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**A Historical Account on Ways to lessen Disparities in Schools:
The Role of Cultural Diversity in the United States of America**

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER DEGREE IN CIVILIZATION AND LITERATURE

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Dedication

I dedicate this research to my beloved mother and dear father, as well as my dear grandmother for their never-ending love and support.

I will always be grateful to have you in my life.

To all my friends.

Abstract

Cultural diversity in the United States is a complex phenomenon that has been the subject of extensive research and discussion. Over the years, people from all over the world have immigrated to the United States for different reasons, economic opportunities have been one of the primary factors for immigration to the United States. Cultural diversity is shaped by different historical events, such as immigration, colonization and conquests. Historical injustices have made this topic sensitive to the African Americans who suffered from slavery in the past and still suffer to this day from the traumatic effects of this crime . The concern of this paper is to outline the importance of cultural diversity in the American Schools. Using historical approach, this paper explores the history of minority groups in the United States, specifically students who constantly suffer from discrimination and intolerance in these schools. This will help us explore the appropriate remedies to help decrease racial disparities and improve diversity which helps students achieve better results.

Keywords: Enslavement – Discrimination - Cultural Diversity - Racial Disparities

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General Introduction

This research is about diversity and discrimination in the United States. It focuses on the variation of racial and social groups, which differ in terms of culture, history, religion and beliefs. There are several ethnic groups, including Chinese, Africans, Arabs and Jews. These groups fled from their nations for different reasons, arriving at USA as immigrants unlike other groups, Africans were forcibly transported. However, after settling in the United States, they encountered numerous obstacles and problems in the host country, including slavery, racism, unemployment, oppression and violence from society. As a result, they had to fight to be considered normal citizens with actual rights and an independent identity regardless of their ethnicity.

The diversity of cultures in the U.S. is considered as a major step for the youth to be exposed to different cultures which helps students broaden their views and gain new perspectives on the world. The motives that inspired me to choose this topic are varied. First, I am a master degree researcher from Algeria who likes diversity in culture, which we do not get to see in our society. Second, the topic of diversity and discrimination is very rich and complicated at the same time; the fact that makes it more interesting. I picked it to know more about the diversity in America and how the different groups immigrated to the U.S and the reasons behind the wide discrimination and hateful actions against them.

The historical effects of immigration to the United States have contributed significantly to its cultural diversity. The "melting pot" term suggests that immigrants from diverse cultural backgrounds have come to the U.S., bringing with them their languages, traditions, and customs. Over time, these diverse elements have united to create a unique American culture. Some argue that the United States operates on the principle of "cultural pluralism." This hypothesis suggests that the U.S. favors and values the coexistence of

various cultural groups, allowing them to maintain their distinct identities and practices while participating in the broader society. On the other hand , racial disparities in the United States are a common and complex issue with roots in historical, social, economic, and institutional factors. Racial disparities can be traced back to the legacy of slavery, specifically the Jim Crow laws which were state and local laws introduced in the Southern United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that imposed racial discrimination. As a result, in order to identify solutions to this dilemma, we must ask three important question: *What factors contribute to disparities in educational attainment , outcomes and incarceration among different racial groups?*

The main purpose of this dissertation is to show the discrimination and the differences in society. This dissertation also discusses How different groups immigrated to the United States of America and the motives behind their immigration . Moreover , it illustrates the importance of diversity within society , culture and education .

Therefore , this research is composed of three chapters . The first chapter provides an introduction to ethnicity and diversity in the United States, focusing on ethnic groups, cultures and religions. While , the second chapter mainly focuses on racial disparities in education , economy and criminal justice . It also highlights the negative impact of the media and the dangerous effects of reporting bias . Finally , the third chapter tackles cultural diversity in schools and how diversity can be very beneficial with the right management and guidance from the teachers .

Chapter One:
An Overview on Racial
Diversity in the USA

1.1 Introduction:

The United States of America is known for its diversity of cultures, which is a result of its history as a nation of immigrants . Throughout its history, people from every corner of the globe have immigrated to the U.S. seeking a better life, freedom, and new opportunities. The first chapter of this study tries to show the different ethnicities in America, it talks about their religion , culture and the origins of their arrival to the United States . It also tackles the concept of the “ Melting Pot ” and how it describes the American society in a very accurate way .

