

Poverty in the City Centres

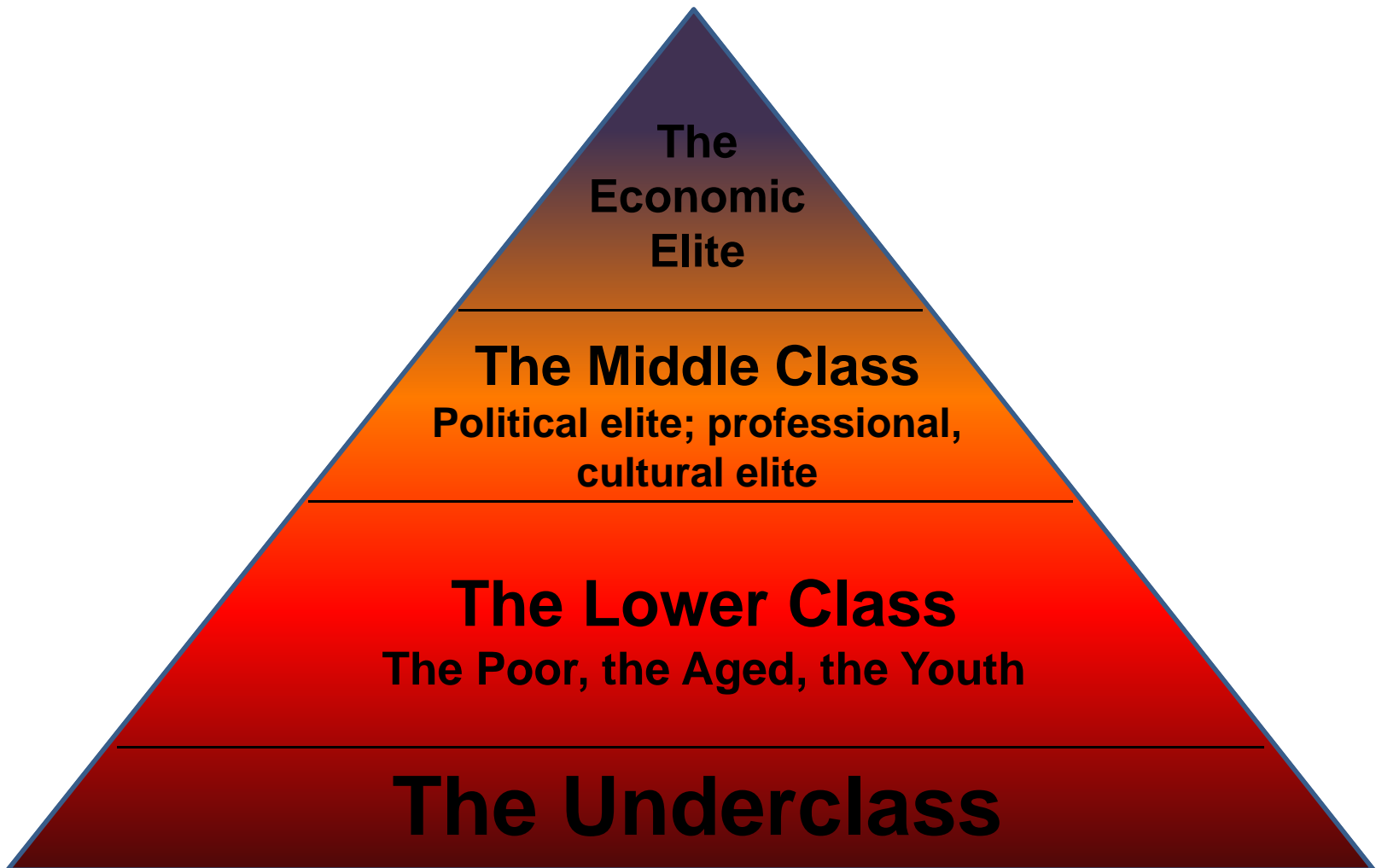
Empiricism versus Theoretical Postulation

