Bryan Guner

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A Framework For Understanding Poverty

Chapter1:

1. Nine vital resources are: Financial (having the money to purchase goods and services)Emotional(being able to choose and control responses)Mental (having mental abilities and acquired skills)Spiritual(believing in divine purpose and guidance)Physical(having physical health and mobility)Support systems(Having friends/family and back up resources) Role Models (Having access to adults who are appropriate, nurturing and do not engage in self destructive behavior) Knowledge of hidden rules (knowing unspoken cues and habits of a social group)
2. Poverty is often caused by a lack of non-financial resources that result in poor finances. Having an education supersedes having good financial resources because with an education you can earn more money. Without knowing the hidden rules one can not function in society and is unlikely get a job. Someone without emotional resources would be very unlikely to hold down a job because of emotional outbursts.

Chapter2:

6. A good vocabulary is important in precisely describing events and leads to better problem solving skills and inferences. Also learning to speak in formal register will help one function in society and the workspace more efficiently.

7. Schools and organizations can: Have students write in casual register and then convert it to formal register. Establish a program where students articulate their frustration in formal register to avoid reprimand. Use graphic organizers to show patterns of discourse. In the classroom tell stories in both casual and formal register and compare the differences. Encourage participation in the telling/writing of stories. Use stories in math, social studies and science. Make up stories that can be used to guide behavior.

Chapter3:

1.Hidden rules are unspoken social cues and skills associated with living in a certain community or socioeconomic background. It is important to understand these cues in order to function in society and acquire a job and family. For example if a poor person were to win the lottery they would probably struggle to get their finances in order or how to behave in a fancy restaurant. If a rich person were to become poor they might struggle to make due with limited utilities or food stamps. Understanding the community is crucial to living in it.

5. The biggest challenges in getting out of poverty are how to treat money. Most people in poverty view money as a source of entertainment and a form of self expression rather than a source of security. In order to get out of poverty one must save money over time and set goals rather than living day by day.

Chapter4:

1. Generational poverty is defined as having been in poverty for at least two generations, it is often accompanied by a “society owes me a living” attitude. Situational poverty is often the result of a specific event like loss of job or the contraction of a serious illness. People in situational poverty will usually reject any type of charity out of pride.

7. Poverty culture is often dictated by a matriarch, because relationships in poverty are often short lived rather than being life long ( with linear family trees as seen in middle class families). Families in poverty separate more regularly in than in the middleclass and the identity of the father is often unknown, leaving the mother in charge of the family. When impoverished children have children, before they are ready to care for them, the mother will often care for her grandchildren as siblings of their parents.

Chapter5:

1. You provide emotional resources to a child with poor role models by: Providing support systems, using appropriate disciplinary strategies, establishing long term relationships, by teaching them hidden rules, by identifying options, by increasing individuals’ achievement level through instruction, and by teaching goal setting.

7.The greatest free resource available to schools is the remodeling of students by teachers, administration and staff. This resource is crucial to students with poor role models because it is their only interaction with educated , employed , responsible professionals who might pass along to them the hidden rules of life.