The Limitless Boundaries of Education in a Post-Racial Society
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Introduction

In a post-racial society, the discussion of race and racism is no longer relevant to the current social dynamic. Race is a very serious matter that the United States will ever have to face. President Barack Obama’s victory revealed something had changed in America, but we haven’t reached a world where race no longer matters and equality in schools and colleges has been achieved.

Education has always been part of the racial divide that permits disparities to exist in society. The post-racial stigma is not applied when it comes to the public schools, in which there are still many imbalances toward racial equality today.

Research Question

Is education a civil rights issue in a post-racial society?

Background

Over the course of history the federal government has played a significant role in the administering of funds for colleges all around the country. Needless to say, as of the twenty-first century there have been countless measures taken to ensure higher education for all. However, there has been a huge disparity between the level of education for African-Americans versus Caucasians dating back to the late-nineteenth century.

The Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896 led the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that the state of Louisiana has the right to require “separate but equal” railroad cars for blacks and whites, which led to the passage of laws supporting racial segregation in schools. Nearly 58 years later in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed that segregation of schools are “inherently unequal” and must be abolished. Thus, on May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren announced the court’s unanimous decision: “It is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity…is a right which must be available to all on equal terms. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.”

Findings

- Post-racial means that race no longer matters and anyone can accomplish anything, but the opposite effect is happening to make us think that are we still in a pre-racial era. Race and racism are still critical factors in determining what happens and who gets ahead in America.
- A Pew study found that whites are far less likely to see the discrimination treatments blacks receive by the education system.
- America is a place where black unemployment is far higher than white unemployment.
- 47% of white people believe that race is getting more attention than it deserves; meanwhile, only 18% of African-Americans feel the same.
- In 2009 6.2% of black students were in the University of Michigan, but that number later decreased to 4.6%.
- The federal government first became involved with education in 1841 by granting 77 million acres of land as endowments for support of schools, with the federal government adding surplus money to states for public education.
- Today the federal government is providing more than 75% of the total amount of student financial aid in America.

Conclusions

There is without a doubt racial bias within our educational system which affects African-Americans in a more negative way as opposed to other races/ethnicities in our country.

Over time the gap within our educational system should have closed, but the statistics have clearly shown that we are taking a step backwards in regards to our educational system in the 21st century also known as the “post-racial society.”

Nonetheless, as African-Americans continue to utilize the educational system in America they should be optimistic because a lot of changes have occurred over the last 100 years. Ultimately, there is still a lot of work left to do as far as education goes.