A Cross-sectional Study of Poverty
in City Centres in North-West
Trinidad

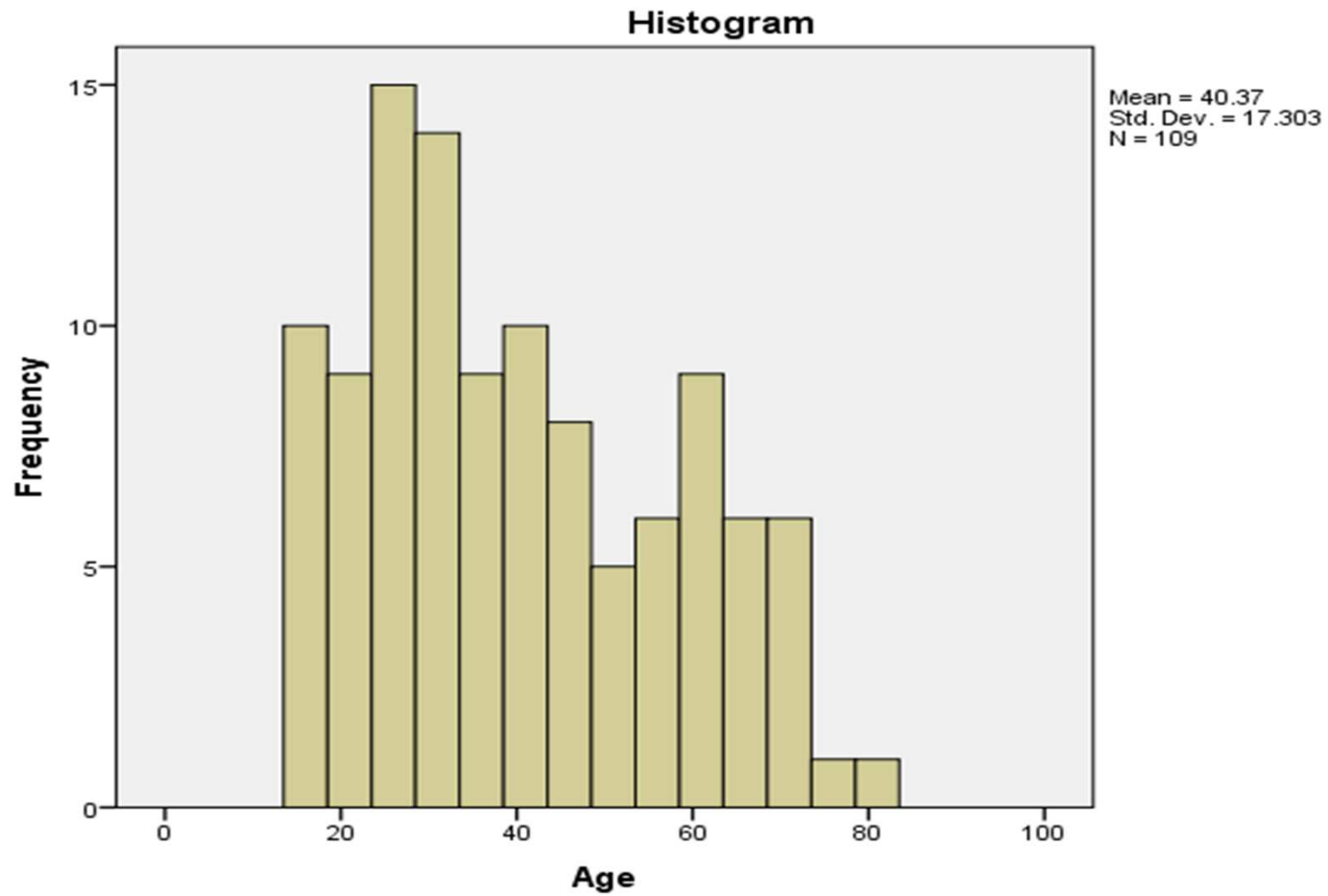
Poverty is part of the Hierarchical Social Structure

Marshall (2010)

The Social Structure



Histogram of Age



Correlation of Age and Poverty

Correlation: Age and Poverty

		Age	Do you think you are...?
Age	Pearson Correlation	1	-.012
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.902
	N	109	108
Do you think you are...?	Pearson Correlation	-.012	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.902	
	N	108	108