1.2 Ethnicity in The U.S

The United States is considered one of the most ethnically diverse countries on the globe . The citizens of the U.S represent different ethnic groups with various cultural and religious backgrounds , all these factors can help us understand the complicated image of what it means to be an American . The American society is composed of Native Americans , Chinese, Arabs, African Americans, Indians , Hispanics , Jews and European Americans , they represent every culture , religion , ethnicity and speak different languages of the world.

1.3 Native Americans

The native Americans in the U.S are the indigenous peoples from the regions of North America and parts of Alaska . The first and original inhabitants of the Americas are "American Indians" . They settled in various parts of the country, including California, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Alaska, Florida, North Carolina, and South Dakota which experienced the most growth from this ethnic group.

Native American history is rich and diverse, with numerous civilizations developing over millennia. There are 574 tribes, including 229 Alaska Native communities, recognized by the federal government .Notable examples include the Maya, Aztec, Inca, Navajo, Hopi, Iroquois Confederacy, and many others. These civilizations developed their own languages, cultures, and social structures over time.(Cyca, 2022)

The first encounters between Native American tribes and European explorers and settlers occurred in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, following the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492 which marked the beginning of diseases, exploitation, enslavement, and massacres , while settlers of European colonies began an ambitious expansion agenda that focused on weakening and eliminating Native Americans.

It's important to note that the history of Native American-European interactions is complex and varies by region and tribe. Some tribes engaged in alliances and cooperation with Europeans, while others experienced violence and displacement. Additionally, Native American resistance, resilience, and cultural preservation have been important aspects of this history. The process of colonization and the conflicts between Native Americans and European settlers have had lasting impacts on Native American communities, including loss of land, cultural disruption, and social challenges. These issues continue to be part of the ongoing dialogue and efforts to address historical injustices and promote Native American rights and self-determination.

Today , Native Americans in the United States have legal, political, and cultural rights including the right to vote in elections, and run for political office. These rights are protected by federal and tribal laws and treaties. Native Americans play an essential role in the history of the United States and colonization .

1.3.1 African Americans

African Americans , or blacks were forcefully transported to North America as slaves by European colonists in the 17th century. They represent the 3rd largest ethnic group in the United States after Whites and Hispanics . The majority of African Americans identify as Christians, and Christianity has played a central role in African American religious life. Many African Americans belong to historically Black Protestant denominations, such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), the National Baptist Convention, and the Church of God in Christ (COGIC). They are called by different names by white Americans, such as colored and Negro, The term “Negro” was widely used for African Americans, “Black” as the dominant name replaced the term “Negro” .

The first African Americans arrived in the United States then settled in the English colony of Virginia. Specifically, in 1619, a group of around 20 enslaved Africans was brought to Jamestown, Virginia, on a Dutch ship. This marked the beginning of the African American presence in the English colonies that would later become part of the United States. Jamestown, established in 1607, was the first permanent English settlement in North America. The arrival of enslaved Africans in Jamestown in 1619 was a significant event in American history, as it marked the introduction of enslaved labor into the English colonies and laid the foundation for the institution of slavery in the United States.

After years of fighting for their civil rights , The beginning of the 21st century marked a new era for African Americans , black men and women had taken seats in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. As a black man has got the presidency of the United States in 2008 his name “ Barak Obama ”

1.3.2 Arab Americans

The Arab immigration to the United States started before America became an independent Country . An estimated half million Arab migrants left the Ottoman Empire between 1880 and 1924 to live and work in the Americas. By the late 1880s, Arab labor migration to the Americas had reached epidemic proportions, connecting workers in the Ottoman Empire to the expanding industrial economies of the post Atlantic world.

The first Arabs immigrated to America around the 1800s , the majority came from Mount Lebanon and western Syria, but had also spent time in Beirut, Alexandria, Cairo, Marseilles, and Barcelona. Arab Americans come from 22 different countries and live in all 50 states. The majority of Arab Americans are from Lebanon, followed by Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan. They came to escape the economic hardships they were experiencing as a result of the decline in the silk industry, which represented the basis of their economy.(Khalaf, p20)

The beauty of the United States of America as a destination for immigrants stems from its principles, history, and prospects. While the motivations have changed over time, the United States remains a beacon of hope, embodying the hopes and dreams of innumerable individuals seeking a better future on American territory. The Diversity in the USA is a reflection of

the nation's commitment to valuing culture and creating an inclusive society where people of all backgrounds can contribute to and benefit from the American experience.

1.3 The Religious Diversity in the U.S

The United States is known for its religious diversity, with a wide range of different belief systems and faith traditions practiced across the country . Religion played a crucial role in Americans lives , many religions prospered in The U.S which helped it become one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world .

