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Mini ecological Study part 2

ECE 410 050W

When conducting the first part of this mini ecological study I noticed the environment and how there was a lot of poverty and violence. The South Bronx is not the best area and it is low income. The neighborhood I was observing was not the best place that someone would come to in order to seek opportunity. Even though the neighborhood is low income the children still have access to a library which is a great opportunity. Every household is different because not every child has access to a computer or even internet. This is why the library is so important because it offers a source where a child can get the things that they might not have at home. A library is also a great place for the community to strengthen their cognitive developmental skills by reading and stimulating the brain.

The neighborhood plays a huge role on what access a child may have to resources because a child in downtown Manhattan for instance in a high income neighborhood will strive more than a low income child in the Bronx. This has nothing to do with if one child is more intelligent than the other because that is not the case. The real reason is the resources. If every child had the same opportunity and equality when it comes to the education system then every child would do good. For example “Low income makes it more difficult for parents to gain access to the high quality child care that prepares children for kindergarten” (Monahan, Rachel. “Analysis: 90% of Students in 5 Bronx Neighborhoods Not Ready for College.” NY Daily News, Oct. 2012.) This is important because by the time children are in kindergarten they will not be at

the same level as a child who started head start or had the opportunity to learn before. This puts the community at risk because the future of the community starts with the children of today.

When walking I also noticed another huge issue in this neighborhood which was drugs

Everywhere you walk most likely you will smell marijuana. Although it is now legal it is still an issue because now minors have an even easier access to it which does take a toll on the person that they become. People over abusing substances as well drugs all over the Bronx has also been a concern. Sometimes you walk and you see needles on the floor which for starters is a safety hazard. Imagine children or even people walking can encounter that it is definitely a cause of concern. There are also people who sell unprescribed pills which is a huge factor to many deaths in the youth. This is why education plays a huge factor that way we can lead children from a very young age in the correct direction.

“Crime in low income neighborhoods may provide tempting alternatives to working hard at school and at the same time make it more difficult for neighborhood schools to recruit high quality teachers” (Duncan, Greg J., and Richard J. Murnane. *Opportunity Rising Inequality, Schools, and Children’s Life Chances*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2011.) Children in these schools may not get the accommodation or care that they need in order to strive in school. Teachers may not have the knowledge or resources in low income neighborhoods. By the time a child reaches highschool a lot of them do not even graduate which is heartbreaking because if they had the proper care it may have had a different income. However The catholic school next to my apartment is called Sacred heart school. There is a cross guard which ensures some safety to the parents. The crossing guard has a stop sign when she crosses and it also helps the children be able to see when they can cross or not. It is a co-ed school that goes from pre-k to eighth grade. This school helps special needs childrens the children who have IEP or a 504 plan are

given the accommodation that they need. Each child is given the same opportunity to learn even if they are exceptional it does not define who they are. It is a catholic school so the educators take the measures that they need to make sure the children receive the best education that they can possibly offer. I know this information because my aunt works in the school for many years and I have attended the school. Some children are more fortunate than others because the children in public school may not have the same sources as the catholic schools fundings. Some schools however may not understand exceptional children fully.“ Learning disabilities is a generic term that refers to a heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical abilities. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual and presumed to be due to central nervous system dysfunction. Even though a learning disability may occur concomitantly with other handicapping conditions (e.g., sensory impairment, social and emotional disturbance), or environmental influences (e.g., cultural differences, insufficient/inappropriate instruction, psychogenic factors), it is not the direct result of those conditions or influences.”(National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities. (1991).18–20.) The schools in this neighborhood may not be able to give these exceptional children the environment they need in order to thrive. Sometimes teachers who are not trained to deal with a certain type of child are put to work with them. Children need someone who will understand them because if not they will not get the proper education.

The coronavirus pandemic has also put this neighborhood at risk as well. Covid 19 has been an issue worldwide of course but it can hit harder on certain communities because they don't have access to the resources that are needed. When covid hit all the schools were closed and put on zoom during this time a lot of children fell back on two years of education. I know this for a fact because when covid 19 happened I was in my senior year of highschool we did not

have any zoom classes and the assignments were online. During this year I felt like I did not learn anything because they would just put work. There were also people dealing with getting covid multiple times which impacted their ability to do their everyday lives. In 2002 I feel as if things are now somewhat getting better dealing with covid 19 because the children are back in school and on schedule now. There is free access to covid 19 tests and urgent cares that offer fast safe care in the neighborhood. This is one advantage because the neighborhood takes covid seriously now. The church called Sacred heart church even offers free covid 19 vaccines on Sundays in front of the church. This is a good thing because one day at a time we are ending this global pandemic and it all starts with home because little things make a difference.

In my neighborhood I did not really see any signs in the neighborhood that point people with special needs to specific services. However there is a service nearby. Less than a block away from my house there is a building which is a home for disabled people and people with special needs as well. It was adults as well as children. The community also has a city Md which is an urgent care two block away on 170th street in the Bronx. This provides the people and the children access to fast medical care . The only thing is even though there are kid friendly things, the people in the neighborhood do not take this seriously to make it a safe environment. There are some opportunities but as a community it still lacks many. The poverty, environment, and drugs plays a huge factor to why this neighborhood is not striving. As for the future of this community, adults should do better. The public system should offer more opportunities and access to things that high income people have access too. After conducting this mini ecological study and making an analytic report it makes me want to do better as a community and advocate for it. The children deserve better than what they have and the change starts with now.

APA

*Duncan, Greg J., and Richard J. Murnane. *Whither Opportunity?: Rising Inequality, Schools, and Children's Life Chances*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation 2011

*Monahan, Rachel. "Analysis: 90% of Students in 5 Bronx Neighborhoods Not Ready for College." *NY Daily News*. *NY Daily News*, 24 Oct. 2012.

*(National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities. (1991).18–20.)