



"Undergraduate students and their attitudes towards poverty"

Adriana Del Rincón
Juan Carlos Silas





Research question

- ¿What is the perception of UDEM's undergraduate students about poverty?
- Concepts: poverty, social justice, gender inequity and well-being.
- Stems from classroom experience

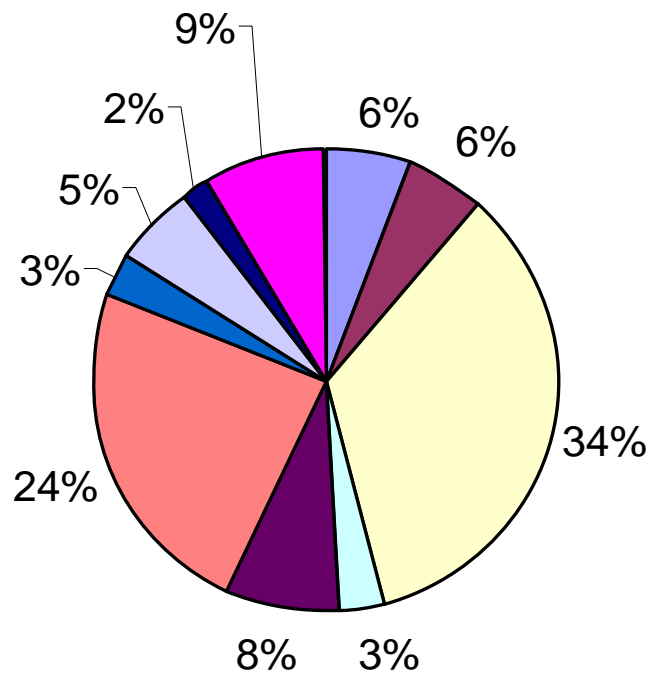


Methodology

- Based on Székely's study about poverty
- Quantitative Section (questionnaire)
- Qualitative Section (Interviews)
- Quantitative Sample: 10% of students population in Universidad de Monterrey. (528 students)
- Qualitative Sample: 10 students. 2 from each School

Results: Social Justice and Well-Being

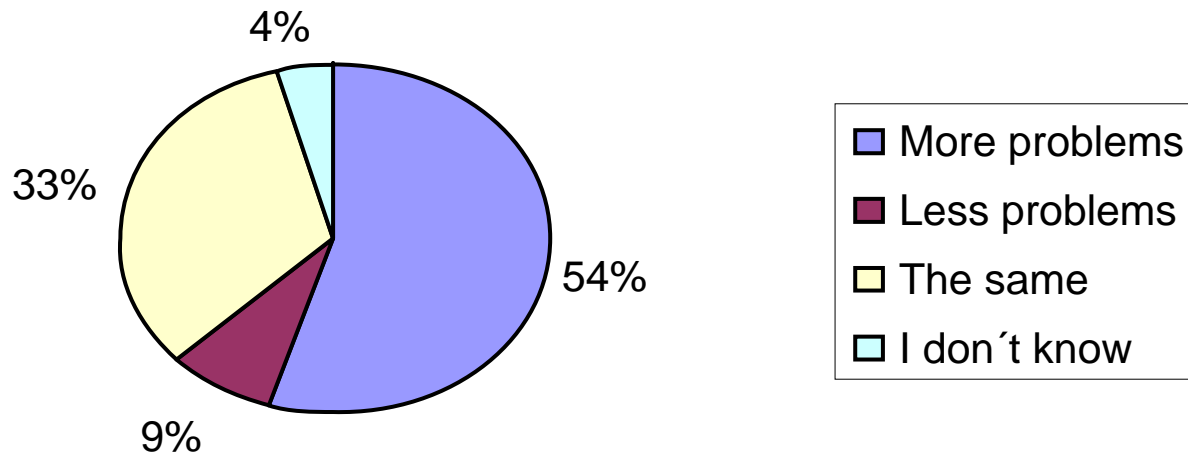
What does Well-Being mean to you?