Religious freedom has been a foundational principle in the United States since its inception. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was ratified in 1791 as part of the Bill of Rights, explicitly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." As a result , various groups immigrated from Europe to The United States to escape the religious oppression of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England .

The First Amendment's Establishment Clause prohibits the government from establishing an official religion or favoring one religion over others. This separation of church and state has been central to the American understanding of religious freedom. The First Amendment also protects the free exercise of religion, allowing individuals to practice their faith without government interference, as long as their practices do not violate other laws or infringe on the rights of others.

1.4.1 Islam

Islam is the third-largest religion in the United States behind Christianity and Judaism . Islam is one of the most widespread religions in the world , it is estimated that 2 Billion people around the world identify themselves as Muslims, which represents over 25% of the world's total population .

The Muslim Students' Association, established in the early 1960s, became the principal point of Muslim activity. Meetings and events were initially held on university campuses, using university facilities. However, Muslim students quickly became active in collaborative endeavors to build local mosques, which quickly became hubs for all Muslims.

The early nineties witnessed a remarkable elevation in the level of Muslim political involvement. For the first time American Muslims began to rally mainstream political leaders to their causes. The effort to use the voting power of Muslims to influence the decisions and priorities of American politicians has been led by Islamic centers and community-based organizations; some national organizations (e.g. AMC and CAIR) have played an important role in educating the public on Islamic causes.

Islamic organizations have made great contribution to the social and political American life in a short period of time. These contributions include : the development of hundreds of Islamic centers and full-time schools, the entry of Muslim preachers into the United States military, the establishment of political action and lobbying organizations, publishing houses and also small media organizations. However , with great power comes great responsibilities.

The September 11 attacks had a profound impact on Muslim Americans, affecting them both individually and as a community. It's essential to recognize that the vast majority of Muslim Americans condemned the attacks and were just as horrified by them as any other group of Americans. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, there was a surge in hate crimes against Muslim Americans and those who were perceived to be Muslim. Mosques, Islamic centers, and individuals were targeted with violence, vandalism, and harassment. Many Muslims lived in fear for their safety.

1.4.2 Christianity

Christianity is the largest religion in the United States. The majority of Americans identified as Christians, with various religious groups such as Protestantism, Catholicism, and Eastern Orthodoxy being the most prominent within the Christian faith.

Christianity was introduced to the U.S with the arrival of European explorers and settlers in the early 16th century. Christian religious groups played an influential role in each of the British colonies, most groups attempted to enforce strict religious awareness through both colony governments and local town rules. Although most colonists identified as Christians, they did not live in a religiously united culture. Instead, many Christian groups frequently believed that their own practices provided specific morality that needed to be protected against those who disagreed, resulting in the necessity for rule and regulation.

The United States continues to have the most Christians more than any other country in the world , with a huge majority of Americans (around seven in ten) identifying with some branch of the Christian faith. However, according to a significant new Pew Research Center survey of over 35,000 Americans, the percentage of adults who identify as Christians has fallen by roughly eight percentage points in seven years, from 78.4% to 70.6% in 2014 (Pew Research 2014).

1.4.3 Hinduism

Hinduism represents the third-largest religion in the world , after Christianity and Islam . Hindu immigrants arrived in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of these early immigrants came from the Indian subcontinent, particularly India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The Hindu population in the United States has been rapidly growing over the years , there are approximately 2 to 3 million Hindus in the country .

Hindu communities are found throughout the United States, with significant populations in areas with a high concentration of Indian immigrants. States such as California, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Illinois have sizable Hindu populations. Hinduism has a visible presence in the United States through temples, cultural centers, and community organizations. These places serve as places of worship, cultural preservation, and community activities for Hindus. Hindu religious practices, including temple worship, rituals, and festivals, are widely celebrated by the Hindu community in the United States. Major festivals like Diwali, Holi, and Navaratri are important to the Hindu community .

Among all religious communities , American Hindus have the highest rates of educational attainment and highest rate of household income among all religious communities as well as the lowest divorce rates (Rajagopal 2005,p2). According to the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, 20 years ago there were 435 temples in America, whose number has increased to about 1000. The reason for the increase in the number of temples is the increase in the population of Hindus who settled here , Hinduism and Sanskrit have also expanded rapidly in America.

