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 ...

depens 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:
  o direct money, not through parents
  o 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:
  o Canadian mincome (Forget 2011): impact on schooling
  o 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
REFERENCES:


- Jerant, J. (2017). 'You know, it's so pitiful when you don't have your own cash ...'. Autonomous cash benefit as a welfare state tool for battling the poverty and social exclusion of disadvantaged adolescents on grounds of social justice (Magistrsko delo). Central European University, Budapest.


Thank you

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