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A Study of Economic Inequality and Its Impact on Educational Opportunities

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ABSTRACT

Economic inequality significantly influences educational opportunities in society. When wealth and resources are distributed unevenly, access to quality education also becomes unequal. Students from economically privileged families often have greater access to better schools, advanced learning facilities, private tutoring, digital resources, and supportive learning environments. These advantages help them perform better academically and increase their chances of pursuing higher education and securing well-paid jobs. On the other hand, students from low-income families frequently face numerous barriers that limit their educational progress. Financial constraints may prevent them from affording school fees, books, transportation, or other educational materials. In many cases, such students are forced to balance their studies with work or may even drop out of school to support their families. Economic inequality also affects the quality of schools available to different social groups, as schools in economically disadvantaged areas often lack proper infrastructure, trained teachers, and learning resources. This gap in educational quality further widens the disparity in academic achievement and future opportunities. As a result, economic inequality not only restricts access to education but also reinforces social and economic divisions within society. Therefore, reducing economic inequality and ensuring equal educational opportunities through effective policies, scholarships, and improved public education systems are essential steps toward building a more inclusive and equitable society.