1.4.4 American Atheists

According to the Pew Research Center , around 3% of Americans say the are atheists . It also found that a larger group (around 9%) say the do not believe in a higher power or a god . according to telephone polls conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2018 and 2019 ,when Americans were asked about their religious affiliation, 4% of American adults claim they are atheists, up from 2% in 2009 , a further 5% of Americans identify as sceptic , up from 3% a decade ago.

1.4 The Concept of Melting Pot

The concept of the "melting pot" is an idea that has been used to describe the assimilation and integration of diverse cultures and ethnicities into a single, unified society . The concept itself is often associated with the United States since it's the biggest place in the world for cultural diversity . The German philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder is often credited with laying some of the intellectual groundwork for the concept of the melting pot. He emphasized the importance of culture and language in shaping the identity of a people and believed that each nation had its own culture and contributions.

The concept of the melting pot gained significant attention in the United States with the 1908 production of the play "The Melting Pot" by Israel Zangwill, a British-born Jewish playwright. The play portrayed America as a place where people from various backgrounds could come together, shed their old identities, and create a new, unified American identity. His work went on to influence the Liberal Progressive caucus of the Americanization movement, which included such figures as John Dewey, Jane Addams and W.I. Thomas. (Lissak 1989).

Over time, the concept of the melting pot has been both celebrated and criticized. Some argue that it oversimplifies the complexity of cultural diversity and assimilation. Others prefer alternative metaphors like the "mosaic" or "patchwork quilt" to emphasize the preservation of cultural identities within a diverse society.

1.5 Conclusion

This chapter explores the picture of the United States as the land of immigrants with the different groups that traveled from all over the globe to this land looking for better opportunities, they established strong institutions in order to practice their language, culture and religion peacefully without oppression and brutality. This chapter also shows the different religions in The United States and how these religions have been established in the American society. Moreover, it describes the concept of the "Melting Pot" which represents American society and the discrimination that still faces minorities to this day.

Chapter Two:
The Existence of Racial
Disparities in the USA

2.1 Introduction:

This chapter focuses on the different types of racial disparities in the United States , It covers the motives behind these disparities and also the causes of the injustice against minorities as African Americans , Arab Americans and Hispanics .It also shows how certain ethnic groups such as “ Blacks” are more often targeted by the police . Moreover , it tackles the negative impact on the media and how it influences the public opinion . Despite the fact that the United States is a combination of mixed ethnic groups with different languages , cultures and traditions , these disparities have deep historical roots and continue to be a major issue in American society.

2.2 Racial Disparities

The history of the United States is marked by a legacy of racial injustice, beginning with the forced enslavement of Africans and the dispossession of Native Americans. These historical injustices have left a lasting impact, contributing to the contemporary racial disparities that persist today . Inequality for African Americans originated with their enslavement and brutal treatment by landowners because of the color of their skin. The fact that they appeared different was enough for them not to be considered human or equal , they were looked down upon and treated less than everyone else. As time passed, African Americans began to fight for their equal rights, and the issue of slavery came to be seen as unjust .

Moreover , The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks had significant and lasting impacts on Arab American Muslims. While the attacks were carried out by a small group of terrorists, they had broad consequences for Arab Muslims in the United States, both individually and as a community . Muslim Americans often faced increased scrutiny and profiling by law enforcement agencies. This included airport security checks, questioning, and surveillance, which led to feelings of being unfairly singled out . Some Muslim Americans faced discrimination in the workplace, with instances of job loss or difficulty finding employment due to their faith or ethnicity.

2.3 Education Disparities

The majority of Americans believe that the United States has failed the majority of its students in achieving equality in schools . Public schools in the United States have long been viewed as institutions existing to serve their local communities. In the nation's early days, schools were largely funded by voluntary contributions (Biddle & Berliner, 2002).

According to Giroux (2009) the punishment disproportionality starts with a criminalization process that originates from false perceptions about students based on their appearance or their socio-economic status. This process of youth criminalization has produced fictitious ideas about what young people do and how even nonviolent behaviors become criminalized in the name of safety. This approach toward the maintenance of safety and discipline in schools has widened the disciplinary gap among different groups of students divided not just by socio-demographic characteristics, but by the characteristics related to the schools as well (Bireda 2010).

The behaviors of the groups being stereotyped and criminalized are an expected response to an oppressive school system where students tend to disobey , ignore, or resist disciplinary rules and authority figures in order to defend themselves against not just what is happening within the school, but also what may be happening in their families or communities (Gregory & Mosely 2004).

