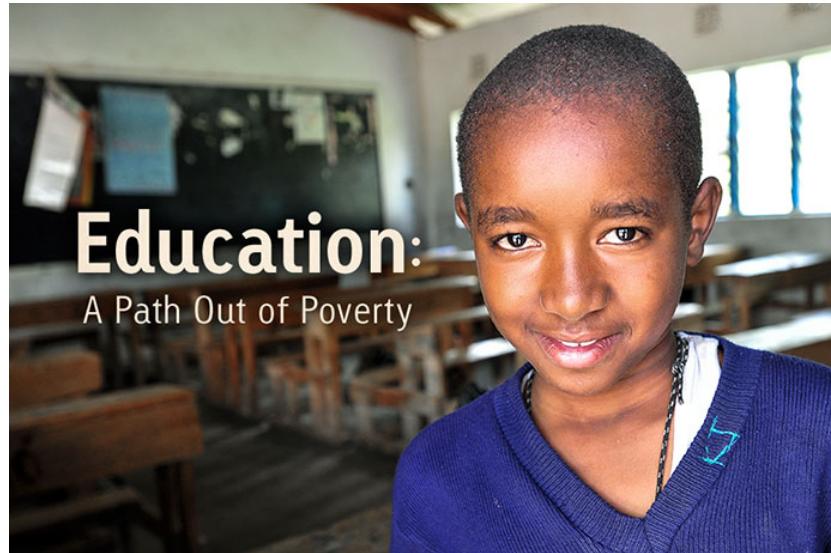


5 Reasons Why You Should Care About Poverty

In today's world, a college degree represents the entry ticket to rewarding careers and fulfilling lives.

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Researchers have conducted numerous amount of studies on how families living in poverty are being affected. That's just the surface level of the problem. This perceived dilemma goes beyond what we can ever imagine.

Here are some facts that you should know why poverty is affecting you today.

1. Brain Development

The future of our society depends on our action now. A recent article by Alla Katsnelson, a freelance science writer and editor, verified that children who grew up in poor living conditions are already at a significant disadvantage in comparison to children living in stable conditions. One main factor that we need to take into account is how these issues affect the brain development of the poor. [Early studies](#) have shown that the differences in between children from middle class and upper-class families in comparison to children living in poverty is that their brain structure was underdeveloped in memory, language processing, decision-making, and self-control. Every day, underprivileged children are being impacted by poor living conditions and this issue reflects on the current study that will eventually affect the future of our society. This issue demands urgency and needs to be advocated in a new light now.

Unacceptable living conditions demonstrate a significant impact on the development of children's brain. Poor brain development reflects on creating many obstacles for children to learn the fundamentals of having educational aspirations. This dilemma emphasizes the pressure that is placed for the individuals that live in poverty. To this day, news and the media is mainly

composed of surface-level information on how poverty only affects the poor. However, the poor are not the only ones being affected. We do not realize that poverty also affects the general socio-economic society. Poverty affects everyone. As society continues to progress and develop, the poor are receiving more obstacles to overcome. Constantly trying to match to the expansive growth that our society is achieving, the well-being of children living in poor conditions is becoming even harder to maintain. One factor that we need to take into account is that the crisis of poverty significantly affects children's brain development.

Poverty affects children's brain development in a multitude of conditions. The United States has some of the highest levels of childhood poverty outside the developing world, with one in five of all children – 15 million in total – living below the federal poverty line of \$24,250 for a family of four. Although this may be true, we are not taking into account the negative effects that living in poverty have on these children and how this is affecting our society altogether. The society needs to realize and accept this issue and be able to take action on these problematic situations that have an overall effect on our socio-economic status. The disparity in between the middle to upper-class families and the poor are consistently evolving. Consistent growth in our economic status will continue to lead the rich people to divide themselves from the poor which will eventually drive more damages to the development of children's brains.

2. Mental Health

The mutual understanding of the emergency and seriousness of the problem is often not well understood either by both the policymakers and the general public. Over the past couple of years, [research](#) has highlighted structural differences, including preliminary findings in the amygdala, which plays a role in processing fear and other emotions, and in the prefrontal cortex, involved in decision-making and self-control. Poverty reflects the failures in the systems for redistributing resources and opportunities in a fair and equitable manner. People are living in these vulnerable conditions have their life at risk. The issue of poverty continues to expand further and as the rich become richer, they are becoming less obligated to be engaged in these issues.

Children that grew up living through poverty are challenged with conditions that cause trauma. According to [research](#), traumatic life events experienced by children growing up in poverty were associated with a smaller hippocampus. The hippocampus appears as a form of memory impairment. This mental damage to the brain significantly affects memory. Children that live through traumatic events have the tendency to brush away these horrendous memories. In fact, this substantially damages one's perception to relate and understand emotions. We can see how trauma signifies chronic stress which then negatively contributes to mental health.

The impact of poverty on children's educational aspiration is becoming more and more divided as society continues to progress. It is alarming to see how these children living in poverty that have incredible potential to make a positive impact in our society are being handicapped by these hardships. If these children are able to pursue their educational aspirations, we will be able to identify a healthier society. There needs to be a change in society's approach to making a difference in this matter. By simply providing additional resources, we will be able to increase the overall socio-economic status of our society.

