The Miseducation of Color: Examining Racialized Experiences of Students of Color at Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs)

Authors : Sonia Darshini Singh

Abstract : Recently, the Supreme Court and the federal government made affirmative action illegal. Colleges and universities are no longer allowed to consider race in admissions policies. Colleges and universities had the opportunity to increase racial diversity through affirmative action. Instead, a recent educational outlook has emerged where this race-conscious affirmative action is banned, and elitism is prioritized, thus altering the collegiate experience of students of color. While the statute restricts the consideration of race as a facet in admissions, this prohibition should not allow for the gravity of race and structural racism in the lives of marginalized students to diminish, nor should it limit further efforts to establish equitable access and outcomes for students of color. Not much is known about the racialized experiences of students of color who attend predominantly white institutions in the post-affirmative action era. The purpose of this ethnographic study will be to understand the racialized experiences of students who attend predominantly white institutions (PWI) in New York. This also aims to examine the potential data triangulation between what students wrote about to get into college and their actual racialized experience.

Keywords : higher education, predominantly white institution, equity, accessibility, affirmative action

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