A female Muslim student made headlines after she was mistreated, yelled at, and allegedly forced up against a wall while praying between classes by a security guard. The fact that most coverage of the incident appears to justify why the student in question prayed there in the first place speaks a lot about the internalized Islamophobia that exists and how that Islamophobia affects students. While the media backed the student because it was such an evident case of Islamophobia, these same media outlets are frequently part of the problem that leads to such hateful incidents in the first place.

2.3.1 Zero Tolerance Policies

The term "zero tolerance" can be traced back to the 1980s during State and Federal efforts to battle drugs, or what became known as the "war on drugs" during the 1980s. It wasn't long before the term was applied to a variety of topics, including the environment pollution , misconduct and harassment . its widespread application to minor offenses can be attributed to the "Broken Windows" theory of crime . (Kelling & Coles, 1997)

This hypothesis compares the spread of crime to a few broken windows in a building that go unrepaired, attracting homeless people who break more windows and eventually become invaders. The invaders started fires within the building, causing additional damage or perhaps burning the entire

structure. According to the broken windows ideology , communities should crack down on petty violations and clean up neighborhoods to block big crimes. As a result, small offense violators must be punished.

By the early 1990s, school administrations started to use the "Broken Windows" strategy, or zero tolerance, for minor violations at school, suspending students for up to ten days. Fighting, disruption in school, and smoking were the most common offenses. School systems often see zero tolerance rules as a realistic approach to school punishment in order to maintain safety in classrooms. However, many specialists in different fields such as mental health, social services, and the courts have started to call these rules useless , resulting in students bringing their environmental features to school, which resulted in bad behaviors. (Barber & Olsen, 1997)

Although there has been less data collected on the impact of zero tolerance on students with diagnosable mental health disorders, a report by the American Psychological Association Zero Tolerance Task Force stated that "students with disabilities, particularly those with emotional and behavioral disorders, appear to be suspended and expelled at rates that are significantly higher than the general population." (Skiba et al., 2006).

2.4 Economic Disparities

Economic discrimination has been recognized as a cause of income inequality within families. Discrimination in the labor market has been a particular concern because labor earnings are by far the most important source of income that people can obtain from their own resources. Overall, 61% of Americans say there is too much economic inequality in the country today, but views differ by political party and household income level. Among Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP, 41% say there is too much inequality in the U.S., compared with 78% of Democrats and Democratic leaners (Pew Research Center survey conducted in September 2019).

2.5 Criminal Justice Disparities

Americans of all races, ethnicities, ages, socioeconomic classes, and genders have been victims of police violence. Gun violence is a continuing public concern in the United States that affects everyone's health and well-being. The number of gun deaths in 2020 will be the highest ever reported. According to data issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gun violence has killed over 45,000 individuals in the United States. Gun homicides increased substantially across the country, rising 35% in a single year. In 2020, over 5,000 more people were killed by guns than in 2019. Suicides by firearms remained at historically high levels. Guns were the greatest cause of deaths among children and adolescents in 2020, causing more death than COVID-19, automobile accidents, or cancer.

The assassination of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020 ignited the largest racial justice protests in the United States since the Civil Rights Movement. However, the movement had an impact well beyond the limits of this country, inspiring a global concern with racism. Protests exploded around the country in the weeks following Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, as millions of people watched the brutal video footage of his murder by a white police officer .

2.7 The Media Negative Influence

The media in the United States has had a complex and often problematic history when it comes to its portrayal of minorities. Negative representations of minorities in the media have been a recurring issue and can extend harmful stereotypes and biases.

2.7.1 Stereotyping

Media outlets have frequently relied on stereotypes to portray minority groups. For example, African Americans have often been depicted as criminals or drug addicts, Hispanics as immigrants or gang members, and Muslims as terrorists. These stereotypes can reinforce prejudiced beliefs and contribute to discrimination .

2.6.2 Racial Profiling

The lack of accurate and diverse representation in media has an effect on how we perceive people of color to be and how we interact with them as a whole. The massive amounts of negative news spread by the media about one

race (particularly black people), have divided our society into a predatory versus victim society. Racial profiling is commonly known as an act of discrimination based upon one's appearance (specifically race or ethnicity), suspecting them to have committed an offense (Lever, 2017).

The act of racial profiling has been imbedded into the fabric of American culture since its inception. There has been a false common need amongst white people to know why people of color are living in certain spaces, shopping in certain places, and simply possessing their autonomy. While under the impression that Black people are all common criminals, white people resort to racial profiling that can lead to serious consequences for the innocent . The modern criminal justice system, established during the Jim Crow era, helped preserve racial order that kept Blacks in their place (Balko, 2018).

