

The Impact of Poverty in Development on Young Children

Xiaomin Zheng

Department of Education, BMCC

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Professor Lynette Field

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Topic

My paper focuses on the problem of poverty on how to harm the development of children. Poverty has an impact on the children and family for many years; If young children live in poverty, their development will be a delay because they do not have enough food, clean clothes, a comfortable home, and a quiet environment to study. Also, their parents are busy working, so the children cannot get enough emotional support from their parents. Third, their parents cannot afford a high- quality childcare center for children, so their development of cognitive, emotional, social/emotional, and physical will slower than the children whose parents can deliver them to a good childcare center. Fourth, I noticed that children who live in poverty lack inspiration and thrive in school. I write this paper because I hope society, government, and early childhood educators can be aware of this big issue in our life and take some action to help the children and family. Also, I hope the parents and children can know how to see help when they are accounting a hard time. Third, I hope the early childhood educators can know they can impact the children and family in their own special way, so do not give up any children because you can change their views and fortunes. When we realize the impact of poverty on children, we have to take action to change this bad situation and help more children, so every child can win at the start of their life.

Statement of the problem

The official US poverty rate based on 2017 estimates was 12.3 percent, which means 39.7 million Americans lived in poverty that year. Even worse, 18.5 million people reported living in deep poverty, with household incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level, and, sadly, this group generally reflects those who are disabled, elderly, or people who cannot work (Marino, 2019). The US poverty level is by far much higher than most developed nations, ranking second-highest among rich countries, coming in second after Israel. For US children overall, roughly 20 percent

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are living in poverty. But, for black and Hispanic American children, the poverty rate exceeds 30 percent and in 33 states, their poverty level is twice that of their white peers' homeless boy holding a cardboard house Social determinants of health (SDH), or the places people live, work, and play, all have a strong influence on the trajectory of one's life course. For children living in need, it isn't only a matter of the obvious effects of poverty, such as food scarcity or poor living conditions, that have negative consequences. Other factors that are less visible on the outside, like toxic stress as a result of the conditions of poverty and lead in drinking water, have long-term effects on health as well (Marino, 2019). This shows us a lot of children are living in poverty, so it is a big issue which we have to face and solve now because poverty will affect children now and in the future. Children's academic success at an early age could serve as an indicator of children's future income and crime rates because children who live in poor conditions are more likely to drop out of High School or not go to college (Rokossa, 2011). The reason is the poverty affects the way children learn as well. For starters, children who directly or indirectly experience risk factors associated with poverty or low parental education have a higher than a 90% chance of having 1 or more problems with speech, learning, and/or emotional development. Also, kids who are experiencing poverty at home often have difficulties focusing on school. (You cannot learn well on an empty stomach!) There are also often higher levels of stressors and issues that these young children are worried about after school, in addition to having to worry about completing their homework (Children's Bureau, 2019).

Children born into poverty are more likely to experience a wide range of health problems, including poor nutrition, chronic disease, and mental health problems (Marino, 2019). Growing up poor has serious health consequences beyond the impact on neurodevelopment. It is well known that people living in poverty have disproportionately worse health outcomes than those who do

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not and the effects of poverty can begin before a child is born and are likely to last a lifetime (Marino, 2019). Beginning in utero, the baby's environment can be affected by a mother's psychosocial circumstances. The effects of poverty on a pregnant mother can result in chronic distress, which may slow fetal growth rate and increase the risk of prematurity. Poor maternal nutrition and smoking during pregnancy are two common risk factors for low birth weight, which is associated with poor developmental outcomes. Babies born prematurely or with low birth weight have a greater incidence of failure to thrive, developmental issues, and an increased risk of dying in their first year of life (Marino, 2019).

