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The Effects of Poverty in the Role of Schools: Implications for Teacher-Preparation Programs

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The Effects of Poverty in the Role of Schools:

Implications for Teacher-Preparation Programs

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The Effect of Poverty

“It is estimated that over the past two years, the number of school children in homeless families has risen by 75 to 100 percent in many school districts.”

-National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth (NAEHCY), September 2009

“In the 2007-08 school year, an estimated 794,600 homeless children and youth were enrolled in public schools ... a 17% increase from 2006-07.”

***-Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program,
National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
April 2009***

NAEHCY estimates that more than 1 million homeless children PK-12 were enrolled in public schools in 2008-09.”

– *The Economy Crisis Hits Home, NAEHCY, December 2008*

Because of the home foreclosure crisis, an estimated 2 million children will lose their homes over the next two years.”

– *The Economy Crisis Hits Home, NAEHCY, December 2008*



Family Impact

- Class system – “Haves” and “Have-nots”
 - The disparity between America’s rich and poor is the largest since 1928
- Family Stress & Dysfunction
- Substance Abuse
- Gang Activity
- Homelessness
 - Approximately 1 out of every 50 children in America are homeless...about 1.5 million in all.

School Impact

- Poor Attendance & Participation
- Increased Frequency of Relocations
- Poor Brain Development
- Illiteracy & Low Achievement
- Learners Unready to Learn
- Inadequate Parental Support
- Demand on Exceptional Education Services

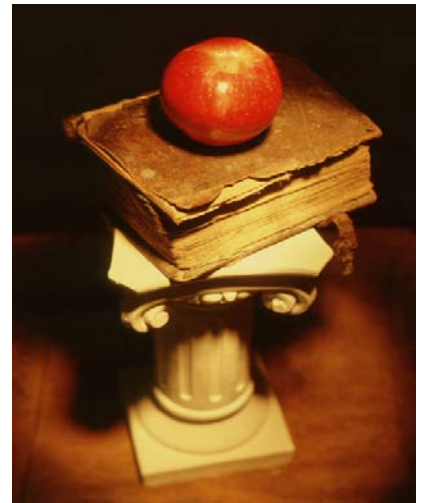
Wishon, P. (2009, November). *When the economy falters: Poverty, culture, and education* [PowerPoint slides]. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and Association of Teacher Educators of Virginia, Sweet Briar, VA


Student Impact

- Academic Characteristics
- Behavioral Characteristics
- Organizational Characteristics
- Social Characteristics

Implications for Teacher Preparation Programs

- Explore difficult social and cultural issues
- Field experiences in schools with critical needs
- Field experiences in schools with cultural differences
- Provide Relevant and Enriching Professional Development



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- Student reflections that examine the impact of their differences from others
 - Examine the impact of poverty on learning & development
 - Use culturally relevant curriculum
 - Develop students of culture and difference

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