2.6.3 Bias

There are many different types of media bias examples, depending on the viewpoint being taken and the chosen subject. However, media bias examples all include some sort of manipulation in presenting a topic. The type of biased news examples also varies depending on the way the information is distributed — via the television compared to a mobile site. Media bias occurs through the selection and omission of certain key aspects of a news story. As an example, Even before 9/11, critics have expressed that the public's picture of Arabs as terrorists had grown to dominate the popular mind. There is a long history of "Orientalism," which portrays Arabs and Muslims as strange, uncivilized, and dangerous. Actually, the majority of Arabs in the United States are not Muslims, and the majority of Muslims are not Arab. Terrorists are commonly identified with the racialized group defined as "Muslim," which encompasses both Muslims and persons who appear Arab or Middle Eastern.. Islam is thought to be "innately violent, alien, and inassimilable." This is not because

Muslims are always to blame for terrorist strikes in the United States (Corbin, 2017)

First, the depiction of Muslims on television and film is surprisingly limited.¹³ One analysis of over 900 Hollywood films concluded that Arab or Muslim men were usually represented as terrorists or other stock villains . Tupac Shakur , a rap icon and one of the most influential figures in the 90s , he said that a big movie production company offered him 1 million dollars to play a role of a Muslim gangster , though Tupac was not Muslim he felt uncomfortable to take the role because he believed the role was "Unrealistic" and would be "Offensive" to others especially Muslims .

2.7 Conclusion

This chapter has tackled the different types of racial disparities in different fields like education , economy and justice . These disparities stem from a long history of racism and injustice . Moreover , this chapter explains the negative influence of the media role and how it shifted from informing people to sitting certain agendas and framing minorities with bias reporting . The bias reporting by the media is considered as a dangerous disease in the United States that must be eliminated because it affected many fields such as economy , justice and most importantly education . In order take a step toward reducing discrimination in schools , Teachers should be aware of the effective strategies on how to create a good education environment that rejects pre judgment and discrimination and embraces cultural diversity in schools .

Chapter Three:
Cultural Diversity in
Schools

3.1 Introduction

The objective of this chapter is to show that multicultural schools represent a very rich and beneficial environment for students . It also explains how the cultural backgrounds of students can shape their views and behaviors in the classroom . Moreover , this chapter tackles the differences in cultural backgrounds and how they can create conflicts and negative stereotypes between students .It also explains how cultural awareness can be very helpful inside the educational environment for teachers and students .

3.2 .1 Cultural Diversity in Schools

The emergence of multicultural education in the United States is the product of a long complex task that took place in the earliest years of the American history . Diversity influences student academic achievement. It is determined by the instructor's ability to monitor, teach, engage, and control them in the classroom. Diversity allows students to discover multiple views at the same time and explore the benefits and drawbacks of each view . The learning ability of the student and the teaching method are strongly related, as a result , the teachers' abilities to maintain control in a variety of circumstances are major key . (Maureen, 2003)

Students cultural backgrounds shape their perspectives and experiences both inside and outside of the classroom . Creating a multicultural classroom demands facilitating classroom discussions about various cultural perspectives and allowing students to speak about their own experiences in presentations and assignments. It also mean allowing students to share their native languages and teach other students a few words or phrases. Teachers learn from their students, and students learn from their peers. No one knows everything, especially when it comes to other cultures. Teachers should practice being open-minded and willing to learn from

their students. Teachers who are open to cultural learning may find it easier to deconstruct their own biases and improve their school-based approaches to multiculturalism .

3.2.2 Cultural Differences in American Schools

In diverse settings, language differences can lead to miscommunication and misunderstandings, which can hinder effective collaboration and teamwork. Individuals who do not speak the dominant language may experience feelings of frustration and isolation as a result of linguistic obstacles.

Cultural diversity can sometimes result in conflicts stemming from differences in values, beliefs, and practices. Conflicts over cultural standards, religious practices, or social differences can cause friction and disputes within society. The Exposure to different cultures, paradoxically, can keep the negative assumptions and animosity between individuals. As a result , Some individuals may rely on stereotypes to form assumptions about people from diverse backgrounds when they lack knowledge and comprehension of other cultures.

Cultural diversity can sometimes create identity and belonging challenges for individuals who feel like they don't fully belong to any one cultural group. This can lead to a sense of cultural displacement or confusion.

