

Uncovering Your “Hidden Rules” of Economic Class

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Important men...

- Who is Lee Iacocca?
- Who is John Hough?
- One’s father’s occupation is the best predictor of one’s future income level, more important than IQ, level of education, or years in the workforce. (deLone, 1979)

Classism:

- A system of power and privilege based on the accumulation of economic wealth and social status.

Inequality of Education

- Three quarters of the students at the most elite private colleges come from upper middle-class or wealthy families. Only five percent come from families with household incomes under \$35,000.
- The college enrollment gap between low- and high-income Americans is widening, even as the economic value of a college degree continues to increase.

“I don’t want to sound like the guy who walked 20 miles through 2 feet of snow to get to school – it was only 5 miles and a dusting – but in my day, applying to college was not the production it is today. No supporting cast of thousands. Just me filling out applications at the kitchen table.”

- Craig Wilson, USA Today

Defining Poverty/Wealth/Class

Class

“relative social rank in terms of income, wealth, status, and/or power.”

Poverty:

“Implies a lack of these resources for reasonably comfortable living.”

Wealth:

“is what you own minus what you owe.”

Resources

- Financial
- Emotional
- Mental
- Spiritual
- Physical
- Support Systems
- Relationships/Role Models

What are some stereotypes of people living in poverty?

- Lack intelligence
- Only issue they face is financial
- They don't work...or if they only worked harder they wouldn't be in their situation
- They enjoy living off the government
- Lack of self-control

Register of Language

- Frozen: never changes
- Formal: standard sentence syntax
- Consultative: used in daily conversations
- Casual: sentence syntax incomplete
- Intimate: between lovers, twins

Poverty and the Statistics

- The number of people living in poverty was 12.7% in 2004, which is an increase from 12.5% in 2003.
- In 2004, 37 million people were in poverty, up 1.1 million from 2003.
- Children represent 35.2% of people in poverty, compared with 25.2% of the total population. According to the 2004 Census

Poverty and the Statistics Continued

- Break down by Race in 2004:
 - White – 16.8 million living in poverty
 - Black – 9 million living in poverty
 - Asian – 1.2 million living in poverty
 - Hispanic – 9.1 million living in poverty

According to the 2004 Census

Higher Education Statistics

- In 2005, college tuition and fees rose 5.9 percent at a four-year private institution (\$21,235) and 7.1 percent at a four-year public institution (\$5,491).
- Loans represent 59% of all aid, compared with 41% in 1980.
- Students borrowed \$14 billion from nonfederal sources to finance their education in 2005.

Years to pay off student debt Higher Education Statistics



Higher Education Statistics

- It is “estimated that 80,000 to 140,000 qualified students from the poorest families did not pursue college degrees each year because they believe they could not afford it” (Burd, p. A18).
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ulnENcODbY>

Higher Education Statistics

Bachelor’s degrees awarded by family income

	Lowest Income	Lower-Middle Income	Middle Income	Upper-Middle income and affluent
1980	12.1% (\$21,917)	15.3% (\$32,271)	28.3% (\$45,578)	44.3%
1990	9.5% (\$22,571)	13.6% (\$38,510)	24.1% (\$62,193)	52.8%
2004	9.7% (\$36,174)	11.1% (\$63,096)	21.3% (\$96,560)	57.9%

Taken from The Chronicle of Higher Education, June 9, 2006

Higher Education Statistics

- “More economically disadvantaged students are attending college then ever before...yet only a small percentage of them actually graduate.” (Howard, p. 5)

Why is this?

Characteristics of students

- Disorganized
- Don’t do homework
- Can’t motivate themselves to get started
- Physically aggressive, talk back
- Great entertainers
- Don’t know middle class courtesies

Why students don’t succeed?

- Loans
- Lack of mentors
- Hidden Rules

Hidden Rules

- Who is Ruby Payne and how did she come up with her information?
 - Public School Teacher who noticed patterns
 - Patterns turned into “hidden rules”
 - She divided poverty into two different categories: Situational and Generational.

Types of Poverty

- Generational Poverty
- Situational Poverty

Hidden Rules – What did Ruby discover?

- According to Ruby:
 - Poverty is a bigger issue than just money.
 - Students from poverty have a different view on education, money, driving force, & time.
 - To move around in classes one must give up relationships
 - For students from poverty to have success they must learn the rules of other classes

Hidden Rules

	poverty	middle	wealth
Money	To be spent	Managed	Invested
Personality	For entertainment	For acquisition	For connections
Food	Quantity	Quality	Presentation
Possessions	Relationships	Material “things”	Legacy
Education	Abstract	Climb ladder	Connections
Time	Present	Future	Past
Family	Matriarchal	Patriarchal	Where is \$ from

4 reasons people leave poverty

- A goal or vision of something they want to be or have.
- A situation that is so painful that anything would be better.
- Someone “sponsors” them (i.e., an educator or spouse or mentor or role model who shows them a different way or convinces them that they could live differently).
- A specific talent or ability that provides an opportunity for them.

Putten (2001) says that “feeling out of place on a college campus was not the sole domain of students of color, gay, lesbian, bisexuals, and transgendered students, students with disabilities, or women students” (p. 16). A sense of bewilderment about social norms and the educational environment was a common theme for students from poverty (Borrego, 2001).

Thank you for attending!
Questions?