

# The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Educational Opportunities and Achievement

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## Commentary

**Received:** 01-Mar-2023, Manuscript No. JES-23-92732; **Editor assigned:** 03-Mar-2023, PreQC No. JES-23-92732 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 17-Mar-2023, QC No. JES-23-92732; **Revised:** 24-Mar-2023, Manuscript No. JES-23-92732 (R); **Published:** 31-Mar-2023, DOI: 10.4172/JES.9.1.003.

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**Citation:** Williamson S. The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Educational Opportunities and Achievement. RRJ Educ Stud. 2023;9:003.

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## DESCRIPTION

Socioeconomic Status (SES) is the measure of an individual's social and economic position in society. It includes factors such as income, education, and occupation. Research has consistently shown that SES has a significant impact on educational opportunities and achievement. In this article, we will discuss the ways in which SES affects education and what can be done to address this issue. SES affects overall human functioning, including our physical and mental health. Low SES and its correlates, such as lower educational achievement, poverty and poor health, ultimately affect our society.

### Educational opportunities

Children from low SES backgrounds often have limited access to educational opportunities. They may attend schools that are underfunded and lack resources, such as textbooks, technology, and qualified teachers. In contrast, children from high SES backgrounds may attend well-funded schools with ample resources and highly qualified teachers. This disparity in resources and quality of education can have a significant impact on a student's academic achievement.

### Academic achievement

Research has shown a strong correlation between SES and academic achievement. Children from low SES backgrounds often perform poorly in school, have lower standardized test scores, and are less likely to graduate from high school or attend college. This may be due to factors such as lack of access to educational resources, poor nutrition, and limited exposure to educational experiences outside of school.

### Health and well-being

SES can also impact a student's health and well-being, which in turn can affect their academic performance. Children from low SES backgrounds are more likely to experience health problems, such as malnutrition, exposure to environmental toxins, and inadequate healthcare. These health problems can lead to absenteeism from school, poor academic performance, and lower educational attainment.

### Solutions

To address the impact of SES on educational opportunities and achievement, there are several solutions that can be implemented:

**Providing equal access to educational resources:** Schools in low-income areas should receive the same funding and resources as schools in high-income areas to ensure that all students have access to quality education.

**Addressing health and well-being:** Schools can provide healthcare services, nutrition programs, and opportunities for physical activity to promote student health and well-being.

**Early childhood education:** Providing access to high-quality early childhood education can help level the playing field for children from low SES backgrounds and improve their academic achievement.

**Support for families:** Providing support to families, such as parenting classes and financial assistance, can help alleviate some of the stressors associated with low SES and improve academic outcomes for children.

SES has a significant impact on educational opportunities and achievement. Children from low SES backgrounds often have limited access to educational resources, experience poorer health and well-being, and have lower academic achievement. To address this issue, it is important to provide equal access to educational resources, address health and well-being, provide early childhood education, and support families. By implementing these solutions, we can help ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed academically, regardless of their socioeconomic background hence, the socioeconomic level of the student determines their academic performance.