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Advocacy paper

Poverty diminishes a child's ability to learn fine motor skills, their cognitive ability, memory, focus skill, and their physical health which in turn effects everything else. Children are effected very badly by poverty in their childhood years. Poverty can make children unfocused and that impairs their ability to learn. If a child lives in a condition in which they are unable to get enough food, clothes, or space to grow and flourish they can not function in an environment in which they have to learn. As many as 14.4% children face poverty in the US alone and many more world wide the "U.S. Census Bureau data shows that the U.S. poverty rate rose to 15.1 percent (46.2 million) in 2010, an increase from 14.3 percent (approximately 43.6 million) in 2009 and the highest level since 1993. In 2008, 13.2 percent (39.8 million) Americans lived in relative poverty". These children are unable to get the basic necessity to function daily making it hard for them to study.

Children that face these circumstances are more likely to have a harder life growing up and they will have a harder time in school. There are many types of poverty such as kids that grow up in a poor neighborhood and some kids are in welfare programs. Children that are in the lowest percentage might not even have a home, they might be living in a shelter or in a foster home. These children face a high chance of having mental problems and delayed cognitive ability.

Children that are below poverty line or are at the poverty line as well as children that are not born into poverty, but transition in to poverty are all effected by the same problem that can become a cycle that repeats itself. Many children are not born into poverty but their parents financial circumstances can change them to move in to a lower class neighborhood, or forcing them to get help from the government such as welfare. Many times a child can also grow out of poverty which can have a positive impact on a child. Such as moving to a better community and then they can get better schooling.

Children are being affected because they can not learn or function at the same level as a child that is not in poverty. Families are being affected because they will feel frustrated or saddened by their child doing bad in school due to their income level. The community can not flourish if the kids do not do good in school and become a contributing member of society.

Poverty does not only effect the people but it also effects the communities in which the child lives too. Communities and neighborhoods are effected badly by childhood poverty because children those are living in poverty are at a greater risk of mental health problems and chronic illnesses. These kids are also prone to use drugs and be abused. Many families are effect because they face many hardships such as providing for their families and having to work more. The communities are more prone to less growth because poverty hinders children from receiving a good education and reaching their maximum potential.

When a child is held back by effects of poverty such as chronic illness, malnutrition, and basic necessities it cause stress on families. Many times a family can not pay bills or feed themselves, they become homeless and have to move to a shelter. When they move to shelters they face more problems such as sharing an overcrowded place and limited access to essential things.

Families in poverty often have to work more jobs to feed their families. Parents in these situation can not afford to give their children time and help with school work. Which in turn effects a child's growth.

At this time it is very important that we address this problem. It is 2021 and as an educator I feel that we are in a first world country and if we do not address this problem how will we grow? How can we say that children are in the future if we can not help them move on from poverty. Children are our future and if we do not help them the problems, this will cause us to move back instead of moving forward. Poverty can have lifelong effects which can be stopped or lessened if we try to put an end to it. Kids living in poverty experience a higher drop out rate and if they can not graduate these kids can tend to repeat the cycle of poverty. All of these things can effect our community because the community needs to be active and change has to be made or else this will continue into the future.

The issue needs to be addressed now because everything is more assessable and this should not be a problem when so many resources are available. The government is currently working on many stimulus and programs that will be offered to low income households. These programs are aimed at pulling millions of kids out of poverty. Starting in July parents that filed taxes will receive monthly payments that will accumulate to \$3,000 or \$3,600 depending on their age. If parents do not know about these things and educators help them become better informed it will have a positive outcome. When educators offer more help, it is parents responsibility to take advantage of these opportunity and to continue to grow by learning and moving past poverty.

There are many things such as translating services and pamphlets written in different lan-

guages educating people who are below poverty levels that will help people overcome poverty.

Better parenting will help a parent become more involved in a child's life and when parents form a unified objective of moving out of poverty it helps them. Parents can help a child get ready for pre-school by teaching them numbers, letters, to share, and to get along with other kids.

Parents that face poverty can not afford to send their kids to private school but they can send them charter schools by applying online this can help a child get a better education. Sticking to certain budgets and committing to it can help a family move past poverty. Once we commit to something it is easier to follow it. Parents can also apply for government assistance programs such as SNAP and public assistance. This will help them provide food and basic necessities for their kids.

My targeted audience are parents because they are the guardians of children and they can help turn the child's life around. They can try to lift the child out of poverty and help them achieve a better life. There are many programs aimed at lifting parents and kids out of poverty. Parents have to take advantages of these programs to help their kids. Right now parents have to educate themselves about these programs, this will help them obtain fundings that they are suppose to receive.

When parents move forward in order to move out of poverty they have to take the right steps in order to help their kids obtain a better childhood. Parents work very hard sometimes to make ends meet but by better educating themselves they can get better jobs and make more money. Many times parents do not know of programs such as SNAP and other cash assistance programs that will help them obtain funds to help their families. Right now parents can receive government funding but they have to know how to apply for these programs. When parents take the

incentive to move their families from poverty it help their future.

As a future educator helping and advocating for children facing poverty is a very important subject to me. I come from a third world country that has a lot of financial problems and kids that face poverty on a daily basis. As a person that has seen the effects of growing up in a poverty stricken country it effects me greatly. When I use to see children that did not have anything grow older and they had to repeat the cycle of poverty it was heart breaking and many of them did not go to school or they dropped out to help their families. It was a hard thing to experience. I hope to help parents and children in any way possible to break these cycles and I hope that our communities get involved in helping. As a future educator I will try to set up a room where I can involve large groups of parents to hold weekly meeting to see if they need any help and have one on one meetings to help them. When these meetings will take place I can better assist parents that need help financial or help with resources.

In Leonhardt's New York Times article "Taking on Child Poverty" he explains how the Biden administration is working on a bill called the Pandemic relief bill that will provide low income families with a divided payment of \$3,600 for kids under five and \$3,000 for kids above five years old. This child credit will help millions of families in poverty but some argue it will encourage many single women to go on unemployment which will negate the positive effects of the bill. Many argue that it should only go to working low income families. Leonhardt also talks about how a similar long term bill was passed in Britain that cut their poverty level by fifty percent. Many think that "Over all, the legislation will *reduce the child poverty rate* this year to about 6 percent from about 14 percent, according to projections by the Center on Poverty and

Social Policy at Columbia”. One of the biggest draw back is that this bill is only a one year payment and it is not a recurring payment system for families in poverty.

Areeba Haider talks about how Child poverty rates are high in America in her article [The Basic Facts About Children In Poverty](#) she says, “1 in 7 kids, who make up almost one-third of all people living in poverty in this country”. She talks about how the pandemic has increased the rate and more children are facing poverty due to the unemployment rates going up. The rates are so high that she said, “Since April 2020, the share of children with at least one unemployed parent has consistently remained above reported rates during the peak of the Great Recession.”² More than 4 in 10 children live in a household struggling to meet basic expenses, and between 7 million and 11 million children live in households in which they are unable to eat enough because of the cost”. Haider also gives look at ways to reduce the poverty rates, she thinks by bring reform to welfare programs, raising minimum wage, and gaining affordable child care change can be made.

Works Cited

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