Poster Presentation

A Comparison between Social Work and Non-Social Work Majors on Their Views of Government Help with Poverty

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There have been many studies that pertain to the poor and what the main causes of poverty are. Most studies that have been done about poverty state that the main causes can be either individualistic or structuralistic. Individualistic means that the person is poor due to their own faults and/or issues that they are currently facing. Structuralistic means that the person is poor due to the society that they live in. There are some people that feel the government should step in more and help the poor. Yet, there are also people that feel the government has given enough help and does not need to help the poor. For this research project a group of students created a questionnaire which contained questions about poverty, what the major causes were, what the government can do to help, and how people rate their own financial situation today. The surveys were given out to students in several junior and senior level courses in the College of Education and Human Services. All of the surveys have been collected but the results still need to be analyzed. Our hypothesis is that social work majors will show more support for government services to help the poor more and non-social work majors will show the less support for government programs. We also believe that people who currently state that they are living in poverty will be more likely to identify structural issues that keep people in poverty.