



The impact of autonomous cash benefits on the social well-being of young adults

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SOCIAL WELL-BEING

+ Social well-being:

- satisfaction with relationships,
- social roles,
- environment (Larson 1993)

+ Poverty exacerbates social well-being:

- shame,
- stigma
- low self-worth
- lack of autonomy (Walker 2014)

LOW SOCIAL WELL-BEING & TEENAGERS

Low social well-being has a particularly **negative** effect on teenagers ...

it **perpetuates** unequal societal and economic standing ...

deepens the risk of poverty and social exclusion also through **life-course** ...

AUTONOMOUS CASH BENEFITS

- + Monthly cash benefits **lessen** the poverty-related **social exclusion** (Jerant 2017)
- + **Coffee a day**
- + **Autonomy:**
 - **direct** money, not through parents
 - no parental or state **control**
- + Impact on **social relations** and personal **well-being**
- + **Pocket money** important (Ridge 2002!), but **begging** parents is **shameful and painful** – similar as for adults

UBI FOR TEENAGERS?

- + No consensus yet
- + Teenagers overlooked, except:
 - Canadian mincome (Forget 2011): **impact on schooling**
 - **Ongoing Welsh** experiment (Welsh government 2022) – young care-leavers
- + **Parents** receive instead
- + **Worldwide study** of cash benefits (Hasdell 2020): impact of UBI-type programmes differ across groups – **sub-group on age** analysis needed

AUTONOMOUS CASH BENEFITS AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF TEENAGERS

- + Develop knowledge further: **diverse cash benefits**
- + **Shift** in focus: **autonomous** side; „no control from parents, nor the state“
- + **Objective**: how do a.c.b. **affect relationships (key variable)** – peers, parents, school, community, ...
- + **Policy proposal**: **basic income for youth** as the policy expression of a.c.b. – filling the gap in UBI debate

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- + **RQ1:** How does the »autonomous« side of cash policies relate to the social well-being of teenagers?
- + **RQ 2:** How do 15 to 18-year-olds use different types of cash benefits in relationship maintenance?
- + **RQ 3:** How could a policy proposal of universal basic income present an approximation of autonomous cash benefit for teenagers?

✕ Literature review

- ❑ a systematic qualitative review – find a.c.b.
- ❑ comparison between a.c.b
- ❑ concept of social well-being through relationships
- ❑ relationships and adolescents

Case study

- a case in Slovenia presents an **empirical proxy**
- digging into actual case: adolescents receive **monthly high-school stipends**
- population: **15–18 year old** high-school students
- semi-structured **interviews**
- **group comparison** (different benefits; pocket money)



Policy proposal

Policy proposal grounded in findings: UBI for adolescents in a form of autonomous cash benefit



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Thank you

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