

Systemic Racism In the Educational System

Do you believe systemic racism can affect you? Most don't think it will ever happen to them until it does. Systemic racism manifests discrimination in criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, education, and political representation. This issue doesn't only apply to specific black people, if you're young or old, even if you're with or without a college degree. This idea has affected black college students in many ways, by increasing the percentage of dropouts of college students, stopping them from getting jobs, and forcing blacks to make colleges of their own to get the education they need.

From the times of slavery, systemic racism has impacted the lives of black students. Even now the educational system and economic systems have been tainted for black college students to increase the number of dropouts. According to Health Disparities, Systemic Racism, and Failures of Cultural Competence, "African Americans are 33.8% more likely to drop out than an average student." Showing that's from a cause of being independent (which means that they have family responsibilities, a full-time job, and have to pursue a degree). This increases the numbers of people of color keeping a low-income job from having one in college and dropping out of college with the same low income jobs.

Besides the increase in dropouts, systemic racism also contributes to the unemployment of black students after college with hard-earned degrees. According to Black College Graduates Wonder Where The Jobs Are Hiding, "According to a new study, they are having a harder time than whites finding a job. They also are more likely to be in a job that does not require a college degree and is being paid less than white workers with the same experience." This connects the idea that black people are only capable of keeping low-income jobs because they weren't picked for a better one. According to the National Journal, "A new study finds that 12.4 percent of black college graduates were unemployed." And with more and more blacks being unemployed that just makes college seem like a waste of time. "Employers are more likely to offer a job to a white person than a black person," stated by Black College Graduates Wonder Where The Jobs Are Hiding. So systemic racism plays a big role in who does or doesn't get the job even if you have a diploma.

In addition, systemic racism has forced black people to make their way into the world of education by building their own colleges. HBCUs were started because of the growth of black people wanting a better education after the civil war. But schools weren't welcoming to people of color so easily and they couldn't wait til they were. That's when Atlanta became the center for black

education. According to Historically Black Colleges And Universities Of Atlanta, Georgia, “In 1881 two white Bostonians, Sophia B. Packard and her longtime companion Harriet E. Giles, founded Spelman College. This is the nation's oldest historically Black college for women.” HBCUs made lots of opportunities for black people. According to Historically Black Colleges And Universities Of Atlanta, Georgia, “10 percent were associate's degrees, more than two-thirds were bachelor's degrees (70 percent), 14 percent were master's degrees, and 6 percent were doctor's degrees.” Without HBCUs black people wouldn't have the opportunities to generate wealth in their community. The withhold of success that systemic racism created, people of color had no other option but to make their own colleges to get a life they truly wanted.

In conclusion, systemic racism are the systems and structures that have produced that disadvantage for African Americans. Keeping a wealth gap between races, stopping people from getting houses in certain places, and standing in the way of black people getting an economically good job. It picks and chooses who can or can't get the best opportunities, even if you're an educated college student. Impacting black college students in many ways, by increasing the percentage of dropouts of college students, stopping them from getting jobs, and forcing blacks to make colleges of their own to get the education they need. Even from the time of slavery, African Americans have endured racism so it's important that black people ecoknowledge these problems head on before it becomes an even bigger problem for the next generation.

Work Cited Page

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