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THE INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC BACKGROUND ON QUALITY OF LIFE

Влияние первичных экономических условий на качество жизни человека

Economic inequality is commonly defined as unequal distribution of wealth, income, and economic goods between different social classes. The purpose of this study is to account for how the economic background of an individual pre-determines their quality of life. It aims to bring the reader's attention to the urgent topic of economic inequality as it directly concerns every member of human society. The research is based on the analysis of academic articles on economic inequality. In the course of the study a number of areas most often discussed in connection with this topic were singled out.

Among the many things economic inequality is most commonly associated with is the issue of poor public health care. Many medical services are only accessible at private medical companies, where prices are often beyond affordable [1]. Then, poorer groups of people often suffer from the high prices the pharmaceutical industry is notorious for. The factor of a healthy lifestyle is just as significant. Many poor people fail to lead a healthy lifestyle, particularly because they tend to work longer hours at much more health-taxing positions, and due to their inability to afford a healthy diet. Generally, economic inequality is doomed to breed a whole class of people who are unable to afford a healthy routine or healthy food, and who are then discouraged from seeking medical help by the highly demanding health care prices. In an ill society, the quality of workforce and human resources naturally decreases, and so does life expectancy, quality of life and the general level of public happiness.

Another big concern is access to education. There are several reasons as to why the working class fails to acquire high quality education. One of the more obvious reasons is the fact that poor households cannot afford to pay tuition. Another reason is that many people cannot sacrifice the time they could spend working for the educational process. Regardless of the reason for poor academic success, the consequences seem to be rather universal: lack of professional training leads to a decline in an individual's earning potential, which in turn minimizes their chances of acquiring a well-paid job in the future, only rooting them deeper in poverty [2].

Inequality is also known to be closely and consistently related to crime. This may be attributed to several factors, among which are the competition incentive to crime, and the issue of mental health among the poorer members of the

population. In a competitive economy, the fight for resources is ever-prevalent, and the fight only gets more violent where the resources are scarce. The risks of prosecution and confinement tend to be outweighed by the risks of the individual's daily life [3].

Finally, in an environment deprived of the necessary goods, services, and any positive prospects for the future, mental issues spawn more easily. Then the very same environment often provides stimuli to provoke aggressive and hostile behavior in mentally vulnerable individuals, which then leads to an increase in criminal activity of the neighborhood [3].

In this abstract, only a few examples of how social welfare is affected by economic environment have been presented. However, the presented material seems to possess sufficient proof that economic background has a tight grasp on almost every aspect of an individual's life, and that the gap between the poor and the rich is a real and worrisome obstacle that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Only through some bold action will we be able to rid ourselves of the ugliest excesses of capitalism, thus making room for a healthier, happier and more productive society.

References

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