

*How do the perspectives of poverty contribute to educational, medical, and environmental systems?*

*Language of the Discipline*



**Poverty** - the state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials to enjoy a minimum standard of life and well-being that's considered acceptable in society.

## *Systems work to complete a task or mission.*

**Throughout systems there are many necessities to be completed such as tasks or missions such as something that is required within the system or to make the system properly function. In society today, multiple systems work together to create what is poverty. The task or mission of these systems is to unintentionally make poverty continue.**

- Peter Edelman from the New York times explains the numerous ways on why we cannot stop poverty although we try our best. He states, “To say that poverty won is like saying the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts failed because there is still more pollution. With all of that, why have we not achieved more? Four reasons: An astonishing number of people work at low-wage jobs....single parenting... and persistent issues of **race and gender**...”
- According to Melissa Martinez, an associate social worker and currently a clinical therapist states, “The systems that impact the lives of impoverished families, I would say would be the jail system because a lot of times parents are in that system. It just affects the entire family. Another system that impacts their lives is the **mental health system** and their ability to access their proper support that they may need. Another would also be government assistance, as I have seen that most of the families depend on the assistance that sometimes is provided to them.”
- Amanda Perry states in the article, *Census Bureau Releases 2015 Income and Poverty Estimates for All Countries*, that, “The U.S Department of **Education** expects to use

the 2015 estimates to calculate fiscal year 2017 allocations for Title I and several other Departments of Education programs for use by states and school districts primarily in the 2017-2018 school year.”

- According to The New York Times, *Why Can't We End Poverty in America*, it states, “The first thing needed if we're to get people out of poverty is more jobs that pay decent wages. There aren't enough of these in our **current economy**. The need for good jobs extends far beyond the current crisis...”

## *Systems are composed of subsystems and parts.*

Systems are made up of subsystems which are smaller parts that are used in order to create one system. In this case the subsystems to poverty are the **educational** system, the **medical** system, and the **environmental** system.

- Education system is a subsystem that creates the systems of poverty
- “Children living in poverty experience greater chronic stress than do their more affluent counterparts. Low-income parents' chronic stress affects their kids through chronic activation of their children's immune systems, which taxes available resources and has long-reaching

- According to Errol Sosa, a pediatrician doctor who helps impoverished families states, “Well, medical because some of them don't have access but some do. Educational because some don't go to good schools and when they do they don't have the enough materials needed. Environmental because they can have lead the water that the family

- According to Work Vision, “Environmental problems are global problems: Deforestation in one country can cause water shortages in neighboring countries. Toxic wastes dumped in oceans is carried by currents and affects the fish supply everywhere. Industrial pollution causes acid rain to fall over large areas, threatening the food chain. Global warming

effects.”(Blair & Raver, 2012).

- Due to the fact that poverty creates chronic stress within the children in the classroom, students in poverty may struggle with communication and interaction with their peers and teachers. This could negatively affect their learning and academic success.

drinks from and insects such as cockroaches since it can affect people with asthma.”

- “Overall, poor people are less likely to exercise, get proper diagnoses. Receive appropriate and prompt medical attention, or be prescribed appropriate medications or interventions,” said Eric Jensen. Therefore, parts of the subsystems of environments lead to the system of poverty.

is causing malaria to spread to new areas...”.

- This shows that people that are involved within poverty can be affected from these environmental situations. If they could not afford or if they are not able to contain the basic necessities, they would have to use harmful resources, such as unclean water, moldy air, or rancid food, which could negatively affect their health.

## *Systems follow rules.*

**The system of poverty follows rules. There are various rules that protect the impoverished, but there are also rules and laws that make it harder for impoverished people to have a chance at opportunities to increase their income and go beyond the poverty line.**

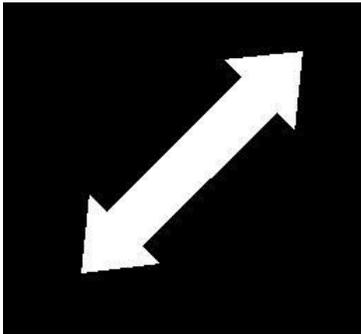


- According to an article by the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan, “A family is counted as poor if its pre tax money is below its poverty threshold. Money income does not include noncash benefits such as public housing, Medicaid, employer-provided health insurance and food stamps.”
- According to the University from Michigan it shows that in 2015 if you are a single individual under 65 years old the poverty threshold was \$12,331 a single parent with two kids was \$19,096, two parent and three children was \$28,286.
- According to The New York Times, *Why Can't We End Poverty in America*, it states, “The census tells us that 20.5 million people earn incomes below half the poverty line, less than about \$9,500 for a family of three-up eight million from 2000.”
- This shows that for someone to be in the guidelines of poverty or within the zone of poverty. For example this is what creates them to fall within the “poverty” and allows them to fall within the rules to create this problem.
- According to Medicaid.gov, it states, “Some individuals are exempt from the MAGI-based income counting rules, including those whose eligibility is based on

blindness, disability or age (65 and older)...They must either be citizens of the United States or certain qualified non-citizens, such as lawful permanent residents.”

