

Poverty Paper

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Background

When I hear the word “Poverty” many things come to mind. Poverty can mean a lot of different things and be seen in many different ways. Poverty has been an issue for quite some time now and everyone wonders what could be the cause. There are many theories to why poverty exists. For example, lack of education, female-headed households, and minorities are some causes that people believe are to affect poverty. When we look at the political side, we see that they did research based on culture. They now have decided to move towards other causal factors, like social class and class struggle, which they believe is a cause of Poverty (Lehning p.90). There is another perspective that suggests lack of education is the cause and effect of poverty in this perspective poverty tends to be a cycle which can make it hard to be broken. In a article named, *Lack of Education Creates Poverty* by Miriam, it states that, “poorer students are more likely to drop out of school or only receive a high school education, which continues the cycle of poverty.” While I understand this perspective, I also believe that there are many other causes like the ongoing cycle. Because of this ongoing cycle the textbook talks about children in poverty and how sometimes they are born into it. The textbook states that minority children experience more instances of poverty (Karger & Stoesz, p. 102) This statement also connects us with the cause that Political scientists observed. They viewed a major cause of poverty were the minority groups, but later realized it had more depth to it. We need to see all perspectives to be able to identify all the causes. Poverty may be man-made or caused by natural disasters. However, the different definitions on the causes all rely develop from social inequality and discrimination. Overall Poverty is rising and deepening.

My first experience with poverty was when I was a kid living in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. I had family that was in poverty and I also saw many people every single day living in

poverty. When I first experienced it, I felt horrible and I always wanted to help them out. I would see one extreme to the other. At the time, I feared that that would ever happen to me. I did not want it to happen to me and I wanted to do something to make a change. When I first encountered this, I was not aware of the things that could cause it, I just believed that they were abandoned and left to suffer. Ever since those experiences when I was a little girl my view has expanded. I would not say that my view has changed, in the sense that I still want to help people. But I do believe that my view has expanded and I have a better understanding than I did then. I think that I was able to grow and understand what people went through, since it also had been in my extended family when coming to America. My current thoughts on poverty are pretty straight forward. I sympathize with them and I do think that I want to make a change. I believe that lack of education may be a cause, but I also do believe that many life experiences can cause you to be thrown into poverty, like getting a divorce. Because of this ongoing cycle sometimes their children stay in poverty. I do believe that poverty is a cycle, but it is not impossible to break. Lastly, I also do think that there are people out there that take advantage of some of the benefits of poverty and stay in poverty. However, there is also the other side of the spectrum where people really need the benefits and use it for good. There are always two sides to a story. When I think poor, I ultimately think of the people who are homeless. That is what I think of when I hear poor. Sometimes I do not realize that more than those people are considered poor. I do not think I have any biases toward which I regard the worthy poor. I believe that if anyone can relate to that category that they are considered to be. I tend to be self-aware about these things.

References

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- Karger, H. J., & Stoesz, D. (2017). *American social welfare policy a pluralist approach*. NY, NY: Pearson.