

Psychological and Academic Effects of Low SES on Undergrads at SJU

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Research Question: What psychological and academic effects does low socioeconomic status have on SJU undergraduates?

Introduction

- Socioeconomic status (SES) affects the education and financial security one receives.
- It can grant many people with advantages, yet there are many people who do not share these privileges.
- SES affects the way people function and their physical & psychological health.

Study Objective:

- This research aims to explore more about socioeconomic inequality and how it affects the student population and their educational outcomes.
- Through this study, an intervention, such as an online tutoring program or smartphone application, will be implemented for low SES students to get access to the education they deserve.

Background & Literature Review

Doubts Relating to Academic Ability

- Students from higher SES backgrounds displayed more academic advantages than students from low SES backgrounds, as they have fewer doubts relating to their academic ability (Destin, Hanselman, Buontempo, Tipton, & Yeager, 2019).
- The doubts students from families of low SES experienced about their academic ability was linked to the low expectations set by their teachers & other administrators in the school system.

Relationship between Levels of Educational Attainment & Earnings

- Low and middle SES students are not expected to earn advanced degrees.
- Lower levels of educational attainment are linked to lower earnings & higher unemployment rates.
- A small percent of low SES students attained a Bachelor's degree by 2012 compared to that of high SES students (Ed, NCES, 2015).

Results

- The results of the study indicate that there is a strong correlation between low SES & the psychological development & academic achievements of students.
- They highlight that students of low SES experience doubts of their academic abilities due to low educational expectations.
- They show that low SES students are not expected to earn advanced degrees, experience low earnings & high unemployment rates unlike high SES students.

Methods

Participants

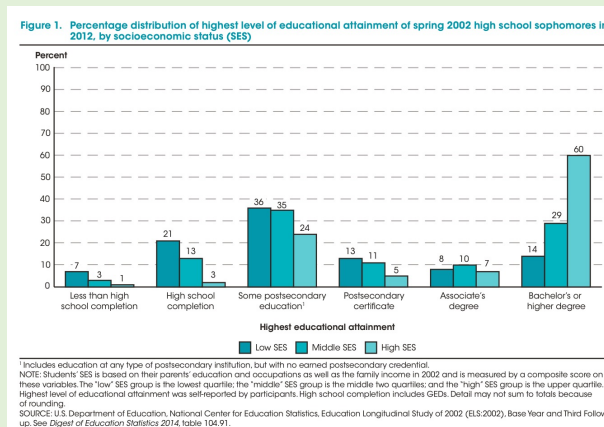
- Participants eligible for this anonymous survey are undergraduate students who are 18+ & attend St. John's University. They can belong to any SES, though the target population is people of low SES.
- There will most likely be a total of twenty-five to fifty participants recruited through e-mail & online flyers.

Data Collection

- Data collection began in spring 2021 & will continue throughout the remainder of the Spring 2021 semester.
- The survey will assess the subjects' demographics (range of income, etc.), academic achievements, & psychosocial health.

Data Analysis

- Once data is collected, results will be analyzed by content & correlational analysis to evaluate the connections among low SES, psychological development, & academic achievements of undergrad students.



Discussion

- The results emphasize that academic resources should be available to students of low SES families who may not be able to afford additional educational resources like a tutor or an after-school program.
- More nonprofit services pertaining to giving students extra assistance should be an option for these students.
- The anticipated Capstone Project to be completed from this research & data collection is an online tutoring program or smartphone application to be implemented for low SES students to get access to the education they deserve.

References & Acknowledgments

Mentor: Dr. Carolyn G. Vigorito, Ph.D., Psychology Dept.

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