



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Does Abortion Help to Alleviate Poverty - or Contribute to it?



Education: When abortion restrictions are enacted, many abortion defenders will claim that access to abortion must not be limited, as if abortion fills a real need, especially for poor women. Abortion is supposed to empower women to pursue education and careers. And yes, economic pressure is a factor in many abortions. One study found that poor women on Medicaid have twice the abortion rate as other women in their state. If the state's Medicaid program paid for abortion, the rate was 4 times that of other women. (1) On the surface it may seem obvious that

“preventing” the arrival of another child by means of abortion would enable women to work or pursue education, and eliminate the cost of having and raising a child. But what is the actual result when poor women have abortions?

While poverty provides pressure toward having abortions, it turns out the abortion makes it more difficult for a woman to escape poverty, resulting in a vicious cycle. Studies have shown that detrimental psychological effects of abortion on women can make them less able to be successful in their school and career, less able to maintain a permanent relationship, more likely to have problems with drugs or alcohol, and likely to eventually become a single mother after repeat abortions. (2) All these effects contribute to long term poverty. In fact, women who have abortions are more likely to require welfare assistance, and the odds of requiring assistance go up with each subsequent abortion. (2)

So if a community truly wants to help women out of poverty, abortion is not the answer. Abortion is both wrong and ineffective in alleviating poverty. The solution to poverty is not to give poor parents permission to kill their unborn children.

1. R. Jones et al. in *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Sept./Oct. 2002, pp. 226-35 at 231., cited in “Poverty and Abortion, a Vicious Cycle”, <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2014/poverty-and-abortion.cfm>
2. Reardon, David C. "Abortion and the Feminization of Poverty", retrieved from <https://afterabortion.org/abortion-and-the-feminization-of-poverty-2/> on 8/18/21, originally published in *The Post-Abortion Review* 1(3), Fall 1993.



Prayer: Dear Father God, please have mercy on families who are burdened with economic difficulties. Help them to have faith and hope in You, that You will provide for their needs. Help them to see a child as always a gift and a blessing for their family, real and alive from the moment of conception within the womb. Help them to overcome any pride that comes in the way of finding and accepting the help they need to care for their family. Help all of us to be generous in sharing our resources with those in need, so that all your children can be provided for.



Action: Families who are tempted by abortion because of poverty can be helped in many ways by pregnancy centers. Ultrasound can show them the humanity of their child within the womb. Referrals can be made to help the family find the help they need with medical care, food, and other items. The pregnancy center itself can also provide baby clothes, diapers and other needed items. Please consider supporting your local pregnancy center with a donation of baby items or financial support. See www.prmcfortbend.org.