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Activity 6: Head Start Program

We affirm that this is the exclusive work of the above-named students created without using other sources (including other students or their writing) except as cited.

Part 1: Policy and epistemological support

We propose the implementation of in-home child care groups. Whitworth will use the alumnus donation to fund an Early Head Start (EHS) program to hire and train individuals to travel to the homes of eligible children who are not otherwise able to access existing EHS sites. Potential EHS agents must be qualified to provide child care and must pass a background check with the Spokane Police Department. Once trained, the EHS agent would travel to such a home and provide child development services for the children resident in the home and a small number of neighboring children, no more than the facility will support. In order to sign up for this program, eligible parents must consent to the use of their home to host the program on a rotating basis. EHS will assign applicants to groups based on geographical proximity. The EHS agent will undertake the transport of children within their group to the designated facility for the day.

In order to support the Head Start Program, our implemented policy would help fund those who need in home care. The two epistemologies that justify such policy are empirical data and authoritarian knowledge. Dr. Beck Taylor conducted a study, proving that young children in poverty are at-risk and need access to various childhood development programs. These sites provide safe and secure places for early childhood development, resulting in enhanced skills that people need in life to benefit society. Also, from an authoritarian perspective, Whitworth University’s saying to honor God, follow Christ, and serve Humanity is perfectly paralleled with such policy. Proverbs 22:6 states “start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Further, in Mark 9:37, Christ gives us a direct commission to care for children in his name. The policy, if implemented, would directly follow Biblical texts, helping influence young children and provide them with the best tools to influence society in positive ways.

Part 2: Guiding Ethical Values

Natural Law - The mission statement of Whitworth University is to serve humanity and the main goal of Natural Law is to promote and work towards what is best for the flourishing and betterment of humanity, individually and in community. We know from Dr. Taylor's research that the return to society for investing even $1 to a child during their early years yields a staggering $7 return to society in the future. Those little kids that Head Start supports are going to be the future of the communities that they grow in, and if invested in their early education, they take home the benefits of what we invest in them to improve the lives of their families and collectively the community as a whole.

DCT - God calls us to action and Whitworth’s mission statement says to “honor God, follow Christ, and serve Humanity”. By supporting these jump start programs we are following God’s command to help our neighbor as well as Whitworth’s mission statement of serving humanity. We are compelled by this guiding moral principle which states that doing right is acting in accordance with God’s will.

Part 3: Policy Analysis Projection

One positive of Whitworth funding Early Head Start programs is that more children who would otherwise be unable to participate in such programs. By having an EHS agent going out to the homes of children who need care, we are able to help out those who beforehand were unable to make it to an EHS center. By helping out even more children we are serving the community by helping to make the future generation better equipped to tackle any problems that they may face. This policy may also make EHS services available to those in the direst need, as the most destitute families are likely to be ones unable to access existing EHS facilities.

Part 4: Critical evaluation

One main criticism of the policy would be the difficulty of prolonging the actions and support to EHS. The funding provided by Whitworth University and the general contribution from the alumnus would greatly help the EHS for a period of time. However, once the funding runs out, an issue of how to continue the programs created in the policy arises different problems. A generous donation from one individual only occurs one time; therefore, once the funding runs out, it runs out.

In response we would point to bureaucratic inertia being the largest obstacle to the establishment of a program. By providing the financial support to get the program off the ground, we make that inertia work for us, as future year funding is much easier to procure for an extant program than for a nascent program.