

Student Name:

Period:

State Home Language:

Language:

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Poverty in Idaho

A recent report by Idaho Kids Count (a survey based on the U.S. Census) indicated that Idaho has the highest rate of poverty in the nation for young adults from ages 18-24. Poverty is an ever-growing problem worldwide, even with the United States suffering a high poverty rate. The reason that Idaho's poverty rate is so high is because of people not going to college because they stay to take care of family farms, many people dropout of school, credit-card debt, and many other reasons. I can stay out of poverty by getting a professional job and working for my pay. My community could help reduce the rate of poverty by being more open to hiring people of different ethnicities and ages.

The poverty rate in Idaho is mainly caused by the way of life in Idaho. It is a farming community, and a lot of people return to the farm after they graduate from high school or even college. People return to their family farms often because there is a death in the family and someone has to step in and take over the deceased person's role. Often times the deceased person's only income was the farm. If the widow(er) is still alive, they need some source of income. The income usually comes from one of the kids taking over and running the farm.

When people have to take over the farm because of death or other circumstances they generally don't have time to go to college. Working on a farm with animals requires

constant care. Loss of animals or crops is inevitable, therefore farmers can never tell if they will have a successful year or not. Farmer's success depends upon the weather and market for their crops or livestock.

People think that they can get a job right out of high school that will be a good enough source of income without going to college. Though this may be true in some cases, after someone gets married, has children, and has to provide a home and life for their family they come to realize that their \$20,000/year job won't cut it. They often go into debt just to buy essential living materials.

Another reason for Idaho's high poverty rate is credit cards. It is so easy to use a credit card, but so difficult to pay off the charges. Even though credit cards cause so much strain financially, people are still buying them at an increasing rate every year.

I can stay out of poverty by going to college and getting a more advanced education. I can then go on to a professional business where my job will pay my bills. I can also put a little money in my savings account each time I receive a check so that I will have a little extra money put away in case of an emergency.

My community could reduce the poverty rate by opening up jobs to people of different ethnicities and ages. Often people are denied a job because they are too young or the employer doesn't like their race. Employers want someone who can fulfill their job assignments, so when younger people go looking for a job the employer is often skeptical of their capabilities. Especially in Idaho's farming community the employers want someone who can lift a lot of weight for moving pipe or someone who can fix machinery.

Despite the high rate of poverty in Idaho, there are ways to reduce it. Through starting to teach good work ethics to people when they are younger, we can start people on the path of a hard-working career. Everyone should be more accepting of different people so that we can all work together to reduce the high poverty rate not just in Idaho but in the world.