

In 2010, the US Census reported that the multiracial population increased by 32% and
ny other single race since 2000

people who identify as multi- or biracial considerably on the rise, it is imperative that we
understand how this large part of our population adjusts to the sociocultural issues that
accompany identifying as two races. Unfortunately, not much historical data had been recorded
regarding ethnic identities in multiracial individuals due to discriminative times throughout
history. During the Jim Crow era, the one drop rule classified people as black if they had one
drop of black blood,

More recently, multiracial people were more socially accepted, bu
Census that they could check more than one box for race (Fisher et al. 1689). Even so,
multiracial individuals have had to figure out on their own what racial classifications to identify
fit into the unyielding racial categories set within our society, and sadly,
many struggle with their ethnic identities as a result.

Many researchers and scholars have also noted the sociocultural issues that can occur for
biracial individuals due to the racial stigmas in our society. Researcher Marta I. Cruz-Jarzen,
noticed the same cultural struggles that I also observed

*You Are
Pqv"Gpqw i j<"Vjg"ōHcegnguu<"Nkxgu"qh"Dkgvjpke"cpf"Dktcekal Americans A Challenge for Truly
Inclusive Multicultural Education* She conducted interviews with ten biracial people and all of

that to be American means to fit within the boxes. To be interracial or interethnic and thus

impure and un

In other words, all the

fit into American mainstream culture, the same way

absolutely no biological basis. Furthermore, Cruz-Janzen

Education is the key element in implementing change in all aspects of life. Neither a person nor, in this case, a stigma can change without the knowledge that they need to or the knowledge to know how. The same principles apply when combatting racism and racial stereotypes within mainstream American culture. Multicultural studies and diversity trainings need to be more prevalent in American school curriculums, and the education system needs completely reworked to accommodate it. Sociologist Amy Stuart Wells shared my same ideologies, and in her policy brief, she explained the consequences of current education policy makers disregarding race when constructing education policies. She referred

accused them of ignoring race rather than embracing it, which consequently, caused more racial separation and inequality in schools (38). Basically, their concepts caused more harm than good and, therefore, led to a greater division among races. Wells referenced the failures of the two most recent central education reforms- the standard / accountability movement and the free-market school choice policies to prove her point and stated that both

Similarly, Lauren Parosoff, an educator in Bronx, New York, also believed reform was needed in the education system, but she thought the improvement of diversity awareness trainings to teachers would assist in solving the problem (80). Parosoff gave her professional opinion in her

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how the diversity workshops offered currently to teachers are ineffective. She suggested that along with reformed training, teachers need to explore their personal views of diversity and identity before they can effectively bring those values to their classrooms (80).

Although I agree with both and Parosoff views that the American education system needs revamped in order to increase multicultural awareness, I think an entire new

curriculum needs to be devised to accomplish it. I would propose the creation of a universal education curriculum that incorporated diversity awareness instruction to children at the primary school level.

concepts such as how to identify sexual assault, but unless completely disregard the topic of cultural awareness. Cruz-Janzen found similar results in her

children of color are never going to

(8). Arguably, people could

contend

Although, I agree

that these concepts should be taught by parents,

enough themselves and lack the knowledge base to educate their children on these topics.

Teaching multicultural education in elementary schools would be key to m s success

due to the unfortunate

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