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The Costs of Living for Today’s Generation

We live in a world where more than half of young adults in America are living with their parents. Gone are the days of moving out at 18 and living on your own. A steady increase in housing prices, inflation, mortgage rates, rent costs, and a lack of wage compensation has ballooned into a massive problem recently. Many young adults are faced with the decision of living independently at the cost of unrealistically long work weeks, or move in with their parents with the sacrifice of independence. The question is presented, what caused this? What can we do to fix the problem?

**INFLATION**

Reade Pickert, a journalist employed by Bloomberg to keep up with and document economic changes brought in by covid-19. In this article Pickert investigates the “39-Year High of 7%” consumer price inflation that the United States is facing. One of the reasons behind the high inflation rates are tied to desperate businesses trying to fill open positions by increasing pay to attract and retain workers, specifically at the lower end (Pickert). Reports show that the CPI (Consumer Price Index) will continue to be high, but only temporary. “Economists expect CPI growth to moderate to around 3% over the course of 2022…”

**COVIDS EFFECTS HOUSING**

Sharon Parrot and her team at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities have dedicated their efforts into finding and consolidating information about food, housing, and employment hardships since the start of the pandemic. Looking into the issue of housing and specifically the inability to pay rent or mortgage is shown as "1 in 6 Renters Not Caught Up on Rent During Pandemic, With Renters of Color Facing Greatest Hardship" (See Figure 5.) These statistics are found from adult renters reporting to the Census Bureau. This number has fallen from a peak of 15 million people - "in January of 2021 but has remained above 10 million people - about 1 in 7 adult renters - since the end of March." (See Figure 6) A package named "The December relief package" and the "American Rescue Plan" was a financial boost of $46 billion designed to help those who were struggling with rent and avoid eviction. However, the lack of proper infrastructure to get these funds to renters in need created a sense of urgency. The Supreme Court ended their ruling on the CDC’s eviction moratorium which helps renters who haven’t received financial help (Parrot). The eviction moratorium allows renters more time to receive the rent relief before being evicted.

**MAJOR LIFE DECISIONS**

Mark Mather, the vice president of U.S. programs at PRB, has 20+ years of experience working in 2020 census, child well-being, household and family structure, inequality, poverty, and much more. Mark talks about how even before the crisis that is Covid-19, young Americans were postponing key life events such as having children and getting married (Mather). More information is shared in the example of Figure 1. It explains how as time has gone on there has been a general decline in marriages, as well as a growing gap between marriages consisting of greater education vs less education. Potentially related but otherwise seen as a general decline, Mather explains, “The economic impact of the coronavirus may cause more young adults to postpone births, leading to further declines in birth rates, especially among women under age 30.”

**NAYSAYER + REBUTT**

Heather Long, Alyssa Fowers, and Andrew Van Dam are a group of authors working for The Washington Post. They are looking into the mysteries of covid, specifically the economy and the unemployed. There is a large variable of people that are looking for a job, but a lack of openings in their previous specialization. This can be seen as, “…there are 1.8 million job openings in professional and business services and fewer than 925,000 people whose most recent job was in that sector.” This similar mismatch is seen in education and health services, where millions of jobs are open, but not enough people to fill the positions (Long).

**POSSIBLE SOLUTION**

The Mena Report, a Newswire based out of Amman (Jordan) has been documenting Middle Eastern studies, Middle Eastern and International Business, and more importantly information between United States Senator Elizabeth Warren and a handful of private equity-backed residential firms. Warren has sent letters to three of these private companies such as Progress Residential, American Homes 4 Rent, and Invitation Homes (Mena Report). She was looking for information on whether or not these companies have been trying to make money off of the misfortune of those unable to afford rent or housing during the pandemic. Senator Warren said, “We can't solve the housing affordability crisis, and lower housing costs for consumers, unless we crack down on predatory practices by WallStreet investors.”

1. Introduction with a hook, giving a relatable but insightful glimpse into the struggles young adults are dealing with today.

     a. End the intro by asking a question,

2. Start to answer the question, but delay by introducing my topic + thesis.

3. Give background information about my topic.

     a. Talk about history of economic struggles,

     b. Talk about inflation rates, past vs present.

     c. Talk about housing costs, rent costs.

4. Talk about Covid 19 and its effects that correlate with my topic.

5. Reiterate and reinforce the idea of how many young adults are living with their parents.

     a. Introduce the problems that are created due to young adults living with parents.

          1. Major life decisions such as college, marriage, having kids, buying a home.

           2. Delayed independence leading to later maturity.

6. Talk about the repercussions that arise from the delayed life decisions.

      a. Reduced birthrates.

      b. Economic declines.

7. Bring up possible solutions to the problems highlighted.

8. Conclude with summary of paper + thesis, end with call to action.

THESIS : Young adults are living with their parents at an unprecedented rate. Corporate greed, Covid 19, and increasing inflation rates are to blame.

Citations

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