- To have enough food
- To have all your needs covered
- To have money
- To have a job
- To have good health
- To have a good house
- To have tranquility
- To live well in the material realm
- To live well emotionally
- I don't know

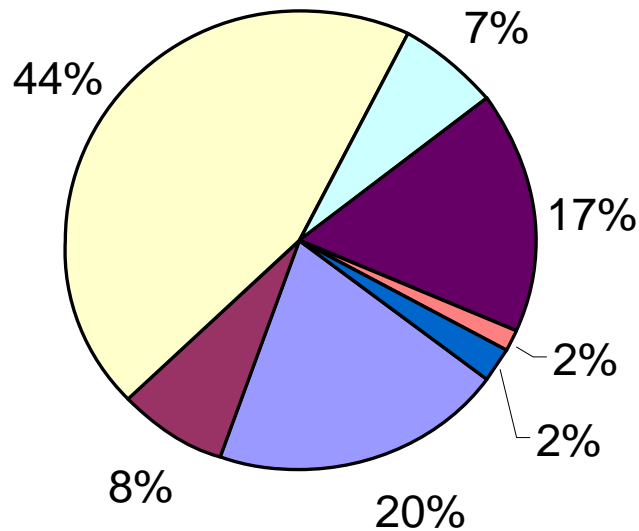
Results: Social Justice and Well-Being

Do you believe that a poor woman has more or less problems than a poor man?



Results: Social Justice and Well-Being

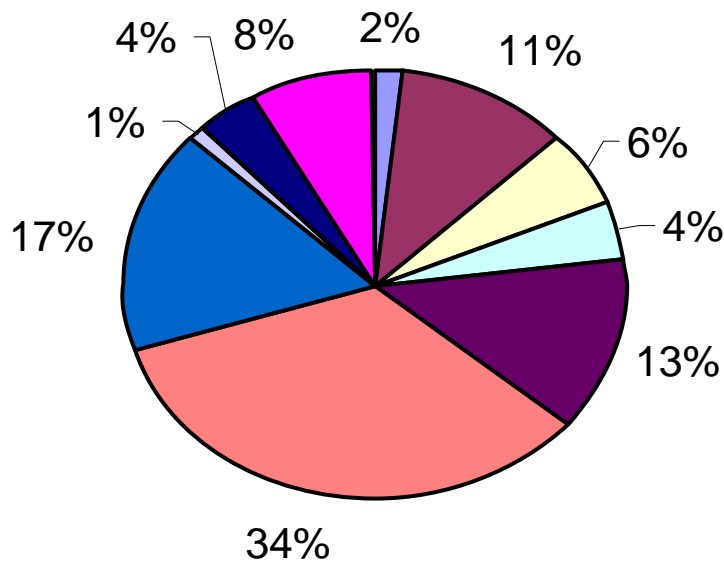
What does Social Justice mean to you?



- That every one receives according to its needs
- To protect to poorest
- That every one receives according to its effort
- That every one receives according to its capacities
- To give all the same
- I don't know
- Others

Results: Poverty, Vulnerability and Risk

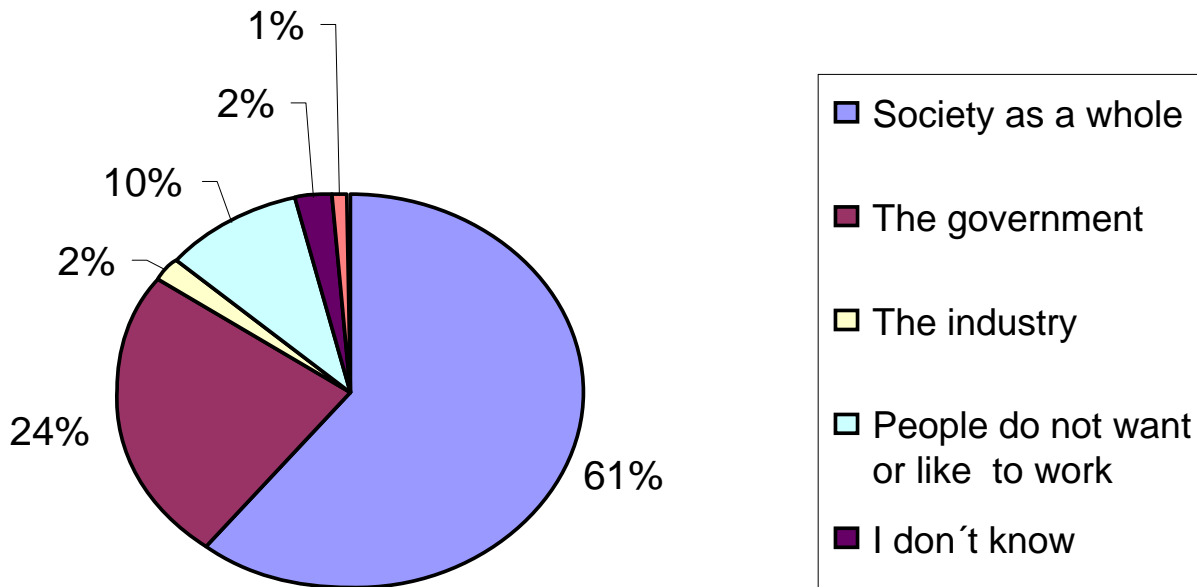
Poor people exist because...



