There are many factors that affect the achievement gap. Many would agree that being privileged helps provide access to education while being disadvantaged does not. The dictionary defines privilege as having special rights, advantages, and immunities. For example, the wealthy, rich, and prosperous belong to the privileged class. Disadvantaged students struggle with poverty, which can impact their education. The purpose of this research is to address the following: What is the difference between being privileged and being disadvantaged? How does privilege impact the achievement gap? What can be done about the differences between the privileged and the disadvantaged?

Introduction

Privilege

- Historically, the privileged have had more access to education than the poor.
- Wealthy parents are more involved in parent-teacher conferences and doing volunteer work at the schools.
- Wealthy families can afford to pay a tutor to help their children study, allowing them to get ahead in class.
- Wealthy students are eight times more likely to graduate from college than poor students.
- Compared to only 9% of students from poor families, 77% of students from wealthy families earned a bachelor’s degree by the age of 24.
- The wealthy are less likely to be in debt when they graduate from college and are more likely to get a job faster when they graduate.

Disadvantage

- In the first half of the 19th century, free schools were established for all poor white children.
- Today nearly 45 million Americans live in poverty.
- Children living in poverty have a higher number of absenteeism.
- By the end of the fourth grade, low-income students are often two years behind the grade level.
- Some disadvantaged students struggle with developmental delays and learning disabilities.
- Principals report that parents with children in public schools lack interest in their children’s progress.
- Sometimes poor children leave school altogether because they are more likely to have to work or care for family members.

Discussion Questions

- What is the achievement gap?
- Who is affected by the achievement gap?
- Does your neighborhood influence the quality of education a school can provide?
- What are some advantages of having a high income?
- Can we do something to address the achievement gap?

Funding in New York Schools 2002 - 2003

Racial/Ethnic Composition & Income Level 2002 - 2003

Recommendations

- Educators must be responsible for improving the school environment and schools should be a safe place where students want to come and take a part in learning.
- Parents/families should be more involved in their children’s education process.
- Government should pay closer attention to its policies and provide equal educational funding.
- Neighborhoods/Communities should help in developing a safe learning environment for all schools.

Acknowledgements


https://www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-education-america