

CHAPTER 12

The Problems of Poor Areas

General hypothesis: Variation between areas in the incidence of poverty is more a function of social class composition than of the membership of minorities, although the two are closely connected. Our task will be to identify, and rank in importance, some of the factors accounting for area variation in the incidence of poverty.

Measures of poverty: In the first instance we will concentrate on the State definition - net disposable income of the household last year expressed as a per cent of supplementary benefit scales plus housing cost. If tables are obtained from LSE then we can also examine income net worth as a per cent of SB. At a later stage it may be possible for us to study the further refinement of total net resources as a per cent of a relative deprivation standard.

Areas:

- (i) Regions
- (ii) Conurban/urban/rural
- (iii) high income, middle income and low income areas
- (iv) Constituencies in the national survey
- (v) four special areas.

Other key variables:

- (i) social class (eight-fold)
- (ii) minority status
- (iii) tenure status
- (iv) family contacts

Sub-sections of chapter

Variations in area poverty: Summarise the per cent under 100, 100-139, 140+ for each of the types of areas listed above. Best to put (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) in one table. This will show variations approximately in range 4 per cent to 15 per cent in poverty. By going on to refer to constituencies (I am asking Hazel to produce an alternative list to the one that you have) we can show (a) that poverty is spread very widely, (b) that even in the poorest districts there are still prosperous sections.

Poverty and area deprivation: What correlates are there with a high proportion in poverty? For each of the area types listed we could give:

Tables would be threefold	Size garden (q.5, p.1)) These can be combined into a summary variable of environmental poverty
Area (or region, etc.)	Dirty air (Q.6)	
x inc. as% SB (4 groups)	Good places to play (Qs.14-16, p.4)	
x each variable listed		

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Measures of poverty: In the first instance we will concentrate on the State definition - net disposable income of the household less year expressed as a per cent of supplementary benefit scales plus housing cost. If tables are obtained from the then we can also examine income net worth as a per cent of 25. At a later stage it may be possible for us to study the further refinement of total net resources as a per cent of a relative deprivation standard.

Areas:

- (i) Regions
- (ii) Conurbation/urban/rural
- (iii) High income, middle income and low income areas
- (iv) Constituencies in the national survey
- (v) Four special areas.

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Sub-sections of chapter

Variations in area poverty: Summarise the per cent under 100, 100-125, 125-150, 150-200, 200-250, 250-300, 300-350, 350-400, 400-450, 450-500, 500-550, 550-600, 600-650, 650-700, 700-750, 750-800, 800-850, 850-900, 900-950, 950-1000, 1000-1100, 1100-1200, 1200-1300, 1300-1400, 1400-1500, 1500-1600, 1600-1700, 1700-1800, 1800-1900, 1900-2000, 2000-2100, 2100-2200, 2200-2300, 2300-2400, 2400-2500, 2500-2600, 2600-2700, 2700-2800, 2800-2900, 2900-3000, 3000-3100, 3100-3200, 3200-3300, 3300-3400, 3400-3500, 3500-3600, 3600-3700, 3700-3800, 3800-3900, 3900-4000, 4000-4100, 4100-4200, 4200-4300, 4300-4400, 4400-4500, 4500-4600, 4600-4700, 4700-4800, 4800-4900, 4900-5000, 5000-5100, 5100-5200, 5200-5300, 5300-5400, 5400-5500, 5500-5600, 5600-5700, 5700-5800, 5800-5900, 5900-6000, 6000-6100, 6100-6200, 6200-6300, 6300-6400, 6400-6500, 6500-6600, 6600-6700, 6700-6800, 6800-6900, 6900-7000, 7000-7100, 7100-7200, 7200-7300, 7300-7400, 7400-7500, 7500-7600, 7600-7700, 7700-7800, 7800-7900, 7900-8000, 8000-8100, 8100-8200, 8200-8300, 8300-8400, 8400-8500, 8500-8600, 8600-8700, 8700-8800, 8800-8900, 8900-9000, 9000-9100, 9100-9200, 9200-9300, 9300-9400, 9400-9500, 9500-9600, 9600-9700, 9700-9800, 9800-9900, 9900-10000, 10000-10100, 10100-10200, 10200-10300, 10300-10400, 10400-10500, 10500-10600, 10600-10700, 10700-10800, 10800-10900, 10900-11000, 11000-11100, 11100-11200, 11200-11300, 11300-11400, 11400-11500, 11500-11600, 11600-11700, 11700-11800, 11800-11900, 11900-12000, 12000-12100, 12100-12200, 12200-12300, 12300-12400, 12400-12500, 12500-12600, 12600-12700, 12700-12800, 12800-12900, 12900-13000, 13000-13100, 13100-13200, 13200-13300, 13300-13400, 13400-13500, 13500-13600, 13600-13700, 13700-13800, 13800-13900, 13900-14000, 14000-14100, 14100-14200, 14200-14300, 14300-14400, 14400-14500, 14500-14600, 14600-14700, 14700-14800, 14800-14900, 14900-15000, 15000-15100, 15100-15200, 15200-15300, 15300-15400, 15400-15500, 15500-15600, 15600-15700, 15700-15800, 15800-15900, 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Duration index
Assets.

Housing facilities index
 Structural defects
 Serious housing problem
 Shift work (Q.4, p.6)
 Hours work last week (Q.5)
 years education
 Work indoors/outdoors
 Work conditions index
 Amount notice (Q.5, p.12)
 Housing tenure
 Grow own food (Q.32, p.12)
 School pre-1940 or post 1940 (Q.4, p.29)
 Number of home visits by doctor (Q.15, p.31)
 Number of surgery visits to doctor
 Relatives seen (Q.15, p.32)
 Been to church (Q.6, p.35)
 Voted (Q.25, p.39)

Again, a number of these could be condensed into a single table.

Factors in Variation: This section will go on to consider structural factors which could account for the variation. In the first instance we will need to look at minority membership, social class, household composition, employment status, age, sex and marital status, years education, health status, disability index, family contacts, satisfaction with pay (Q.13, p.13). Subjective deprivation variables (Q.18 p.37), and fault of poverty (Q. 24c, p.39), would also suggest we look at the extent to which (a) the earnings dispersion (b) the household income dispersion varies from the national mean. Perhaps you can outline the regressions we could try.

OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

[illegible]

WORTHINGTON MEMORIAL OF PROGRESS COMMITTEE RE CONSIDERING THEO & ALBERTA (1976)

[illegible]

435

Memorandum