- It's God will
- There are always rich and poor people
- No institution helps them
- They have had bad luck
- They don't work enough
- The government doesn't work well
- The society is unfair
- Poor people don't help each other
- I don't know
- Other

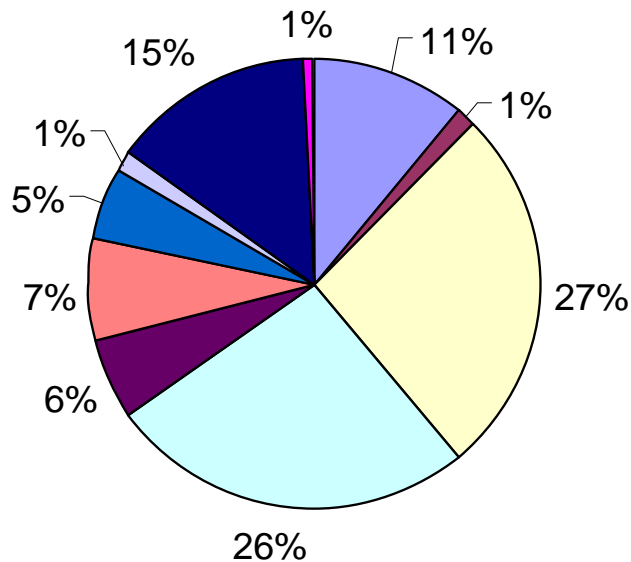
Results: Poverty, Vulnerability and Risk

The main responsible for the Existence of social problems is...



Results: Poverty, Vulnerability and Risk

**In your opinion...
What is needed to end poverty?**



- Better salaries
- More taxes
- Better plans from The government
- Better education
- Help from the government
- End corruption
- More solidarity
- More governmental works
- More Jobs



Results 1 of 5

- Prejudice...An attitude derived from a premature judgement about a given phenomenon
- 66% thinks that poverty is the lack of resources to carry on (clothing, housing, healthcare, education and transportation)
- 28% related poverty with “not having food to eat”
- Some interviewees consider poverty is more than lack of resources or food, it is also lack of spiritual or emotional support



Results 2 of 5

- 34% blame the government for the existence of poverty
- 17% blame the society in general
- A frequent statement: “there will always be rich and poor”
- Poor people are because they do not work enough to “climb out” (Székely-UDEM)
- Poverty should be treated as a National emergency



Results 3 of 5

- 44% think social justice is that everyone gets what he/she deserves based on their effort... Székely's report says the exact opposite
- Most of the students think there is no possibility that all Mexicans have the the opportunity to have a decent living and appropriate nutrition
- Most of the solutions given by the students were idealistic or closely related with political slogans
- They are aware of gender discrimination... But did not look very concerned



Result 4 of 5

- In general students show little knowledge and interest about poverty
- Their opinions/attitudes are strongly influenced by the media and the social groups they belong to...
- Despite the “Servicio Social” they do not seem to have contact with poverty
- Students -- Individualist, idealist and uninformed
- Attitudes depend on the life experience of the person



Results 5 of 5

- Despite the institutional emphasis (human values, service to the community). The university is not influencing the “social conscience” of the students
- Family, Friends and social groups are way stronger factors
- Media informs the attitudes formed by Family, friends and social groups