POVERTY IN AMERICA

Introduction to Human Services Counseling – HSCO 500

Student Name

Date

Liberty University

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My research topic will be poverty in America because poverty is a reflection of society and is not a personal choice. Poverty is primarily a social problem that is affecting many people in America. Majorly, when a country's economy is static, that country is deemed as poor. Another factor is the imbalance between a country's population and its natural resources. Resources are available to assist low or no income families, but not everyone is qualified for certain benefits; this can lead to poverty. America is the superpower, yet some of its people are starving. This is a paradox that needs an explanation.

America is also the home to many billionaires and industrialists like Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates, yet the majority of Americans are unemployed. This is another paradox. Therefore, I have settled on the topic of "Poverty in America." Data from the United States Census Bureau shows that the poverty rate in America is at 13. 5 %. In terms of population, this means approximately 43.1 million American citizens are battling the pangs of poverty (Hector, Najera & David, 2019). One way to define poverty is the state of not having sufficient income to meet the three main basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing. However, there is more to poverty than just not having sufficient income. Poverty is also associated with not being in a position to afford the medication needed. Moreover, poverty means not being able to afford quality education or any education at all (Hector, Najera & David, 2019).

America is one of the world's most developed countries, and many expect not to read or witness poverty in America. However, this is not true, and poverty is indeed wreaking havoc in America. Many people are not able to fuel their cars or take their families on vacation because of the little income they earn. Unemployed Americans living from paycheck to paycheck find it hard to cope with the demands of life. One of the main reasons why people lack jobs in America is that larger companies and corporations prefer outsourcing jobs to developing economies. In developing economies, the human labor force is cheaper compared to an average American worker. Many chain stores are under receivership in underperforming cities; therefore, they remain closed (Bradshaw, Chant & Linneker, 2019).

The available jobs in America pay minimum wages that can hardly sustain a family of five. Compared to other established nations, poverty in America is ranked the highest. Some American spends a lot of money on drugs and gambling, which is another factor that can lead to poverty. According to Joseph (2019), 40 % of Americans are homeless due to addiction and gambling. This number could rise, and the government needs to develop a contingency plan to end poverty.

**Reference**

Héctor E. Nájera Catalán & David Gordon (2019) The Importance of Reliability and Construct Validity in Multidimensional Poverty Measurement: An Illustration Using the Multidimensional Poverty Index for Latin America (MPI-LA), The Journal of Development Studies, DOI: [10.1080/00220388.2019.1663176](https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2019.1663176)

Rigaud Joseph (2019) Poverty, Welfare, and Self-Sufficiency: Implications for the Social Work Profession, Journal of Poverty, 23:6, 505-520, DOI: [10.1080/10875549.2019.1616037](https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2019.1616037)

Sarah Bradshaw, Sylvia Chant & Brian Linneker (2019) Challenges and Changes in Gendered Poverty: The Feminization, De-Feminization, and Re-Feminization of Poverty in Latin America, Feminist Economics, 25:1, 119-144, DOI: [10.1080/13545701.2018.1529417](https://doi.org/10.1080/13545701.2018.1529417)

Feedback: poverty is an excellent topic and there is a wealth of information. All sources should be based upon US populations and you will need to thoroughly cover statistics (incidence, prevalence, demographics), causes/contributing factors, effects/outcomes, and interventions. Please keep this is mind as you begin to prepare the Annotated Bibliography. All assertions and conclusions must be literature supported and it is imported to make sure that information is interpreted and presented correctly. Parenthetical citations look good. All references are incorrect, and the US Census Bureau should be listed in the references. Please refer to the APA manual and sample papers for formatting. Please contact me with questions.