Education can get people out of Poverty

Education can get people out of poverty

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	66	60.6	61.7	61.7
	Sometimes	30	27.5	28.0	89.7
	Neither agree nor disagree	3	2.8	2.8	92.5
	Don't know	7	6.4	6.5	99.1
	Refused to answer	1	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	107	98.2	100.0	
Missing	999.00	2	1.8		
Total		109	100.0		

Do you have access to the following?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Water	7	6.4	6.6	6.6
	Water and Health care	17	15.6	16.0	22.6
	Water and social services	1	.9	.9	23.6
	Health care and Social services	1	.9	.9	24.5
	Water, Health care, and Social services	77	70.6	72.6	97.2
	No access to any	3	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	106	97.2	100.0	
Missing	999.00	3	2.8		
Total		109	100.0		

Government's response to Poverty

What do you think of the government's response to poverty?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poor	84	77.1	78.5	78.5
	Adequate	14	12.8	13.1	91.6
	Good	6	5.5	5.6	97.2
	Very good	2	1.8	1.9	99.1
	Excellent	1	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	107	98.2	100.0	
Missing	999.00	2	1.8		
Total		109	100.0		

- The poor are usually accused of being ‘lazy’, looking for ‘handouts,’ and ‘demotivated.’
- But as Sen (1997) would argue, poverty can be explained by a constellation of factors which is called “poverty clustering mechanism,” such as race, ethnicity, caste, gender, mental status and age (the very old and the youth), along with regional location.
- According to the author, the face of poverty is disproportionately female, very old or very young. He also identified that poverty is about the interaction of economic, social and political factors interacting to perpetuate the phenomenon.

- Rural poverty, as opposed to urban poverty, has its own set of characteristics. The rural poor, according to ECLAC (The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), lack possession of land, or have limited access; they lack basic or formal education; their illiteracy rates are very high; they lack communication and suffer from geographical isolation.

- Single-parent families account for nearly one-half of all families living below the poverty line and this has consequences for educational attainment, since family income is related to educational achievement.
- Low income increases the likelihood that mothers will work, that mothers provide less supervision for their children, and that inadequate supervision results in behavioural problems in school (McLanahan 1985).

- Again, offspring from single-parent families are more likely to work full time and to be responsible for younger siblings, and those activities result in early departure from school (Colleta 1979; Kelly and Wallerstein 1979 cited in McLanahan 1985).
- Additionally, the continuing absence of a father leads to low attainment among offspring in single-parent families (McLanahan 1985).

- It must be noted that “children suffer disproportionately high rates of measured poverty, and they are after the innocent victims of rapid changes in our most fundamental institution – the family, school, and government. The breakdown of the traditional nuclear family has meant that an increasing share of children live with an unmarried, typically poor mother” (Lichter 1997).

- With about 1.3 billion people in poor countries having no access to modern health services (Global Economic Symposium 2013), and about 1.2 billion people without potable water (OECD 2006), and approximately 2 billion suffering from anemia (World Health Organization 2012), one wonders whether poverty can be alleviated, far less eradicated.

- In the 1960s and 1970s, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America experienced higher than expected growth (Sudaram et al. 2011; ECLAC 2005). But according to the World Development Report (1990), these poverty measures were only temporary in nature.
- In the 1980s, growth rates slowed, and “inequality appears to have increased (mainly across countries), and poverty although declining in relative terms, had remained stable, in the actual number of people affected” (Bonilla et al. 2002).

A glance at Poverty in the United States

- The number of Americans living at or below the poverty line remained stubbornly at 15 percent in 2012.
- The Census Bureau reported that 46.5 million Americans were living in poverty last year. This was 2.5 percentage points higher in 2007. However, median house-income was unchanged at \$51,017.00 (<http://inplainsight.nbcnews/news/2013/09/17/20541881-nations-poverty-rate>)

There is a 16.7% poverty rate in Trinidad and Tobago (Minister Ramadharsingh 2012, citing Survey of Living Conditions).

**Absolute poverty means living on US\$1.00 per day and is a standard in all countries and does not change over time.
Based on this statement, are you poor?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	28	25.7	26.9	26.9
	No	70	64.2	67.3	94.2
	Don't know	6	5.5	5.8	100.0
	Total	104	95.4	100.0	
Missing	999.00	5	4.6		
Total		109	100.0		