

Education Equity: Disparities of Education Between Elite-Class and Working-Class Students in the United States

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Abstract: This paper is based on the social background in which income inequality and racial bias highly strongly influence the quality of education and the accessibility of resources in the US, it mainly studied the inequal education phenomenon that happened in the United States including factors that cause the inequity and several solutions. It is meant to contribute value to the realization of imparity, raise the awareness of its importance and also provide more ideas and options to address this education issue. The way of research is through analyzing different papers and essays and combining them with personal perspectives, mainly focusing on children who have been affected by the unequal environment. In addition, many data are acquired through analyzing and comparing different research. This paper finds that education equity is still challenging for society and government to achieve especially when the accessibility for resources is different for each student. Structural inequalities, parental involvement, and systemic biases are still waiting to be addressed, reminding a cycle of inequality. To solve these issues, effective solutions are needed, including reforms in school funding, increased investment in education infrastructure, support for parental value involvement, and efforts to address inflict biases.

Keywords: Education Equity, Elite-Class, Working-Class.

1. Introduction

Education serves as an important facility for individual advancement and social mobility. Elite class refers to those who have vastly disproportionate access to or controlment over percentage of social resource. Such resources have transferable value—access or control in one arena of social life can result in advantages. Working class refers to a socioeconomic term used to describe persons in a social class marked by jobs that provide low pay, require limited skill, or physical labor. Typically, working-class jobs have reduced education requirements. Still, significant disparities in receiving educational resources exist as a phenomenon between elite-class and working-class students. These differences are evident in several areas, including access to quality education, availability of resources, and total academic outcomes. In order the create a greater education equity environment it is necessary to understand these differences. It helps explore the educational disparities between elite-class and working-class students, examines the underlying phenomenon contributing to these differences, and points out potential solutions to address these issues. The research way is through analyzing multiple research and essays and combining them with personal understanding, it was meant to reveal some unequal existence in education and help with the solution to education equity.

2. Inequality that Elite-Class Students and Working-Class Students Face in Education

2.1. The Accessibility to Educational Resources

One of the major differences is the accessibility to educational resources as the result of differences in family economy and background. Research points out that students from the elite class are more likely to attend well-funded schools that offer superior education compared to their working-class peers [1]. US public school is usually well affected by taxes and funds, which result in differences in education quality between wealthy areas and poor areas [1]. Schools located in wealthy areas usually gain more resources and advanced facilities that benefit their students. In contrast, schools located in less wealthy areas often face the problem of limited budget and experienced educators, leading to the overcrowded of each class, and outdated infrastructure that is unable to provide average level education for students [2]. The lack of resources and infrastructure may have a negative impact on students' learning experiences and their ability to achieve academic success.

2.2. Additional Educational Support

Furthermore, the disparity extends to additional educational support. Elite-class students have greater accessibility to private tutoring and different kinds of material as the result of their wealthy family, which enriches their programs, resume, and activities, and enhances their educational experience and academic performance [3]. However, it is barely possible for working-class families to afford such service cause it is already challenging for them to make ends meet, which is a disadvantage for their academic performance compared with elite-class students and hinders their educational opportunities[4]. The unequal distribution of education resources made up the gap between elite-class students and working-class students because it is impossible for the latter to make up the gap within such a disparity in the family economy.

2.3. Difference in the Vibe of Education

In addition, the advantages of educational resources and family economics allow elite-class students to have a better atmosphere of learning. A lot of talented and struggling working-class students are easily affected by their peers because some of them have already given up on harsh study and wasted their time in school. One of their common issues is that many optimistic students are influenced by peers, parents, or social values and lose passion for their future, they start to spend time on drugs, and games instead of studying. Cause the vibe in the entire school or community to be terrible and lack of spirit.

3. Reasons that Cause the Inequality in Education

3.1. The Structural Inequality in Education Funding

One of the major factors is the structural inequality in education funding. The reliance on local property taxes for school funding creates a cycle where rich neighborhoods receive more financial support for their schools than the poor do, while less wealthy areas receive less, deteriorating the circumstance of educational disparities [1]. This funding model reinforces a system where the quality of education is heavily influenced by the social standard of the community. The difference in social classes is affecting the quality of education which wealthy students own inborn advantage compared to working class students. Therefore, it is also a factor that naturally slows the elimination of inequality between different standards.

3.2. The Residential Segregation

The race segregation in the US usually relates to education inequality due to the assembling of disadvantaged populations such as African Americans. They are gathered together in a same community where education equality is less superior compared to other normal communities, which means the average educated level for citizens and their generations in this community will be blighted by this segregation and lead less educated people to be more common in certain groups.

4. Possible Solutions for Enhancing Educational Equity

To mitigate and address the issue of educational disparities between elite-class and working-class students, several solutions can be implemented.

First of all, restructuring the school funding system is essential for promoting greater equity. By creating a system in local funding is no longer the core and less reliable for local schools, it can be effective for gaining equal resources and infrastructure for every school. States can implement funding formulas that take into account students' needs and provide additional support to schools in disadvantaged areas[1]. This policy allows schools in less wealthy areas to catch up and provide high-quality education as well as wealthy areas.

Increasing the investment in education is also important in order to eliminate the standard inequality. This includes providing budgets for infrastructure improvements, hiring qualified teachers, and providing educational resources for disadvantaged schools and students. Supporting early childhood education programs can also help disadvantaged children by giving them a reinforced foundation for learning [2]. Additionally, targeted programs that provide additional support to schools in low-income areas can help address disparities in educational resources as well, it can effectively solve the issue of basic teaching equipment and budget problems.

Furthermore, supporting parental value involvement is also another important strategy for reducing educational inequities. Students' value and learning inspiration are strongly affected by their parents and family, in order to transform parents' idea of learning schools and communities can work together to create more inclusive environments and vibes that engage all parents, no matter what their family situation is like. Providing resources and training for working-class parents empowers them to support their children's education more actively [5]. Policies that encourage parents to engage in working-class students' study can be effective in mitigating the gap in the academic outcome. The essential point is to change the value of the student's parent, to let them engage in the student's learning instead of spending all their time working. However, it is challenging as a result of the family's financial situation, they may need to spend abundant time on their job to raise their family. The economic circumstance is always the biggest deal for them to solve, the more time they engage with their children the less money they can make.

Finally, addressing systemic biases within the education system is crucial for ensuring equity. This includes implementing training programs and self-reflection for educators to recognize and address implicit or unconscious biases toward different genders or races, it is very challenging because bias is always obstinate and hard to eliminate through the self-fulfilling prophecy. Therefore, it is necessary to create a system as a tool for students and other educators to assess other educators, which ensures their fairness and inclusiveness[3]. By addressing these biases, we can work towards creating a more equitable education system that offers equal opportunities for all students.

5. Conclusion

This paper mainly discusses the major factors that cause inequality in education and certain basic solutions to solve it. Nowadays education equity is still challenging for society and government to achieve especially when the accessibility for resources is different for each student. Structural

inequalities, parental involvement, and systemic biases are still waiting to be addressed, reminding a cycle of inequality. To solve these issues, effective solutions are needed, including reforms in school funding, increased investment in education infrastructure, support for parental value involvement, and efforts to address inflict biases. By implementing these policies, it is possible to provide an environment in which every student can succeed without the hindrance of resources and biases. Of course, many improvements can be achieved in this essay such as citing graphs or doing some study about education equity. In the future, keeping going in the study of solutions to education inequality will be the main aspect.

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