3.3 Cultural Awareness in American Schools

Cultural awareness is an important component of education in American schools because it helps students and instructors understand and appreciate the different cultures that make up the United States. Recognizing and appreciating cultural variety can help to foster tolerance, minimize stereotypes and biases while providing them with an environment that celebrates diversity and prepares them for a globalized society. There are several reasons to prioritize multicultural schools . The value of multicultural education is becoming more noticeable. Most importantly, schools are a undeniable element of the multicultural society of the United States. Students and teachers benefit from the ability to express their cultural values in a safe setting. They also benefit from learning about other cultures without alienating or bullying their peers.

Diversity in the classroom can be an advantage that helps make the school environment richer and more reflective of the real world. Multicultural schools create an inclusive environment where students from all backgrounds feel valued and accepted. This inclusivity helps reduce feelings of isolation and fosters a sense of belonging among students. : Interacting with peers from different backgrounds encourages students to learn about various cultures, traditions, and perspectives. This exposure promotes empathy, understanding, and the ability to view the world from different viewpoints.

Everyone on the planet is raised with their own set of cultural beliefs and practices. For some, those cultural practices are shared by the majority of people in their community. Exposure to diverse perspectives encourages critical thinking. Students are prompted to question their assumptions, analyze situations from various angles, and develop well-rounded opinions.

The lack of Exposure can lead to some negative Cultural assumptions and biases which maybe difficult to detect in these situations because they appear normal for some students . Multicultural schools play a crucial role in preparing students for the complexities of a diverse and interconnected world. Thus , multicultural competence is a valuable skill that every teacher should own because they have the opportunity to shape students' perspectives and attitudes towards diversity .

3.3.1 The Teacher role

The teacher can effectively educate his students about multiculturalism by employing numerous tactics that encourage awareness, respect, and admiration for cultural diversity. Primary education is the most important and important skill of socialization for the children. It is also considered the first environment for children to meet and learn from peers and classmates from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. By definition, children are given an important opportunity to be influenced by the richness of the diverse experiences of their peers. This creates a place where culture and education meet and overlap . A place where they can interact and influence each other in meaningful ways. This interaction and influence can lead directly or indirectly to shaping the identity of the children. Moreover, this kind of personal knowledge related to different situations is also formed as we mature and grow(Drexel University School of Education 2014).

The goal of diversity classrooms is to create inclusive educational environments that celebrate and value the diverse backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and identities of students. These classrooms aim to foster an atmosphere where all students feel respected, represented, and able to learn effectively.. Children in different socioeconomic situations are assumed to

have different levels of exposure and experience of diversity when interacting with individuals who may share cultural similarities. . Previous research shows that multicultural education is not applied to the same extent in all academic settings, especially in schools located in regions with different socio-economic levels. Students are therefore at a disadvantage in some educational settings. Lack of exposure to multiculturalism may make it more difficult for students to accept people from other ethnic backgrounds. This restriction on intellectual growth also affects students in a very negative way. (Bennett, Gunn, Gayle-Evans, Barrera IV, & Leung, 2018)

3.3.2 The Students role

In a diverse and multicultural world, classrooms often reflect the mosaic of society, with students from various ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. Minority students, in particular, play a significant role in shaping the dynamics of the classroom environment. Their presence brings unique perspectives, experiences, and challenges that can influence not only their own educational journeys but also those of their peers .

One of the most important roles of students is the promotion of cultural awareness and understanding. By sharing their cultural traditions, values, and experiences, minority students can broaden the horizons of their classmates. This exposure fosters empathy, tolerance, and respect for diversity, essential qualities in an increasingly interconnected world. As students learn about the backgrounds and histories of their minority peers, stereotypes are challenged, and ignorance is replaced with knowledge.

Minority students often become cultural ambassadors within the classroom, sharing their traditions, celebrations, and languages with their peers. This cultural exchange enriches the educational experience by offering a more comprehensive view of the world. Students have the opportunity to learn about and appreciate different cultures, leading to a more globally aware and interconnected society. This exchange encourages students to consider a broader range of solutions. In this way, minority students contribute to the intellectual growth of the entire class.

In my own experience, I had the chance to be classmates with an African student named Maimouna, a bright and ambitious student, eager to learn and contribute to the classroom. However, sometimes she found herself in situations where she was singled out and targeted due to factors beyond her control, such as her race, skin color, and her broken French accent. Over time, Maimouna became more open, she found comfort within our classroom, we all loved and admired her, both students and teachers. As a result, she developed the strength to face discrimination and embrace her race and culture. The challenges she faced became opportunities for personal growth and development.