- Having a chance at opportunities to increase their income and go beyond the poverty line is difficult since there are many requirements needed in order to receive the help they need.

## *Paradox*



The poverty line in America according to the Current US Poverty Statistics, is \$11,892 for individuals and \$23,836 for a family of four. According to a study by UC Davis' Center for Poverty Research (2016), the poverty rate in America is at 13.5 percent, based on the 2015 Census. This means that in 2015, 43.1 million Americans lived in poverty. However, according to Fortune.com, the U.S. is ranked number one in the world's richest countries. This creates a paradox because the United States is considered the country with the highest percentage of total global personal wealth although, there are hundreds of impoverished families who aren't able to reach their basic needs.

## *Systems May be influenced by other systems*

**Systems may be influenced by other systems meaning that the system of poverty could be influenced or similar to its sub components that influence the ideal of poverty**

- According to an interview we made with a social worker named Ms. Melissa Martinez, she said, “The systems that impact the lives of impoverished families, I would say would be the jail system because a lot of times parents are in that system. It just affects the entire family. Another system that impacts their lives is the mental health system and their ability to access their proper support that they may need. Another would also be government assistance, as I have seen that most of the families depend on the assistance that sometimes is provided to them.” This shows that not only does poverty require systems of education, medical assistance, and environment because other systems can also affect or increase the amount of poverty and its causes within communities.
- “We have the ingredient’. For one thing, for the demographics of the electorate are changing. The consequences of that are hardly automatic, but they create an opportunity. the new generation of going people....is ripe for new politics of honesty. “, says writer Peter Delman from the New York Times.

To finish off the conclusion that not only can poverty be influenced by educational, medical, and environmental subsystems but other subsystems as well.

## *Student Lead Research:*

Teacher (Ms. Joana Fuller, Kipp Charter School, Los Angeles, CA)

**Do you serve people or communities in poverty?**

Yes

- 1. As a teacher who serves students in poverty, do you believe that you have enough training and resources to serve your students?**

Ok so, speaking specifically about me I would say yes, but I can always be a lifelong learner. I think that I have been given enough

Social Worker (Ms. Melissa Martinez, associate social worker and currently a clinical therapist)

**Do you serve people or communities in poverty?**

Yes

- 1. As a social worker who serves people in poverty, do you believe that you have enough training and resources to help those people?**

I believe that when it comes to the school, I believe that I do have enough training to serve those people but what has been useful to me is

Doctor (Mr. Errol Sosa)

**Do you serve people or communities in poverty?**

**Yes**

- 1. As a doctor who serves patients in poverty, do you believe that you have enough training and resources to serve your patients?**

Yes there's lots of resources especially in the U.S. In medical school they do teach us courses that help us learn about how to be sensitive to families cultures and poverty. In hospitals we work with social workers to help those

training and resources but it's specifically due to the fact that it is my seventh year as a teacher in ethnicity and it is also specifically due to the fact that my program my masters program was for Urban schools. Now if there is a first year teacher that is coming in and they don't have that type of experience in their program or from like actual hands on experience I don't think that every teacher would answer that question with yes.

**2. Do you have kids in your class that struggle**

coming from that low income area. Since coming from that area gives me a basic overview but overall it is just continuing and not just focusing on what I learned in school but making sure that I'm open to the changes and to continue to change daily because every individual I serve has different needs.

**2. Do you believe people that struggle with basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing are given adequate support?**

I don't feel that there is enough support from the government or the communities they come from to get their basic needs. I

families in need.

**2. Do you have patients in your clinic/ hospital whose health is affected by poverty? (i.e. access to clean air, water, no mold, nutrients, etc...)**

Yes, one thing could be the cockroaches which can cause asthma. Also, there being lead in the water which can affect their health and the expensive medicine which a person is required to have in order to get better is affected by poverty since sometimes you don't have enough money to access your medication

**3. Do you believe that poverty levels affect**

**with attendance because of financial difficulties?** Yes, so I would say that with attendance and financial difficulties can result in not having transportation personal transportation, it can result in not having a fund for bus passes and there certain applications that you can go through if you are a student that can get you free bus passes but if you don't have transportation to specific locations to get you bus passes then that can make you in consistent. Some

have seen that there are a lot of single parent households who struggle to have enough money for their food, to pay rent, or to even make sure that their children have enough supplies needed for school such as uniforms. When there are programs available for them, there is always a waiting list and limited funds for them to get their needs for the whole family.

