Bridges Out of Poverty

Keynote

Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D.
Philip DeVol
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Handouts
### Causes of Poverty—Research Continuum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIORS AND CIRCUMSTANCES</th>
<th>COMMUNITY CONDITIONS</th>
<th>EXPLOITATION</th>
<th>POLITICAL/ECONOMIC STRUCTURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> Research on the choices, behaviors, and circumstances of people in poverty</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> Research on resources and human and social capital in the city or county</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> Research on the impact of exploitation on individuals and communities</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> Research on political, economic, and social policies and systems at the organizational, city/county, state, national, and international levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sample topics:**
- Racism
- Discrimination by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity
- Bad loans
- Credit-card debt
- Lack of savings
- Skill sets
- Dropping out
- Lack of education
- Alcoholism
- Disabilities
- Job loss
- Teen pregnancies
- Early language experience
- Child-rearing strategies
- Bankruptcy due to health problems
- Street crime
- White-collar crime
- Dependency
- Work ethic
- Lack of organizational skills
- Lack of amenities

**Sample topics:**
- Racism
- Discrimination by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity
- Layoffs
- Middle-class flight
- Plant closings
- Underfunded schools
- Weak safety net
- Criminalizing poverty
- Employer insurance premiums rising in order to drop companies with record of poor health
- Charity that leads to dependency
- High rates of illness leading to high absenteeism and low productivity
- Brain drain*
- City and regional planning
- Mix of employment/wage opportunities
- Loss of access to high-quality schools, childcare, and preschool
- Downward pressure on wages

**Sample topics:**
- Racism
- Discrimination by age, gender, disability, race, sexual identity
- Payday lenders
- Lease/purchase outlets
- Subprime mortgages
- Sweatshops
- Human trafficking*
- Employment and labor law violations*
- Wage and benefits theft
- Some landlords
- Sex trade
- Internet scams
- Drug trade
- Poverty premium (the poor pay more for goods and services)
- Day labor

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Source: *Getting Ahead In a Just-Gettin'-By World Revised Edition. © 2013 by Philip E. DeVol*
What It’s Like Now

Mental Model for Poverty

Actual responses from people living in poverty.

Developed by Phil DeVol (2006)

Mental Model for Middle Class

Achievement

Developed by Phil DeVol (2006)

Mental Model for Wealth

Connections

Developed by Ruby Payne (2005)
# Registers of Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTER</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROZEN</td>
<td>Language that is always the same. For example: Lord’s Prayer, wedding vows, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORMAL</td>
<td>The standard sentence syntax and word choice of work and school. Has complete sentences and specific word choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSULTATIVE</td>
<td>Formal register when used in conversation. Discourse pattern not quite as direct as formal register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASUAL</td>
<td>Language between friends and is characterized by a 400- to 800-word vocabulary. Word choice general and not specific. Conversation dependent upon non-verbal assists. Sentence syntax often incomplete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTIMATE</td>
<td>Language between lovers or twins. Language of sexual harassment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from the work of Martin Joos

## Research About Language in Children, Ages 1 to 4, in Stable Households by Economic Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of words exposed to</th>
<th>Economic group</th>
<th>Affirmations (strokes)</th>
<th>Prohibitions (discounts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 million words</td>
<td>Welfare</td>
<td>1 for every</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 million words</td>
<td>Working class</td>
<td>2 for every</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 million words</td>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>6 for every</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition of Poverty

To better understand people from poverty, the definition of poverty will be

“the extent to which an individual does without resources.”

Those resources are the following …

Definition of Resources

FINANCIAL
Being able to purchase the goods and services of that class and sustain it.

EMOTIONAL
Being able to choose and control emotional responses, particularly to negative situations, without engaging in self-destructive behavior. Shows itself through choices.

MENTAL
Having the mental abilities and acquired skills (reading, writing, computing) to deal with daily life.

SPIRITUAL
Believing in (divine) purpose and guidance.

PHYSICAL
Having physical health and mobility.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS
Having friends, family, and backup resources available to access in times of need. These are external resources.

RELATIONSHIPS/ROLE MODELS
Having frequent access to adult(s) who are appropriate, nurturing, and who do not engage in destructive behavior.

KNOWLEDGE OF HIDDEN RULES
Knowing the unspoken cues and habits of a group.
Articles

*Neighborhood Effects and Poverty (Payne)*

*Social Risk Factors Through the Triple Lens (Payne & DeVol)*

*12 Thinking Tools for Bridges Out of Poverty Initiatives (DeVol)*

*Starting a Bridges Community [video] (DeVol)*
http://youtu.be/uJHeMgjvTAM

*5-Point Stability Scale (5 indicators per category), Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World (DeVol)*

*The Policy Paper on Education: How Do We Create Intellectual Capital (Talent and Expertise) on a Mass Scale? (Payne)*

*What Information Does A Framework for Understanding Poverty Have That Cannot Be Obtained Easily from Other Sources? Why Do Critics Love to Hate It and Practitioners Love to Use It? (Payne)*

Publications

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ADDRESSING THE
CHALLENGES OF POVERTY
CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE! September 23–25, 2018

Enjoy two action-packed days sharing information and best practices with other Bridges Out of Poverty champions. Accelerate and enhance the efforts being made by your organization and others to improve the lives of people in your community.

Forward Changes
From Getting Ahead to Staying Ahead

The conference will showcase the great work being done in communities across the world in the following areas:
- Building Bridges Communities
- Getting Ahead
- Criminal Justice and Reentry
- Faith, Family, and Youth
- K-12 Students and Parents
- Health and Business
- Higher Education

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