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Panacea Challenge

North South Foundation

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## **The Vicious Cycle of Education and Poverty**

Without an education, children will not have a future. I believe in order to increase educational access to all children, particularly the underserved in the U.S., NorthSouth must help their parents find jobs. This essay entails the root cause to this issue, my solution, and why we should focus on the parents' instead of the students' first.

The main reason why some students are not able to get access to education is because they work since their parents' salaries are not enough to sustain the family. The article *'A Lot of Them Choose Work': As Teens Pile on Jobs to Help Their Families, Schools Strive to Keep Tabs on Students They Haven't Seen in a Year* by The74 states, "Do I want to ... survive school or survive life?" Novelo said. "I can't blame the students — a lot of them choose work." Many students are forced to get a job and must neglect their education. ChildFund states in the article *Poverty and Education*, "Education can be the catalyst needed to pull families and communities out of the cycle of poverty...which in turn will help generations to come." When the children cannot go to school, the cycle of poverty will continue and affect their descendants. The problem of every child not being able to get a good education is due to them working to assist their families.

We should help the parents get jobs with greater pay first. When children go to school instead of working, their families will not be able to survive. Parents' salaries need to increase. In the section

*Educational Level and Pay*, the U.S. Department of Labor states, “Generally speaking, jobs that require high levels of education and skill pay higher wages than jobs that require few skills and little education.” Parents will need to attend college to gain more skills to be able to make more money. I think NorthSouth should reach out to all the school districts around the country and get connected with underserved families through knowing who gets assistance from the school to pay for things. Once connected with the families, education plans for the parents should be discussed. To not stop the flow of incoming money while the parents are studying, they should find times to work where it can be like training or internship, too. In some cases, people just need connections with good companies or employers that will pay them a higher salary. The foundation can help financially when needed. Overall, NorthSouth will need to help parents find jobs where they earn more.

This plan will be of use to our whole community. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2020 11.4% of Americans (37.2 million people) were struggling with poverty. A lot of these people have children. We want to help as many people as we can. If we help every child with their education until they receive a college degree, we can only help a handful of them at a time since college is expensive. If we get all the parents of the financially unstable families educated and offer help as needed, they will be able to send their children to college on their own for the most part. People will be more inclined to donate to our fund for this project if more are being helped constantly rather than just educating the same few. Our community will be greatly benefited if NorthSouth initiates this project.

Neil Armstrong once said, “This is one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” Similarly, if NorthSouth takes on the project of helping parents get jobs, it may seem like a small step but it will end the cycle of poverty for many families so it is such a giant leap. Ultimately, we have identified the main reason all students do not have access to education: children working, our solution of having the

parents get higher-paying jobs, and why this will help our community positively. Let us all take a giant leap together into the bright future.