



University of
Reading



How does the cost of living affect's educational and social development in children 5-12 years?

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² My research plan.

The focus of my research was primarily how the cost of living affects local communities. I had to focus on where I thought was most important within the sector of cost of living. I chose my research to be around child poverty within deprived areas of Portsmouth. I wanted to highlight what child poverty is and how it is affecting the youth and families of this generation from mental health, unhealthy lifestyles, poor education and lack of essentials.

I split my research into 5 categories these were

- What is your focus for research?
- Which is the community your research will be on
- What do you expect /hope the impact of your research will be?
- What methods do you plan to use to carry out your research?
- Data analysis and presentation.

Breaking the research into these categories helped me narrow down and give key focus to where I wanted the research to go and helped me set goals and time frame on how to achieve getting the most from our community.

We had 1 year to complete this research I spent at least 2 months at the beginning having deeper conversations with the community to know what my subject of the research was going to be.

³My methods of collecting data

During the research process how I collected my data is vastly important. For the first 2 months I spent in foodbank sessions within the deprived parts of our city having conversations with the service users about their hardships with the cost of living and what are the top three things they were affected by the most.

These conversations determined my research project and where I needed to focus after the initial 2 months. I then thought about ways to gather data more sufficiently to what I needed. The ways i did this were as followed:

- 1 on 1 interviews face to face, if people couldn't do this i accommodated by zoom calls, video calls or phone calls at what time suited them best.
- I held a coffee morning with a group of parents to discuss issues around cost of living.
- Online google survey for everyone to access

The google online survey form was the most successful as I was able to have visual charts and comments from parents to use in my presentation and giving them their own voice word by word in this process was so vastly important to our community.

Data analysis

After every interview, conversation and survey form I had to go through review and transcribe all the data into more visual ways such as graphs charts to make it simpler to understand. Here are some of the answers that came from the online survey forms.

HOW COST OF LIVING IS AFFECTING EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN 5-12

INTRODUCTION

My topic is to highlight what poverty is and how it affects the younger generation within education and their social development in learning and thriving as a generatio, And how poverty is affecting mental health, unhealthy lifestyles, poor education and lack of essentials.

OBJECTIVE

I want to achieve community working together to beat poverty in Portsmouth and beyond I want to highlight the troubles children are faced with today and how us as a nation can come along side and support our next generation into thriving instead of just living to survive.

METHODOLOGY

Interviews 1 on 1
Online survey forms
Face to face conversations at foodbank sessions.
attending community event's

ANALYSIS

With my online survey forms these are the results of my findings which highlights the complex difficulty poverty bring's. In m result there were positive and negative qualities shown.

Has the cost of living had an impact on your children/child's education' child/children's education?

14 responses

Out of 15 people that took my online survey this is how many said cost of living did or didn't imoact education and how.

If you answered yes, Could you explain in more detail how the cost of living has affected your child/children's education?

7 responses

- I don't have home access to a laptop makes homework difficult to complete as it's all online
- How expensive the clothes are
- Less money for anything including education materials
- Certain lessons at school need special stuff bought for them
- all my children have additional learning needs and i can no longer afford all the at home resources to help them progress closeer to their peers, class trips are less accessible unless free, uniform and school supplies have had to be brought less frequently which has led to bullying in one case
- Not been able to move to a better area for schools.
- I have had to drop some of the after school activities

AUTHORS

Mazikeen Smith

AFFILIATIONS

King's church
Harbour church
Home start

RESULTS/FINDINGS

My research showed that parent's are struggling with the expenditure of sschool cost, travel and food. Cost of living has created a high increase in mental health and social development in children, which in turn is affecting students learning and capability within school.

CONCLUSION

Too summarise many families have been hit hard by cost of living and would benefit from support of community and enviromental programmes, second hand unifrom shops. In the end we can empower children to be so much more with the right support which in turn sets up new generations to be better.

RELATED LITERATURE

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life." Nelson Mandela

- "Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere." — Kofi Annan, Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- "Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime." — Aristotle, Greek philosopher.
- "Poverty is the worst form of violence." —

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What i hope the impact of my research will be

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I do sincerely hope that this research might bring communities together and build trust and respectful relationships around the city. I believe giving them a chance to speak freely, being kept in the loop of any change made by the research will earn the trust of agencies and the council and the people as a collective. I think this type of research will deeply build a network of various researchers and organisations to work alongside each other working for the same cause.

I'm hoping we can try keep the community at the heart of our solutions and be able to give them a chance to get involved in the changes being made around their neighbourhoods. I am hoping to get churches and youth workers involved to provide youths with something to be proud of in their neighbourhoods.

I am hoping with my research I will be able to have a good influence on co-workers, organisations, councils, the people of the city and bring us together.

The youth of our day need to be given a chance to thrive not just survive they need to be given ample opportunities to show there potential and to work towards a better future for our economy together we can build a sustainable future if we invest our time and efforts into helping the youth today be better off educationally as well as socially we can do this by simple things such as breakfast clubs being free, free school uniforms shops for parents, upping the age of free school meals, having better youth group activities around the communities.

⁶Outcomes following my research

Together with Portsmouth city council I have had conversations surrounding a community garden project for children to engage with where someone from the older generation could lead it to build a bridge on the generational gap and build good strong relationships in our communities.

I have gone on training surrounding tackling children obesity to help me understand how the cost of living impacts nutritious food for families and how to help prevent this.

I am currently setting up meetings with local churches to discuss my research and how they might be able to accommodate and work with me to help the local communities, schools and children and how to bring the light of Jesus into that.

I also want to visit school's and have conversations and perhaps offer some good agencies. The school's could signpost too if needed to help families with the struggle of cost of living and where to go for support.