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Profoundly Multicultural Questions

Chapters 2 and 3

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 This article was about multicultural questions. Multicultural questions examine equity, access, and fair play in the school systems. This article suggests that the approach taken to teach multicultural students is ineffective and does not prepare them with life skills. Nieto strongly believes that teachers of all backgrounds should learn to teach diverse students. She believes multicultural education allows students to learn at higher levels, but does not believe it is provided equally to all races. According to Chapter 3, race refers to a group of individuals sharing a common socially determined category often related to genetic attributes, physical appearance and ancestry. (p61). Throughout the article Nieto explained her point of view of how multicultural education was implemented into the school system and its effectiveness.

 Sonia Nieto, or Nieto, is a retired professor of Language, Literature, and Culture. Nieto has a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s Degree in Spanish and Hispanic Literature. She also finished her Doctoral specializing in curriculum studies, bilingual education and multicultural education. She is a well-known teacher, speaker and writer. Among several awards, she was given the award for multicultural Educator of the year in 1997. Sonia Nieto is a well-respected woman, as she should be, in all of her accomplishments.

 Nieto holds her point of view very strongly. She believes that the approach the education systems are taking to cover multicultural education is not succeeding to its original design or expectation. She believes that the school systems are doing well to promote self-esteem of the children’s heritage but lack life skills such as, reading and math. In some cases multicultural education leaves out the children’s heritage altogether and only teaches the basics of education. Nieto believes that there are alternative methods to approaching multicultural education that would be more affective.

In Nieto’s argument she stresses, the opportunity of higher level classes, where the classes are located at in schools for diverse students, who is teaching the students, and how much the children are worth. She believes that all races are not provided with an equal opportunity to enroll in higher level classes. She believes that this will result in their lack of success in employment after high school. In response to the location of classes for diverse students, or students with needs, being placed away from other students or in the basement, shows that they deserve little attention or are of lower class. Finally in response to who is teaching our children, she proves it is illustrated by the fact that urban schools have teachers with less experience. Nieto also believes that the staff is not as diverse as it should be to the students they are teaching. For instance, teachers of color can academically promote the success rate of students of color. This proves Nieto’s point that there are children that need to be reached in our schools. Nieto believes that financing is unequal in schools. She believes that the students who need the most funding are not receiving it because they do not live in a wealthy neighborhood. Nieto believes that there is an achievement gap between students of color and white students. In all of her argument, she stresses the need to provide equal opportunity for all students.

 I do agree that there is a need to be aware of multicultural education in our school systems. There are children of all races, ethnicity, and culture that teachers will interact with. According to Chapter 3, the 2000 Census added a new demographic by asking citizens to report if they were multiracial… nearly 7 million responded yes… Most were under 18. (p.61). Nieto argues that the students of color are given less opportunity, and are not held equal to white students. I disagree. According to Chapter 3, between 1980 and 2008 the white population declines from 80 percent to 66 percent. (p.62). While Whites do still hold the majority it is declining rapidly. The Census also concludes that the rate of multiracial citizens are also climbing rapidly. I don’t believe that our education systems separate students of color to white students in their opportunity to succeed in school.

 Not only do I disagree because of the numbers but, children do not see color. I do not believe the color of a student’s teacher directly plays a role in the success rate of the student in that class. The teacher will influence the student based on their teaching style and methods and relating it to the child’s individual needs and learning style. According to Chapter 3, the values, language patterns, and behaviors learned at home put students at an academic disadvantage. (p.67). The child’s home life plays a huge part in the success rate at school.

 I do respect the opinion and research that Nieto has accomplished. She proves to be of great success, and I can only aim to be as great as she is in achievement. I do not doubt that she has studied multicultural education in its immensity. I only choose to disagree that schools are ineffective in reaching all of its children in all of their diversity.