Educational Inequalities: The Teacher Perspective

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INTRODUCTION

Educational inequalities affect students across the 50 states and Washington, D.C. Opportunity gaps have long standing effects on students. These effects negatively impact generations of students. Teachers are uniquely situated to counteract opportunity gaps, but they lack the training and self awareness to do so. With proper training, and educational standards, we change the tide for generations to come.

IMPORTANT TERMS

**Opportunity Gaps**: refers to how systems of power show up and disadvantage students on the basis of socioeconomic status (SES), race, ethnicity, etc. within school systems.

**Achievement Gaps**: outdated term, as it puts blame on students rather than systemic oppression.

**Sociopolitical Development (SPD)**: process that occurs as people gain more knowledge, skills, and emotional capacities to enact change against systems of oppression.

QUICK HITS

Children who fall behind in school may never catch back up.

(Heckman, 2006)

For solutions to have long-term results, they need to be paired with long-term support.

(Heckman, 2006)

Only 5 out of 50 states and Washington, D.C. have education standards with a social reconstructionist approach. All other standards were either assimilation focused or vague.

(Akiba et. al., 2010).

Participants in a yearlong SPD graduate course were better able to understand the oppression their students face on a daily basis.

(Zion, Allen, & Jean, 2015).

Centralizing school selection and classroom assignment lowers levels of across and within school sorting.

(Luschei and Jeong, 2018).