3. Social Ills

People living in poverty consistently encounter emotional challenges that eventually affect their overall behavior. A [study](#) has found that mothers with lower household income and lower levels of education were more likely to be more negative in their play interactions with their children. The study provides evidence that this problem overall concludes to the idea that children are not only impacted by the general population but also by the people that are closest to them. When a child is born, the parents are the first people that they are exposed to. It is crucial to acknowledge that the people you place your trust in the most are also negatively impacting you.

In addition to this crisis, the study also further found that a mother's level of education, household income, and depressive symptoms have direct, lasting effects on her child's social competence in early childhood. These problems echo on the importance of how these living conditions affect an individual's behavior to understand and excel in the general population. In addition, to recognize the importance of equality of education for children of all social class. If we are able to provide more opportunities for children to attend schools, have better facilities, and provide better resources for teachers to utilize in teaching children, we are able to enlighten the lives of the poor. The people living in poor conditions will begin to reconstruct their lives which will eventually contribute back to society as a whole. Collective effort to invest in the problems of poverty will allow more opportunities to make a change and restructure our socio-economic system as a whole.

Although the rising income of the rich does not directly affect the economy and social outcomes of the poor, it is possible that it is inherently corrupting society. [Studies](#) have found that rich people consistently demonstrated an "empathy gap." In the perspective of educational funding, this problem indirectly affects the families that are living in poverty because these gaps are becoming further apart as time progresses. For this reason, we are able to see how the poor are not receiving similar opportunities as the rich and well-developed families to pursue their goals and to escape from poverty. [David Sciarra](#), the executive director the Education Law Center reinforces this idea by arguing that that "public school funding in far too many states remain unfair, irrational and unconnected to the resources students must have to succeed."

4. Physical Health

Studies have found numerous amount of consequences that poverty has on a child's physical health. Poor nutrition leads to chronic diseases such as asthma, obesity and high blood pressure, increased accidental injuries, lack of school readiness, toxic stress and adversity. Poor housing and exposure to secondhand smoke are contributing factors to asthma. Families living in these poor conditions do not have enough resources to pay for their own medical bills. Let alone, parents that are financially unstable do not have enough resources to provide food for their own family. This fact contributes to the lack of school readiness. Low parental education and single parent families are complex factors that interfere with school.

According to [research](#), the poverty rate for the past 3 years averages to 1 in 5 (about 15.5 million) children live in poverty in the United States – 23% are under age five. There are about 46.2 million Americans considered impoverished. This is about 15 percent of the country's population. The change needs to be addressed now. By recognizing the overall structure and how each particular issue of poverty link to one another, we need to proceed to recognize and actively find resolutions to decrease the amount of the impoverish and improve our society as a whole. There are various ways we can decrease the numbers of families that are in poverty. Focusing on improving food security will allow the children to focus on attending school in a better state of mind.

Poor housing also provides evidence of the risk of injury and death. Dangerous situations include road accidents, fires, accidental drowning, and accidental poisonings.

“why should we care?”

Well, evidence shows that by actively focusing on these societal issues, particularly in improving the physical health of the impoverished, we are able to create a brighter future where children are able to pursue their aspirations. By creating and focusing on building confidence for these groups that are struggling, we will be able to improve the lives of the poor and their educational aspirations. This way, we will create a more vibrant middle class.

5. Rising poverty among children is harmful to our society.

Children who grew up in poverty are more likely to have lower lifetime earnings. We are able to link this fact to how they are less likely to grow up to be positive contributors to our society. Being trapped in this living condition decreases mobility. Therefore, when they grow up and become adults, they are more likely to have poor children of their own. In the long-term perspective, societal growth will become stagnant until they overcome the barrier of focusing on improving healthier living conditions for the poor. The effort to improving the lives of these poor families by providing equal educational opportunities will allow the nation's economic growth rise.

According to the [American Progress Action](#), poverty costs our economy billions of dollars annually. Poverty continues to strip limited resources that the government could invest in other areas to promote economic growth. The overall productivity of our society is constantly being limited by the issue of poverty. The overall impact of poverty reflects on our nation's revenue. Individuals who live in poverty that begin to enter the workforce are less likely to be familiar and educated. This way, contributions to increasing the nation's economic pursuits are substantially impacted.

Supporting educational funding for children living in poverty would demonstrate an increase in critical thinking and educational aspirations. Individuals that are in these poor living conditions have a strong motivation to escape these conditions. They have the passion and motivation to create a better future for the overall society. To prevent their future children to experience the same adversity, we are able to identify various reasons in behind how increasing

funding for public education will enact a complete overhaul of our societies socio-economic status.

This brings us back to how in today's world, a college degree represents the entry ticket to rewarding careers and fulfilling lives. Families that are living in these impoverished conditions is just a surface level of the critical underlying problem of our nation's economic growth. The topic and discussion on the impact of poverty have been long overdue and we need to take action now

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