**3. Do you believe that poverty affects the way people on your caseload attend meetings with you and/or does it also affect ways to get to meet with you?**

**the way your patients go to appointments or get regular check ups?**

Yes, two things because there are problems that people in poverty can get free healthcare but the hard thing can be transportation since they have to take the bus because they can't afford a car.

**4. In your experience serving patients at your clinic/hospital, what changes or decisions do you have to make when a patient is experiencing poverty?**

Well for me I can get the social workers involved and give them information so

financial difficulties would be when kids even don't come to school because maybe they haven't gotten their uniform school washed their sense of dignity to come to school, a kid doesn't want to come to school unless they're going to be set up for success, so if a student doesn't have their uniform washed, specifically in a black community you want your hair to be done and if your hair is not done you don't have the money to get that done over the weekend specifically girls, they

I believe that poverty affects the way people on your caseload attend meetings with me because a lot of them are not able to miss a day at work in order for them to come and have a meeting with me. A lot of the times that they need a meeting it has to be after 6 pm and most of the times there are already other family that I have to meet up at that time so it is difficult for me to always have enough options available for them for meetings.

**4. What does it mean for you to serve your clients who are experiencing poverty within their lives?**

they can get resources and help for medical care.

**5. In your opinion, what systems impact the lives of impoverished families?**

Well, medical because some of them don't have access but some do. Educational because some don't go to good schools and when they do they don't have the enough materials needed. Environmental because they can have lead the water that the family drinks from and insects such as cockroaches since it can affect people with asthma.

are not going to want to come to school, or they are going to come to school with their hood they know your teacher is going to ask you to take your hood off, but they need to get like their braid or their hair done, so I would say that financial difficulties can impact attendance in multiple ways.

**3. Do you believe that poverty affects the way kids learn or pay attention?** Yes, so typically in families of poverty there is more children who are put in front of the television as a babysitter because

For me it means a lot to serve clients who are experiencing poverty within their lives because I have come from a family who has needed some of these needs therefore, I understand the struggle they go through. I have also had the opportunities to see the change within the communities that I serve simply by seeing providing the support.

**5. In your opinion, what systems impact the lives of impoverished families?**

The systems that impact the lives of impoverished families, I would say would be the jail system because a

parents don't have the funds to have a babysitter and many parents are working more than one job, so a child that watches television as a babysitter is getting like a different type, when they are growing up they are getting a different type of stimulations so when they are sitting in a classroom that might not be in the same like feel of a television when there is commercials every 10 minutes and the commercials last for like three minutes each, their way to their brains are developing so it's

lot of times parents are in that system. It just affects the entire family. Another system that impacts their lives is the mental health system and their ability to access their proper support that they may need. Another would also be government assistance, as I have seen that most of the families depend on the assistance that sometimes is provided to them.

called the stinastics connections of the way their brains are developing are actually going to be different than a child who grows up reading a book, or a child who grows up around families who discuss the things that are going on in the news, like that discussion base type of a family versus sitting in front of a television that is going to impact the way you are learning, the way that you are processing this information that is going to impact the way your attention span is.

**4. At your school, what does poverty mean for your students both in and out of the classroom?** I would say that schools that I work in have done a really good job at making sure that they're bringing in outside resources for kids, so although a typical school maybe in like west LA, Beverly Hills, a typical school would not provide pencils and paper, but the schools that I have worked in because we know that the children are not going to have those materials, we already anticipate that

and so we make sure that their minimum is there. Like, I don't think that a child should not learn because they don't have a pencil. I can easily provide a pencil, because if a pencil is stopping you from learning, then here take this like 25 cent pencil. So I would say that at a school cite the teachers have really done a good job at making sure that resources are provided.

**5. In your opinion, what systems impact the lives of impoverished families?** I think the systems of welfare is definitely impacting the

lives of impoverished families I think that a great resource and that It is helping many families but at the same time the long term from the effects of welfare can also impact the families in a negative way. For example, if you have, right now I'm in Watts that's where my school is, and there is four housing projects that are around here, this housing project, like this family can stay there for like \$200 a month because that is like a lower rent, from the government, but the problem is that if a

family gets a job or if they make a savings account then you know longer qualify for living in that housing project. So, I literally have a student that I am mentoring, and she does not want her mom to get a savings account to save for college, because if she does then her mom will be kicked out of the government providing housing. So, although welfare is a great aspect I think that it is going to help people get back on their feet because they end up creating some long term effects that prevent

mobilization out of that social class.		
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**Driving Question:**

How do the perspectives of poverty contribute to the educational, medical, and environmental systems?

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8

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**Special notes about handling and or placement or presentation space needed:**

*Do the rules within the system of poverty connect to the communities and all around the world?*



*How do the perspectives of poverty  
contribute to the educational, medical,  
and environmental systems?*

*Systems  
follow  
rules*

*Systems  
are  
composed  
of  
subsystems  
and parts*

*Systems  
may be  
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work to  
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