3.4 Suggestions about Supporting cultural diversity

3.4.1 Educate yourself and learn acceptance

It is common to think, "I'm a good person, I'm not a racist ...this has nothing to do with me," or to feel overwhelmed and unsure of the actions you must take especially while facing some complicated situations. However, the first step is educating yourself about other cultures, religions and traditions, you should realize that you are a member of a multicultural society in which many races with different cultural backgrounds and traditions are living and

must be respected equally.

3.4.2 Be more approachable and supportive

Some students often suffer in silence from discrimination and racism, it can be inside or outside the classroom or maybe both. They often believe that confessing or asking for help won't change anything and may even make things worse for them. One way to make the students more receptive to open up about their struggles is to be more approachable. You can do this in various ways: take things more seriously. There are also many articles, books, documentaries, films, and podcasts about racism, prejudice, and privilege. Pay attention to what other individuals have to say, be prepared to feel uncomfortable sometimes while discussing certain topics. You may feel intense emotions while you reflect on how issues of racial injustice relate to your own experiences.

3.4.3 Teach Cultural Awareness

Before teaching cultural awareness, it's essential to be aware of your own cultural biases, beliefs, and perspectives. Reflect on your own cultural identity and experiences, try to change the negative views and perception you have about your culture because change starts within yourself. Try to help learners understand the importance of cultural diversity in a globalized world. Discuss how it enriches societies and fosters creativity and development. Provide opportunities for learners to engage with diverse cultures. This can include reading books written by authors from different backgrounds, watching documentaries, movies or inviting guest speakers from various cultures to share their experiences.

3.5 Conclusion

This chapter aims to explain that cultural diversity can be both positive and negative in schools . However , it's very important to understand that the teacher and the students have important roles in multicultural schools . The negative feedback about cultural diversity in schools is often the result of how the diversity is managed and not how it's perceived . In this chapter we can see that cultural diversity in schools can be a major factor for improving students social skills and behavior with their peers in the classroom . This diversity will create a productive environment filled with positive energy that can make the educational experience more enjoyable for the students.

General Conclusion

The dilemma of racial disparities in the United States is a complex subject that has created a wide confusion about the country's history . This dilemma can be traced to centuries ago , when the United States became officially a multicultural nation after many waves of immigration . This issue has caused a series of conflicts and a huge split of opinions between supporters and haters of cultural diversity . Some groups have suggested that the different ethnic groups who emigrated to the United States have affected the country in a negative way which has caused a disorder in the economic and the educational systems . However , other groups have rejected these suggestions by mentioning that the United States wouldn't be considered one of the most developed countries in the world if there wasn't a diversity in culture .

This research paper has attempted to explore the subject of racial diversity while also trying to highlight the racial disparities in American society . Through history , several groups of all races immigrated to the United States ; they escaped from their poor and injustice countries to the land of freedom and opportunities. Thus , in the first chapter , the research has tackled the meaning of ethnicity and diversity while focusing on the different ideas that are connected to the problem of diversity in The United States. It also tackled the different ethnic groups such as Native Americans , Africans and Arabs with their cultures and religions . The second chapter talked about the discrimination against the minorities and the social gaps that they suffer from . It also explained how the media have played a big role in spreading negative stereotypes through bias reporting . The third chapter talked about cultural diversity in the American schools and also highlighted the cultural differences in the classroom and the importance of cultural awareness in the educational environment . It also

explained the important role of the teacher and the student inside the classroom and how learning about other cultures can eliminate the negative perspectives of other cultures . It also suggested some recommendations that can be helpful in order to reinforce the cultural diversity within society .

The United States has attracted millions of immigrants from all over the globe. They found the freedom and the economic stability that they were dreaming about . Over the years , the U.S has become the worlds biggest country of cultural diversity , however , it has also evolved into the biggest nation of controversy and discrimination for it's interior and also inferior policies that have affected many groups in very negative ways . the " Melting Pot " can be the perfect term to describe the United States and the American society as a whole .

In the end, cultural diversity and racial disparities are considered essential features of the U.S. that existed before and will continue to exist in the future. Some believe that diversity is a blessing, other believe it is a curse that needs to be removed from society. It's important to understand that discrimination will still exist as long as the human continues to exist and some people will still fight against cultural diversity because they perceive it as a threat to their limited point of view and hateful ideologies that they inherited from their ancestors . However, diversity can be more helpful than harmful if it is managed effectively and properly in the right environment.

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