Unfortunately, poor children are more likely to be raised in impoverished neighborhoods. These types of neighborhoods that have concentrated poverty levels are often associated with difficulties in academics, behavioral and social issues, and worsening health. Additionally, these children are more likely to live in neighborhoods where they are exposed to environmental risk factors. These socioeconomic risk factors may include malnutrition, pollution, food insecurity, housing instability, economic hardship, lead exposure, violence, and crime. In regards to violence, even indirect exposure (such as witnessing a violent act or simply knowing of its occurrence) has shown to leave adverse developmental outcomes. As a result of family income inequality, poor children are also disproportionately more likely to attend schools in districts with fewer resources, less funding from local tax dollars, less parental involvement due to longer, lower-wage working hours, inadequate facilities, and with school leadership that has a much higher turnover. (Children's Bureau)

Because children grow within the context of a family unit, it is important to recognize how poverty affects the household as a whole. Firstly, parents living below the poverty level often have difficulties meeting basic economic needs for their families, such as paying for rent, food, utilities,

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clothing, education, accommodations, health care, health insurance, transportation, and child care. Living in poverty often means having limited access to health care, food and housing security, greater risk of school drop-out for children, homeless, unemployment due to lack of education or childcare. Unfortunately, Children are not reaching one's full potential. (Children's Bureau).

The most important developmental period in the early childhood period as the brain is developing rapidly and is easily influenced by conditions of poverty. This formative, developmental phase includes physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive development, all of which are influential on wellbeing throughout life (Marino, 2019). Childhood poverty has long-lasting consequences on mental health as the impact of chronic stress can result in anxiety and behavioral disorders as well as impairing memory, making it more challenging to learn. Researchers found children from low-income communities had increased cortisol levels at ages 7 and 15 months, resulting in poorer cognitive development. In fact, children living below the poverty line have been shown to experience developmental delays up to 2-4 years below grade level and are more likely to remain poor and uneducated as an adult (Marino, 2019).

This told us that poverty not only affects children's present but also their future, even their whole life. You may have heard the term, "The Cycle of Poverty." The cycle of intergenerational poverty refers to the idea that poor parents raise their children in poverty, who are then more likely to become poor parents themselves. (Children's Bureau)

Early childhood education is the start of education, so it is very important for young children because it is the structure of Primary school, Junior School, High School, and College. If children live in poverty, they will lose at the start of their life. We need to address this issue from now on to help more children when they are young because we do not want to see the children live in poverty and lose their good future. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty

(2017), between three and 16 percent of children are affected by poverty in combination with another risk factor. An example of a risk factor may include single-parent households or parents with no or low education (1.7 million). These alarming numbers will continue to rise if no adequate intervention is used. In fact, according to Harvard's Center on the Developing Child, it is best and more useful to intervene right at the start of development, rather than to try to fix things later. In other words, if we provide the right tools for parents and poor families in need, their children will have greater chances to get out of poverty and become successful as adults. Children who live in poverty are affected by one or more risk factors that have been linked to academic failure and poor health, a perfect combination for remaining in the cycle of poverty. (Children's Bureau)

I hoped the Department of Education, Head start, government, parents, and educator can realize the impact of poverty on young children. Department of the Education, Head start and government can provide an equal educational environment for all children, supporting the education of the parents, finding a job; educators and parents can provide a good learning environment to support the development of the children because the children are the future of our country and family, so we have the responsibility to provide a good and equal educational environment for all children, and let every child lives in the sunshine and have a good future.

Research Source Summaries

The research shows us how poverty impacts the different domains' development of young children. Poverty not only impacts the children's present but also their future.

Article 1

In the article "The Effects of Poverty on Children", the author Sheri Marini described how poverty impacts the development of children. She said children living in poverty are at risk for

poor outcomes in health, development, and lower academic achievements, and these negative effects can last a lifetime. How many children live in poverty? The official US poverty rate based on 2017 estimates was 12.3 percent, which means 39.7 million Americans lived in poverty that year. The worse situation is 18.5 million people live in deep poverty, so for US children overall, almost 20 percent are living in poverty.

How will poverty impact the development of children? Sheri Marini described from the living environment, development & education, overall health, prenatal health, access to resources, food insecurity, toxic stress. First, when the violence affects all socioeconomic groups, poor children live with increased exposure to violence, which also leads to detrimental. Second, if children are living in poverty, their development may be delayed. Third, poverty can affect children's health for the whole life. Fourth, children living in poverty are more likely to develop chronic illnesses, including asthma and obesity. Fifth, when children are living in poverty, they are at the risk of getting insecurity. Sixth, living in conditions of poverty exposes children to prolonged stress, thereby increasing the production of stress hormones.

