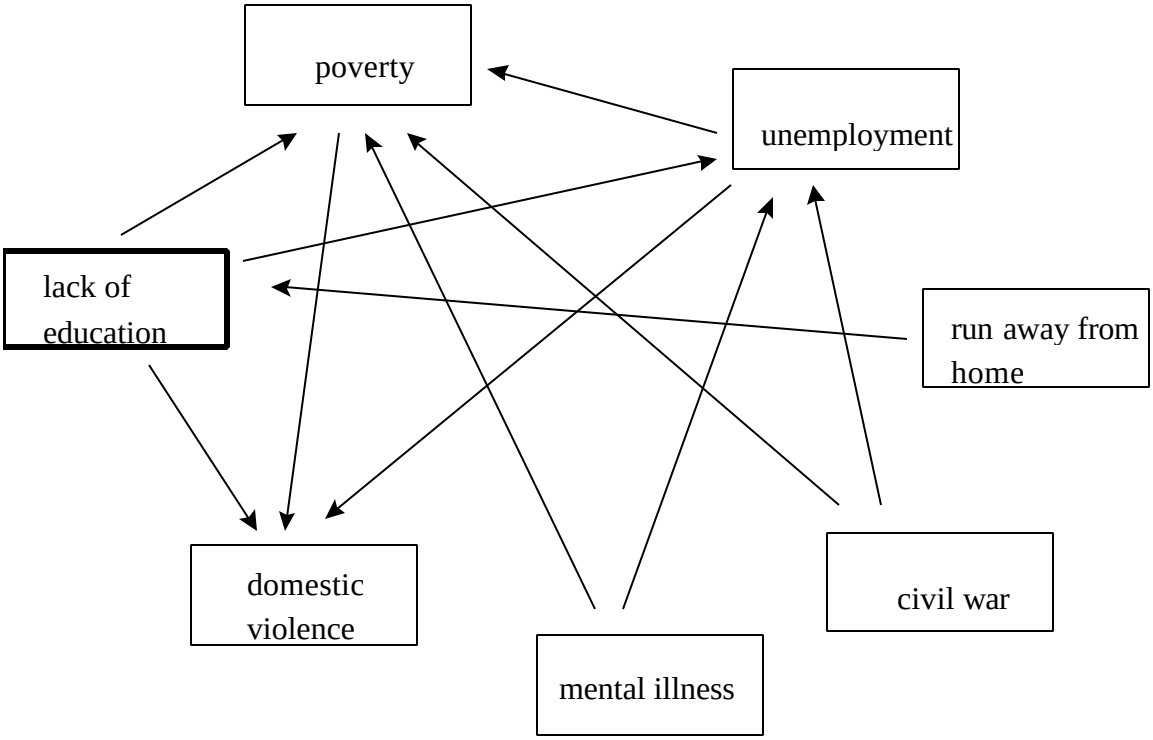
**Interrelationship Digraph**

**An interrelationship digraph** illustrates cause and effect relationships among many issues. It is used when there are several causes of variation and you are unsure which cause has the most effect on the others.

This is a tool for a team to use. Once the main causes of a problem or variation are identified, they are written on sticky notes and placed randomly on a large piece of paper. Arrows are drawn between two items that are related from the cause to the effect. The primary cause is the one that has the most arrows coming from it.

**Example.**

What is the primary cause of homelessness?




There are three arrows that come from the “lack of education” box, therefore, this is presumed to be a major **cause** of homelessness, based on this example. “Poverty” has the most arrows coming in to it, so it can be considered a major **effect** of homelessness.