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Diversity = Education ?

Diversity as defined by Webster means the following, quality, state, fact or instance of *being diverse; difference or* variety. The Britannica World Language dictionary adds this to the meaning of diversity, differing essentially. It would then appear that the essence of Diversity is having a variety or mixture of things, persons and places.

The word Education according to Webster's College Dictionary means; the process of training and developing the knowledge, skill, mind, character, etc. by formal schooling; teaching; training. Formal schooling at an institution of learning, ... systematic study of the methods and theories of teaching and learning. The most telling word regarding defining education, is the word knowledge , knowledge the acquaintance with fact; range of information, *awareness,* or understanding, what one knows. One of the synonyms for Knowledge is , information. Information, an informing of being informed; esp., a telling or being told of something. Acquiring news, being informed, a telling or being told of something

When it comes to diversity, the green light for creating mixture of humanity relative to educating the masses, came to pass with the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education-- to implement this grant solution for educating African Americans especially. America experienced the traumatic mixing process called force busing. All over America communities were torn apart, children were put on buses and taken to schools were there would be diversity. Black children and white children for the first time were now sitting side by side in schools all over America. The great solution had begun.

Fast forward forty plus years later, and the graduation rate for some Black students is worse for some than it was before busing. Numerous programs, and studies have come *and gone* and the plight of American schools is dismissal. In many studies the standard of Education excellence has declined to *the* extent that our grammar schools, and high schools student performance is the worse or near that of all the schools in the industrialized nations of the world. The colleges of our nation are also experiencing a decline *in excellence,* yet the fight for mixture goes on like it has solved the problem of education here in America.

To continue this frenzy for diversity the Brown vs. Board of Education failures were allegedly corrected with the great panacea, Affirmative Action. And now after replacing the for white only signs, with for Minority *only signs* the state of the good ship education in America, is frightening for the whole nation and the minority community in particular. The drop out rate for minority schools and the drop out rate for minority college students, especially those who were dump into schools they were not prepared for is horrible. Anger and frustration is evidences both in the Black and white community. Yet we seem determined to stick with the failed effort of diversity simply for the sake of diversity.

One of the most ignored realities regarding education and race in America, is that Black people graduated from colleges all over America, even school such as Harvard, Yale, and other prestigious school before Affirmative Action. I readily admit their numbers were not great but there was African Americans who were graduating from these schools. And I often wonder why we haven't modeled these folks as models to be emulated. Develop programs that will show African American students and other minorities how to prepare for, and obtain the kind of ***information*** (education) that will allow them to past the *same test that* their white counter parts pass for acceptance to their college of choice.

After all the talk about environment, poverty, discrimination and other real and imagined obstacles to an education, there is the story on numerous people who have overcome the same obstacles and went on to obtain a college education.

The solution to the education gap is real and should be addressed, but after forty years shouldn't we acknowledge the *need for a different* approach to the problem?

The challenge is how can we prepare all children for higher education, *what can* we do at the grammar school and ***high school*** level that will prepare our minority students for *college.*

A number of stories are now emerging that show that when children are challenged and have parents and school systems working together, the results are encouraging.

Some say that diversity is a complicated process and you have to understand that the inequities of life demand *that* we not over simplify the problem.

When are we going to acknowledge that most children have a good mind and if properly cultivated they are capable of being educated. And prepared for college.

One of the *great* tragedies of Affirmative Action is that some will assumed that all minorities are products of Affirmative Action. In other words they are not as intelligent as others this is sad. But this is one of the saddest by products of Affirmative Actions. Because whether we want *to* admit it or not, peer respect is important.

If anything the great experiment with Diversity has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt, Diversity does not equal Education.

Submitted by,

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