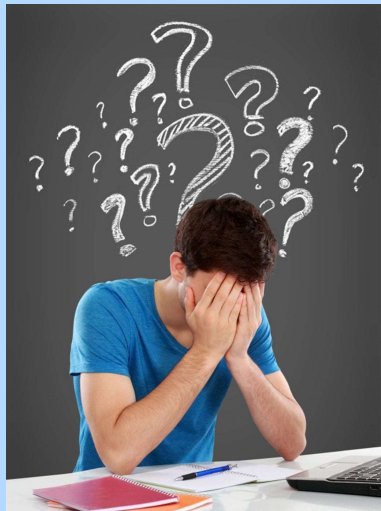




Establishing a Minimum Income Level for Local College Students

Marcus Ruddicks
Economics Major, Stanislaus State University



<https://www.thelearnwellprojects.com/the/why-good-students-do-bad-in-college-proven-insights-2/>



Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Kelvin Jasek-Rysdahl from the Economics department and research librarian Tim Held for their assistance with developing my topic and conducting preliminary research.

CONTACT

Marcus Ruddicks
mruddicks@csustan.edu

Introduction

- The basic needs approach to measuring poverty has been around since 1976 (Rudra, 2009).
- This approach bases the poverty line on people's ability to meet the "basic needs" of themselves and their family like clean drinking water, adequate food and healthcare, and a stable place of shelter (Rudra, 2009).
- A household with an income that is insufficient for meeting those needs would be considered in poverty (Rudra, 2009).
- A person's basic needs can generally be described as all of the necessities in their life, but there isn't one exact measurement for what qualifies as a necessity (Baxter & Moosa, 1996).

Background and Literature Review

- There are many different approaches to measuring and quantifying poverty, leading to vastly different definitions of the poverty line that work to varying success.
- Relative definitions derived from fixed percentages of national median income do not properly anchor poverty lines to social context (Niemetz, 2010).
- Subjective poverty line definitions are susceptible to a bias towards underestimated responses to income evaluation questions if surveys are not designed properly. These problems lead to inaccurate information being collected, which then leads to biased poverty lines being calculated (Kapetyn et al, 1988).
- Researchers have found that it is a good idea to handle anti-poverty efforts on a case-by-case basis. Local contexts matter, and the poor within that context will have the best handle on their situation (Bastiaensen et al, 2005).

Research Question

- There are many different approaches to measuring and defining poverty, so which one would be best?
- Would a local, context-specific definition of poverty be the best definition to apply to college students in the county?

Methods

- A survey will be administered to 200 college students at Stanislaus County schools to determine what students within the county deem to be their basic needs.
- Participants will also be asked to list the amount of money that they generally spend on each of these goods and services within a month.
- The second half of the research will involve determining the minimum annual income level required to fulfill these basic needs.
- This income level will be derived in part from individual responses regarding the income spent meeting these basic needs and in part on average prices for these basic needs items in the county.

Expected Results

- A local, basic-needs oriented definition of the minimum income level for college students will be a better fit as a poverty threshold for this group than the current poverty line in the U.S. for single-person households.



<https://twitter.com/weesteneacsd/status/1118874823554322432>

Significance

- Ensuring that people can meet their basic needs is a relevant topic for policymakers at any level of government and finding a working definition of basic needs is essential in planning such policies out.
- This poverty line definition could potentially be applied to other schools in neighboring counties or the college age group as a whole in Stanislaus County, and the methods used to find this definition could hopefully be applied anywhere if successful.

REFERENCES

- Bastiaensen, J., Herdt, T., & D'exelle, B. (2005). Poverty reduction as a local institutional process. *World Development*, 33(6), 979-993.
- Baxter, J. L., & Moosa, I. A. (1996). The consumption function: a basic needs hypothesis. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 31(1), 85-100.
- Kapetyn, A., Kooreman, P., & Willemsse, R. (1988). Some methodological issues in the implementation of subjective poverty definitions. *The Journal of Human Resources*, 23(2), 222-242.
- Niemietz, K. (2010). Measuring poverty: context-specific but not relative. *Journal of Public Policy*, 30(3), 241-262.
- Rudra, N. (2009). Why International Organizations Should Bring Basic Needs Back in. *International Studies Perspectives*, 10(2), 129-150.



<https://www.kissclipart.com/basic-needs-clipart-basic-needs-food-bank-clip-art-qwj913/>