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**Affirmative Action**

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### **Affirmative Action**

Affirmative action is a set of policies and practices that a government or an organization undertakes to increase the representation of minority groups. The article highlights race and the struggle for education in American schools, especially among Blacks, Latinos, and other colored races. The affirmative action taken is relevant as it addresses the current problem in the education system whereby the Whites have more privileges than the colored groups. The Mississippi constitution made it harder for every child to get a proper education. It divided educable children into those of Caucasian race on one side and brown, yellow together with black races together.

Over a long time, parents of color have been left out in the government's considerations to provide a good education for their children. The discrimination and segregation in American schools have proved it harder for black parents to educate their children better as the government has locked them out for an extended period. Although slavery got abolished in the early 1780s, racism persisted, and Black people were limited to their preference for their choices (Chapter two). In education, the government made it mandatory for colored communities to have their schools as they could not mix with the White children (Casas, 2006). Black parents made numerous petitions to bring equality to the school system, but it was not considered. Affirmative action eventually enabled Black children to be admitted into Boston's public schools with few restrictions.

Affirmative action remains relevant as there is a need to have more students of color on college campuses as they remain highly underrepresented. Students of color, especially Latin and Black, remain underrepresented in significant colleges and universities. Lloyd Gaines's case

gained popularity as he overcame the challenges that almost killed his dream of pursuing law. He was denied admission into the University of Missouri on the basis that he was black. Lloyd filed a case against the university, and he managed to win. The Supreme Court ruled that he was to be granted permission into the law school as the absence of a Black university was unavailable.

McLaurin, a student at the University of Oklahoma, was segregated by other students because he had a unique chair in the library and the cafeteria (Riley, 1886). He could not interact with the White students. Through affirmative action, the Supreme Court ruled against the state university. It deemed the act to be brutal based on the findings that a student cannot fully gain the benefits of education from an isolated environment.

Affirmative action is relevant as it prioritizes diversity benefiting students of all races. It creates the right environment for all students of all backgrounds to experience education in the same way. Linda Brown was a Black student who was forced to go to a Black school far away located across a dangerous railroad, although there was a White school near her home (Chapter two). This led her parents file a case against this discrimination, and it came to be known popularly as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. The nearby school's reason for not accepting Linda admits that she was a Black student. Through affirmative action, the Supreme Court wrestled with the fourteen amendments, having noticed Justice Brown's ignorance and his colleagues in the majority (Chapter two). Eventually, in 1954, court made it clear racial public schools segregation violated Fourteen Amendment where it should be discouraged in the school system (Riley, 1886). This opened up to the school system's future diversity by taking all students' admission regardless of their background or racial profile. Affirmative action has driven schools' ability to consider their choices in student selection and for policymakers to create better policies.

Affirmative action helps promote social mobility, enabling students from low-income areas and students of color to overcome the education system's barriers and gain access to higher education. Affirmative action helps to level the playing field by giving all students an equal opportunity regardless of wealth, privilege, or background. This enables these students to gain chances of emerging out of poverty and making something of their life. Public schools in low-income areas received less funding from the state as wealthy neighborhoods schools received more funding (Riley, 1886). A case was presented in court that would enable all public schools to receive equal funding. Initially, the court rejected the strategy of ensuring equal funding in public schools to be passed. However, the Latinos who were the affected community managed a breakthrough in the San Antonio v. Rodriguez case, whereby the court ruled the Latino student (Chapter two). This brought to light the levels of discrimination in colored schools that received fewer funds. The court was able to make it clear as in Crawford v. Board Of Education of Los Angeles, it stated that the state had the power to decide how best to use its funds and racial segregation was not a mandate in its considerations.

Conclusively, the education system has for decades shut its doors of elite colleges, universities, and schools to students of color. This has brought a massive underrepresentation of colored students who have faced numerous difficulties in realizing academic excellence. Affirmative action has enabled positive influence in the education system as students of color have joined previously only white schools. It has enabled diversity among all races and actualized colleges to take more significant equity in admissions. Policymakers and legislators need to work in abolishing race-conscious admissions and promote equity in the education system.

## References

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