INTRODUCTION

- The introduction lists 12 key points to remember
    1. Poverty is relative.
    2. Poverty occurs in all races and in all countries.
    3. Economic class is a continuous line, not a clear-cut distinction. Individuals are stationed all along the continuum of income from high to low; and they sometimes move on that continuum.
    4. Generational poverty and situational poverty are different. Generational poverty is defined as being in poverty for two generations or more. Situational poverty is a shorter time and is caused by circumstances such as illness, death, divorce, etc..
    5. Ruby Payne's work is based on patterns and all patterns have exceptions.
    6. An individual brings with him/her the hidden rules of the class in which he/she was raised. Even though the income of the individual may rise significantly, many of the patterns of thought, social interaction, cognitive strategies, etc., remain with the individual.
    7. Schools and businesses operate from middle-class norms and use the hidden rules of middle class that are not directly taught in schools or in businesses.
    8. For our students to be successful, we must understand their hidden rules and teach them the rules that will make them successful at school and at work.
    9. We can neither excuse students nor scold them for not knowing. As educators, we must teach them and provide support, insistence, and expectations.
    10. To move from poverty to middle class or middle class to wealth, an individual must give up relationships for achievement (at least for some period of time.)
    11. Two things that help one move out of poverty are education and relationships.
    12. Four reasons one leaves poverty are: It is too painful to stay, a vision or goal, a key relationship, or a special talent or skill.

The rest of the introduction includes current statistics about poverty. The most surprising one is that the US' child poverty rate is substantially higher --often two or three times higher--than that of most other major Western industrialized nations.

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