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Poverty in Idaho

In all ages in all places throughout history, there has been poverty. Many times it has been widespread, while at others it seems to disappear completely, but it has always been there. A recent survey done in the state of Idaho has shown that Idaho has the highest rate of poverty in the nation for young adults ages 18-24. This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Why are poverty rates so high in Idaho? How can we fix it? There are many possible reasons it could be so high as well as many ways the problem could be taken care of. These are some of the issues I will discuss in this paper.

Many things could be causing this high poverty rate in Idaho. Many young adults are too lazy to go and look for a job, and many can't keep a job because of this same laziness. I personally know many people who don't care enough to go try to get a job; they would rather sit at home and do nothing than have to go out and work. Also, employers don't usually want to hire a person who won't be an asset to the company, so they won't want those people who aren't hard workers.

Another thing that could be causing this high poverty rate is that there aren't enough jobs readily available for young adults. Most companies hire many employees, but there are already people filling every available job. I know of some companies whose work force is made up entirely of adults older than 30. This, in effect, keeps those young adults from getting out of poverty.

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Many students don't try for scholarships when they go to college. They just take out loan after loan to pay off their schooling. Many people graduate in this high poverty age group, and then they start making more money and are able to pay off their debts. Yet, to pay off their debts they have to work for quite a while; thus, the debts will start getting paid off sometime after this 18-24 age group. That would explain why the poverty rate is so high for this age group but not as high in the 24-30 year old age group. This is a possible explanation for the high poverty rate among these young adults.

I recently turned 18 years old, and this survey shows some scary results. The job force can be an intimidating thing for some people. I am hoping I can stay out of a survey like this by not being one of those young adults who are in poverty. There are a few ways I can do this. As I mentioned before, those students who don't get scholarships usually have to get student loans. If I can apply for as many scholarships as possible, I may be able to pay for school without owing anything because I took out a loan. Also, I can start looking for jobs before I graduate from high school so I am ready to start earning money as soon as I do graduate. If I do this I may be able to stay out of poverty.

There aren't any organizations around my town that tell what jobs are available to young adults. I think we could use a program that would tell what jobs are available and encourage young adults to go out and get a job. With these types of organizations, I believe more people would be up and ready to get a job. Job-hunting is a daunting task for some, so with this help, people wouldn't have to feel so dispirited about getting a job. The school counselor and staff could provide a list of jobs available that are close to the school so students could go to the job right after school. I feel this would help to greatly reduce the poverty level in Idaho.

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Even though the poverty level is high in the state of Idaho, I know we can turn it around and cut down the poverty in this state. If parents would teach their kids the value of work when they're young, kids wouldn't grow up to be so lazy. With older adults encouraging young people to go out and get a job, there would be less debt. High school students shouldn't plan on getting loans to make it through college; they need to earn money while they are in school and try for scholarships so they have money for college without owing money on a loan. The high poverty level in Idaho can be taken care of if we all work together. Fewer loans, more jobs, and less laziness would more than likely get rid of this problem in Idaho.