Does Education and Poverty Influence Our Happiness

Once I walked along the fifth street to the Walgreen to get some supplies, accidentally having a glance at some buskers playing guitars. Just amused by the enthusiastic rhyme and astonished by the proficient finger-moves between the strings, I came to feel the happiness, which is seldom appearing in my deep mood for a long time, not only from their face, but from their heart. Sooner or later, the question—“what makes people unhappy”—begins to haunt in my mind. This serious and a little philosophical question leads to grave concerns ever after, because goal-orientated people in the campus, in the city and in the country are just so busy with life that left no room for them to enjoy the happy moment long. Thus, I want to find out whether poverty or the lack of education makes people unhappy.

I’d like to search for a diverse range of opinions from the library and interview some professors of this area from the campus. Search for the “happiness and education” or “happiness and poverty.”

The challenge is obvious for it’s hard to define what is happiness and how to if someone is happy or not and, certainly, this is a broad topic that has been dis-
cussed for a long time. For people from different regions and different race will come up with diverse values about their happiness, the problem that will people agree on the same values of happiness will vary from part to part. However, I will ask for some advice and try to define it. Searching for all kinds of the data about poverty distribution among the developing countries like South Africa might also help me better understand this topic.

Working thesis:
Should people make compromise to attain their own happiness?

Sources

Summary: This book addresses some useful methods for teachers and organizations to have a better treatment for some disable students or someone with some diseases such as ADHD, dyslexia, visual impairment, and autism.

Analysis: This book is written by Gail Bailey, an experienced teacher and educational psychologist. So it’s obvious a scholarly source. I choose this book be-
cause the book considers the existing evidence base surrounding emotional
well-being and positive psychology, which could help me explore the psycholo-

Dowling, J. Malcolm Yap, Chin-Fang. “Happiness And Poverty In Developing
Countries: A Global Perspective”. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire :

summary: Regarding the determinants of well-being and happiness of all sectors
of society, the author gives a specific analysis of the responses collected over the
past two decades in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The
book addresses some kind of issues like the relative importance of health and
education, social and demographic issues along with happiness, and the effect of
aging. Furthermore, the authors explain why income poverty is not the only form
of poverty.

Analysis: It is a scholarly source as it collects data over past two decades.
It is published in 2013, which is surely a recent resource. It might help
me have more specific understanding of the poverty in the developing re-
gions.


Summary: Michael Jackson shows his extraordinary views about slave
raiding, warfare, epidemic illness, colonial domination, state interference,
economic exploitation, and corrupt government, which indeed declare
much insight among various topic of the poverty issues. He questioned
the relationship between poverty and well–being as well as the happiness.

Analysis: It is a scholarly source because the author is Distinguished Visit-
ing Professor in World Religions at Harvard Divinity School and also an
anthropologist who is absolutely a sophisticated expert. I choose this
source because the author, Michael Jackson, came up with the idea that
people should make some livable compromise between the always insa-
tiable self and the always insufficient reality principle, which I don’t really
agree with.

**Summary:** Josh Piven writing this book just aims to both shrink audiences’ carbon footprint and eco-anxiety. He shows the audience how to green every room of the house and have a good time doing it.

Analysis: It is a scholarly source because the author is a homesteader and also a self-sufficiency expert. Josh Piven uses personal experience as a guideline to teach people how to learn and how to have a happy and healthy life. I choose this source because it is a different kind of interpreting what influence will education have on people’s happiness.


**Summary**
If teachers would like to teach for children’s future true happiness, then the book gives some instruction about how teachers could help students to understand what is happiness and how could children develop a capacity for some unfortunate things that could contribute to unhappiness. Noddings addresses some interesting ways in this book of what we could do to improve our teaching and how could we pursue our happiness.

Analysis: Lee L. Jacks is past president of the Philosophy of Education Society and of the John Dewey Society and the book is published by Cambridge University. Also, Jacks is a Professor of Education, Emerita, at Stanford University, so it’s absolutely a scholarly source. I choose this one for this book also focus on the love topic that present the issues concordantly with my second source.


Summary: Haunani–Kay Trask gives some of her perspectives about the respect of teacher to their students on the possibilities of education un–
under colonialism. The author gives a hint in the colonialism that have an influence on people’s education leading to the harm to happiness.

Analysis: It is a scholarly source that the author quotes a lot of other sources in it and addresses the aspect of the relation between happiness and education.


Summary: This book explores the nature and role of wisdom in education. It is almost a philosophy book about people’s happiness, which gives evidence through the history practice. In the book, Sean Steel presents lots of theories about people’s happiness and makes some comparison among outstanding opinions.
Analysis: It is a scholarly source for its history based and its given theories. It also has some citations in the back of the book. I choose this book because it gives many famous philosophers' theories, which will let my paper more credible.


Summary: Rohana Ulluwishewa regards the greedy origin of human is the root cause of the material wealth unequal distribution. She also gives an answer to which people values in their life—“as we develop spiritually, the will of pursuing material wealth is replaced by selfless love. Then spontaneously emerge a form of development driven by love which can eliminate poverty and inequality, achieve environmental sustainability and deliver happiness to all.”

Analysis: As it is a published book about some philosophy stuff, I may regard this as a scholarly source for that Rohana Ulluwishewa was an Associate Professor at the Sri Jayewardenepura University in Sri Lanka and the book was honored as a finalist in the 2014 International Book Award. I choose this source because the author gives an answer in the book that
after people could not be satisfied by the external material wealth, they come to value love as happiness.