EFFECTS OF POVERTY ON ADOLESCENCE STAGE

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ABSTRACT

More adolescents live in poverty today, and poor adolescents comprise a larger share of the youth population than was the case a decade ago. These adolescent children are especially vulnerable and need support to make a successful transition to adulthood. The negative impacts of poverty start before birth and accumulate across the life course and onto the next generation. Poverty has negative impacts on children’s health, cognitive development, social, emotional and behavioral development and educational outcomes. The parents of children living in poverty are more likely to suffer mental health problems, relationship problems, financial problems and substance misuse, which can affect their parenting behaviors, and which can have negative impacts on children’s outcomes too. Children growing up in poverty face so many problems in relation to health. They are more likely to be born with low birth weight, which is a significant factor in later physical and mental development. They are also more likely to have a mother with poor health conditions. The evidence is strong that growing up in poverty has detrimental impacts on cognitive development and with children living in persistent poverty displaying the worst cognitive development. The impacts of poverty are not just important for children’s future outcomes, poverty has detrimental effects on children in childhood, especially as children grow older. Children living in poverty, and their parents, have hopes and aspirations for their future but they lack knowledge of how to achieve their ambitions.

Key words: adolescent, poverty, effect, parenting, community

INTRODUCTION

Children growing up in poverty experience many disadvantages which accumulate across the life cycle. Poverty has multiple, negative impacts on young people outcomes leading to inequalities in health, cognitive development, psychosocial development and educational attainment. These inequalities are evident from preschool children through children during the school years. This briefing reviews the empirical evidence on the impacts of poverty on children’s outcomes and on the factors highlighted as having an effect on these outcomes to help those working with children and their families understand these children’s experiences and support needs. In this briefing, the term ‘children’ includes young people up to 18 years old.

CAUSES

As deindustrialization, globalization, residential segregation, labor market segmentation, and migration of middle-class residents from inner cities, constrain economic opportunities and choices across generation, isolating inner city poor children. The loss of “family values”, or decline of the nuclear family, illegitimacy, teen pregnancy, and increased
numbers of single mothers, is also cited as a major cause of poverty and welfare dependency for women and their children. The majority of poverty-stricken children are born to poor parents. Therefore, the, government policies, lack of causes such as adult poverty Education, unemployment, social services, disabilities and discrimination significantly affect the presence of child poverty. Lack of parental economic resources such as disposable income restricts children’s opportunities. Economic and demographic factors such Children resulting from unintended pregnancies are more likely to live in poverty Many of the apparent negative associations between growing up poor and children’s attainments reflect unmeasured parental advantages that positively affect both parents’ incomes and children’s attainments.

THE EFFECT OF POVERTY ON HEALTH:
Health outcomes and one that is of increasing research interest. They are Children growing up in poverty face so many problems in relation to health. They are more likely to be born with low birth weight, which is a significant factor in later physical and mental also more likely to have a mother with poor health conditions. factors which are shown not only to be patterned by socioeconomic status but which also have significant negative impacts on child health. Children living in poverty are more likely to develop ill health or have accidents during childhood as well as face a wide range of poorer health outcomes in adulthood. Children living in poverty are also more likely to experience poorer mental health and lower subjective wellbeing both in childhood and in adulthood.

THE EFFECT OF POVERTY ON EDUCATION
There is a significant association between children’s early cognitive development, educational attainment, future employment prospects and earning power. The evidence is strong that growing up in poverty has detrimental impacts on cognitive development and with children living in persistent poverty displaying the worst cognitive development. Children who perform highly in ability tests in early childhood who are from low socio-economic backgrounds are repeatedly overtaken in ability tests carried out in later childhood by children from higher socioeconomic backgrounds who had performed less well in the early years. Economic hardship is more strongly associated with cognitive than with behavioral development and maternal depression has a greater negative effect on behavioral rather than cognitive outcomes. Cognitive development is the most strongly associated with low income itself. Access to books and other age appropriate educational materials should be provided equally to all children.

PARENTING AND POVERTY:
Parents living in poverty often face their own difficulties such as lack early childhood and gathering strength in middle childhood. negative childhood experiences, and poor physical and/or mental health, some of which are associated with growing up in poverty themselves. Parents often try to minimize the impacts of poverty on their children by sacrificing their own activities, material goods, consumption and even their own food intake. Parents are often more successful in mediating the immediate impacts of poverty on younger children whereas older children are more likely to experience the detrimental effects of not having enough money directly.

COMMUNITY AND POVERTY
Community Influences on Poverty highlight the effects of poverty on neighborhood, community, and cultural patterns. Lowincome families tend to live in low-income neighborhoods, often characterized by high density, crime, and few
opportunities for academic socialization. Schools are often under-funded, beset by disciplinary problems, staffed by poorly equipped teachers, and confronted with difficulties meeting their educational mandates. Despite the apparent importance of community level variables for children’s academic performance, they typically account for less variance than family-level variables, suggesting that, as with the Family Stress Model, the effects of community level poverty may be mediated through family patterns and behaviors. Movement out of a community of poverty does not necessarily result in the disappearance of the negative effects of persistent poverty. The impact of intermittent poverty on child outcomes is similar to that of persistent poverty. One possible interpretation for the lack of difference between the effects of intermittent and persistent poverty is the Early Effects Model, which suggests that poor behavioral and academic patterns established in preschool persist, even if there are improving environmental conditions. Differences in school readiness at school entry have long-term significant associations with school performance, resulting in increasing disparities over time in the United States, creating gaps that might persist even if a family escapes poverty.

Interventions to Improve Children’s Development and Educational Outcomes Over the past four decades, there has been convincing evidence that improving school readiness and children’s development reduces poverty-related disparities. In keeping with the models presented above that link poverty with child development, our discussion focuses on interventions that specifically attempt to improve children’s school readiness or family support for schooling. These include family-based safety net programs, preschool interventions, programs to improve parents’ ability to support early learning, and comprehensive programs that improve children’s development prior to school entry.

IMPLICATION:

Increasing women’s income, reduces poverty, spurs investment in children, creates greater self-esteem, increases bargaining power, reduces domestic violence. The development of the child begins pre-birth and a message for practice would be, where possible, to try to identify mothers-to-be at risk of poverty and to improve their health and wellbeing during pregnancy. Cognitive development is the most strongly associated with low income itself. Access to books and other age-appropriate educational materials should be provided equally to all children. One policy suggestion would be to provide a school materials grant. Any intervention should include parents and children’s home life. Interventions need to be targeted towards a child’s age and gender. Boys are more in need of emotionally for older children and their parents better information is required to support understanding of how schooling, post-compulsory education and work fit together in order to realize aspirations. Children feel the impacts of poverty on their lives.

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