

# Poverty Awareness Game

Layla Avila (CS), Kate Olguin (IMGD), Irene Wong (Undeclared)
Advisors: Professor Joseph Beck (CS) and Professor Robert Traver (US)
PLA: Nicole Franco (RBE)

#### Problem Statement

College students in America are not aware of the complexities involved in fighting poverty in developing countries.

#### Solution

A choice-based digital game where the player makes decisions about poverty in a developing country.

## Why Developing Countries?



#### Assessment Plan

- Two anonymous surveys, open to all
- Compare pre-game and post-game results

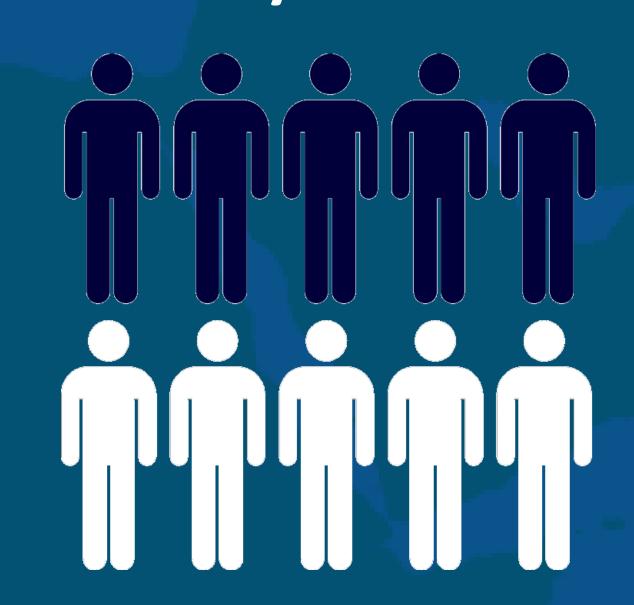
### Common Poverty Myths

Good economy = No poverty
Children have equal opportunities in all locations

Welfare makes people lazy
Poor people choose to stay poor

## Pre-Game Survey Results

51% of all surveyed believed at least one common poverty myth



## ECONOMY

There is a large income gap between people in rural and urban areas of your country.
Rural inhabitants are struggling to make a living. What do you want to do to reduce the income gap?

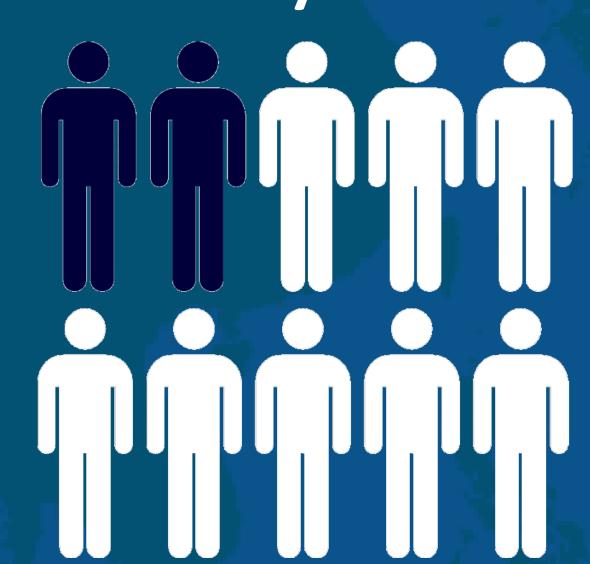
Raise taxes for wealthy families

Increase the minimum wage in rural areas only

Improve the welfare program to address rural needs

#### Post-Game Survey Results

19% of all surveyed believed at least one common poverty myth



## Conclusion

- Fewer people believed common poverty myths
- Players found the game interesting
- Players mostly agreed that they learned something
- Players were unlikely to recommend game
- Prototype successful, needs improvement

#### References

Albert, E., & Xu, B. (2016, January 18). China's Environmental Crisis. Retrieved December 4, 2016, from Council on Foreign Relations website

Global poverty is on the decline, but almost no one believes it. (2014, April 28). Retrieved December 4, 2016, from Barna website:

Medina, D. A. (2013, October 5). About 15% of Americans live in poverty, so why is no one talking about it? Retrieved December 4, 2016, from the Guardian website

Poverty in America. (n.d.). Retrieved December 4, 2016, from npr online website The state of rural schools in China and the broken educational system. (n.d.). Retrieved December 4, 2016, from China Change website

U.S. Poverty Myths. (n.d.). Retrieved December 4, 2016, from World Vision website