

Melody Argudo

Professor B

Intro to Sociology

March 23rd, 2023

National Social Action Report

1. Write a paragraph of the mission of the organization. Some questions to consider are: what are the organization's goals? What are their values? What do they do?

I chose to do my Social Action Report at the [Center on Poverty & Social Policy at Columbia University](#). This organization's mission is to develop research to improve our knowledge of poverty and the role social policy plays in eliminating poverty and boosting opportunity, economic security, and individual and family wellness in New York City and the United States. The organization's main focus and purpose is to provide safety net programs, such as housing help, family tax credit, and food, which help Americans out of poverty and lessen their pain. They analyze for possible policy change both nationwide and in New York City, with a vast amount of statistics and measurements to gauge the results of anti-poverty initiatives and policies. They aim to educate their audience on accessible resources and care for Americans.

2. Pick a 1) review an archived webinar, 2) a live virtual event, 3) listen to a podcast episode (if they have one) or 4) read a resource document or report (any type of written document regarding the organization's research/advocacy, etc) and write 2 or three sentences about what it was about.

I chose to read over the article, "[The Costs of Being Poor: Inflation Inequality Leads to Three Millions More People in Poverty](#)." The article discusses income inequality in the United States and how it has only grown over the past few years. Income growth at the bottom of the distribution has lagged substantially behind income growth at the top of the distribution. This new discovery has the implication that we could be underestimating income inequality and poverty rates in the US. Two national statistics that significantly depend on the yearly inflation rate in their computation. According to our corrected inflation measure, 3.2 million additional individuals are now considered to be poor in 2018, and real household income for the lowest 20% of the income distribution has actually decreased by over 7% since 2004. This demonstrates the relationship between inflation inequality and the prevalence of poverty, as well as income inequality. Inflation impacts the cost of living, which only targets POC and the middle class. The articles show various graphs and charts that demonstrate the rates of household income growth and the inequality of inflation, which correlate with how these two factors are rising. It continues to grow, and no matter the number of people who are working class, they can barely make it by.

3. Relate what you learned from the webinar, event, podcast, or resource document or report from #2 back to course material. Make 3 separate connections.

"[The Costs of Being Poor: Inflation Inequality Leads to Three Millions More People in Poverty](#)" demonstrated multiple graphs and statistics about the inequality of inflation. The connection I made to the topics discussed in class would be the rapid growth of gentrification and the impact it has on the middle class and POC, it is unfortunate to see that more and more Americas are not able to afford to live in their homes or buy food. Gentrification undermines a community's history and culture and diminishes social capital. It is a housing, economic,

and health concern. It frequently alters a neighborhood by putting up new businesses and resources in blighted areas, which gradually increases prices for lower-income residents on their rent, food, etc. That only leads to them getting evicted and having no place to live. They have to resort to shelters and move from place to place.

I would also relate this to the ripple effect because poverty has a negative impact on Physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being. The health and well-being can be negatively impacted by poverty in a variety of ways. Depression may result from stress. Health problems and a lack of energy might result from not being able to purchase nutritious meals or prepare fresh food. The stress of not being able to find somewhere to live due to the high increases in prices causes all these problems to grow. People only grow more angrier and depressed, since they are in desperate need to survive for themselves. It becomes this big loophole that grows and grows rapidly.

Another point I would make is the rise of capitalism since capitalism is based on wealth and power it tends to push people of the lower class to work twice as hard to make a living and even then they barely make ends meet, which leads them to leave their apartments and houses, that are later sold for triple the amount since that area is rapidly getting gentrified. Furthermore, it leads these individuals into poverty and into serious stress. It pushes millions of Americans from their homes and causes these poverty programs to be overfilled with people and the need for more funding.

4. Indicate what you thought about the webinar/podcast/resource document. Tell me what you liked, and what you think could be improved, and provide some suggestions on how they could have been improved it. Your suggestions could be based on the content itself, delivery, or presentation.

I thought that the article was very clear and concise, it gave a lot of information pertaining to income inequality. The data it showed to back up all the wage gaps and how it targets POC and the lower middle class was interesting to see. I liked how it gave the perspective of the growth of poverty and the rise of gentrification due to urban planning. I personally found the website to be very broad, there was no specific information about specific programs on the home page, it's a summary of the mission of the organization, but I wish the website showed more articles or information regarding the organization and what it has done. It does have a couple of articles on the webpage but it does not have them on the direct homepage, which would be more helpful in my opinion.