

Explain why children of the poor are more likely to be poor than children of the ...

[Sociology](#)



Persistent Poverty Persistent Poverty The ideology of equal opportunities is not true for many people who are born in poor families. Usually, poor children remain oppressed by the social status of their family. They have to change their life priority from education to employment in order to survive. As a result, poor children have far less opportunities compared to their peers from middle class families which have the access to everything needed for complex personality development. Such factors as persistent stress, low quality education, lack of social services and exclusion have a great impact on future well-being of any child born in a poor family.

Statistical data is pessimistic; according to Ratcliffe & McKernan (2012), 16% of all children in the US are born poor. Moreover, facts become even more striking if to differentiate minority families from this even number. 40% of minority newborns are poor compared to 10% of white newborns. One in three white children and two in three minority children remain poor in their adult life.

It is true that well-paid jobs require good higher education. Alongside with this common requirement, almost 90% of children born in poor families “enter their 20-s without completing high school” (Ratcliffe & McKernan, 2012). The same story is applicable to poor adults who do not have a high school diploma in their majority. Higher education for the poor is not affordable at all. Increasing tuition prices and admission policies only make the situation more complicated. As a result, poor children are more likely to become pregnant as teens or quit school for the sake of low-paid job. All these factors predetermined their later poverty related to inability to earn adequate income.

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Living condition in poor families are not good for children as they have a great risk of developmental problems. Overcrowded housing, lack of parental supervision, high frequency of divorces and exclusion from the middle-class community become the factors which teach children that they do not need to rely on people around them. Children who are born in poor families where parents are employed have more chances to improve their material status in their adult life. Their peers who are born in families with unemployed parents do not have appropriate role model to follow in their lives (Ratcliffe & McKernan, 2012). As a result, they have more chances to be persistently poor.

The whole situation seems to be persistent and continuous by its nature. The main problem is that the problem has been already recognized and studied by numerous researchers. At the same time, only some initiatives have been implemented to provide poor children with things they lack for coping with their poverty. Unfair distribution of community services and factual segregation of the poor into ghettos with high levels of crime and other negative social phenomena only makes the situation worse. Poor children need to have adequate support from their community. The issue does not need to be ignored; communities can initiate and implement effective community programs to support those children in need and show that they have alternatives in their lives.

In summary, there are many negative factors which predetermine persistent poverty for children born in poor families. Low quality education, inappropriate living conditions, family issues and minority status become predictors of future poverty. Many children are deprived of all future

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opportunities by their family status which is unfair for them. All in all, community should take care of poor children locally to show them that equal opportunities are not mythical.

#### References

Ratcliffe, C., & McKernan, S. M. (2012). Child poverty and its lasting consequence. Low-income working families. Paper 21. Urban Institute.