Sheri Marini said the government has taken action to help poor families and children. Although government anti-poverty programs are vilified and perceived as ineffective, a recent study confirms that the success of some programs, such as Social Security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, SNAP, and so on. At the last of the article, Sheri Marini said that there was hope because the government sorts out its potential solutions to poverty.

Article 2

I read this blog on the Children's bureau. The article describes the impact of poverty on children. Poverty will indeed harm our community and even the entire country, but socioeconomic

status directly impacts children. If children live in poverty, they will face a wide variety of risk factors, ranging from health, emotion, economic success, and so on. In the USA, there are 15 million children live in poverty, almost take 21% of all children. The research shows their salary is not enough to cover their basic expenses, so they can get what they basic need in daily life.

If children live in poverty or extreme poverty, their health and cognitive child development were affected by it because poverty can negatively influence children's body and mind to develop. These impacts of health will block children's academic achievement and the ability of children to succeed in school. Also, if children are poor, they usually live in an impoverished neighborhood, so they are exposed to environmental risk factors, such as malnutrition, pollution, food insecurity, housing instability, economic hardship, lead exposure, violence, and crime. Third, these factors influence neighborhood schools, and children cannot get enough resources, so children have a higher than 90% chance to have problems with developments. Fourth, children live in poverty, so their family often have difficulties meeting basic needs. These factors may block their development of potential. Because children do not get enough resources, they will repeat the fate of their parents, we call it "the cycle of poverty".

The blogs told us at the different stage we can do different things for them; also the blog told us how to let more people realize the impact of the poverty on young children, and as an adult, how we can help more children and families. I agree with the blogs because no one child should grow up in poverty nowadays.

Small Advocacy

My major is Early Childhood Education, and the reason why I chose this major because I love the children, so I hope I can do my best to support their development in the different domain

when they are young, so I will provide a good study environment for all children in my classroom. First, I will prepare food and a blanket in my classroom. If I notice some children are hungry or tired, I can meet their basic requirements. Second, I will not give up one child in my classroom. When I find the children cannot meet the academic level, I will do my best to find out the reason and provide free tutoring for them. Third, I will keep in touch with the parents to let them know their children's progress in school. fourth, I will connect with my colleague and leaders to find out how many children are living in poverty in our school, so we can find out a good way to help the children. Fifth, I provide more information for parents, let them know they are not alone. When they need help, how they can seek more resources from our school, community, society, and the government. Last, I choose to be a positive, caring adult in young children's lives, so I chose to volunteer to be a mentor, classroom aid, a CASA for foster young children, work at an after school club, and volunteer in my community child abuse prevention program during my free time.

Big Advocacy

First, my family and I will donate money and time to our community in to help more young children. If I have the ability, I will donate to an organization that serves children in poverty or sign up to volunteer at an event. Also, I can help achieve extreme poverty reduction by spreading awareness of the effects of poverty on children, so I will talk to my friends, family, government representatives, school officials, and community members about the harmful effects and influences of growing in poverty. I hope I can advocate for the community and neighborhood, let them be aware of this situation, and take action to help more children.

Second, I will connect with the local government to provide enough funding for creating the after school and early education center, so these programs can benefit low-income children. The children can get healthy, secure food from school. When children come to school, their parents

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can go to work to earn more salary, so the rate of the poverty will reduce. After the parents earn more money, they can provide a better living environment for the children.

Third, I will appeal to the government to help the parents. For example, the government supports the parents to continue to study at high school and college to improve their skills and knowledge. When parents are educated, they can find a good job and become more professional, so they can earn more money and concerns on children's development because parents are children's first teacher.

Last, I will connect with the newspaper because I hope they can advocate the impact of poverty on young children, let more people realize how serious the situation is, appeal to the whole society to help the children.

Commentary

I choose this topic because I have seen a lot of children living in poverty, so they cannot get enough healthy food; they do not have fit clothing, there are living in poor conditions, but they are smart. In my life, I have seen when children are in poverty, their development is delayed. After they change the living environment, we can see their potential will be inspired, so poverty will harm children's development from all the domains. If children cannot develop well, when they are young, so they cannot have a good life. In American, a lot of children live in poverty now, and they are the future of our country, so this topic is very important to me. After I do research about the topic, I changed my mind. I think that as an educator, our responsibility is not only to teach children knowledge and improve their development but also to care about their live environment because the parents and material conditions are the basis of their development.

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