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Structural and Cultural Forces in America's Inner City, Urban Schools

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Presentation Overview

- Introduction

- Important terms

- Structural and Cultural Forces

- Implications for Practice

Introduction

- GFSA

- School Policing

- "Dangerous" Inner-City, Urban Schools (Smith, 2011)

- Criminalization of Student Behaviors (Nolan, 2011)

Findings from Previous Research

- Student Behaviors involving insubordination and violence were increased with the presence of guards at the initial status (2010).

- No significant findings over time (Dohy & Banks, 2016).

Defining Racism, Structural and Cultural Forces

- Racism (Wilson, 2009; Gould, 1996)

- Structural Forces (Wilson, 2009)
  - Social Processes
  - Social Acts

- Cultural Forces (Wilson, 2009)
  - Cool Pose (Wilson, 2009; Anderson, 1999)
  - Code of the street (Wilson, 2009; Hall, 2009; Majors and Bilson, 1992)

Structural Forces In Inner City, Urban Schools

- Structural Forces (Wilson, 2009)
  - Middle-Class Societal Norms
  - Lack of Cultural Insight
  - Zero Tolerance (Nolan, 2011; Toldson, 2012)
  - Racially Segregated, underperforming schools and punitive measures (Nolan, 2011; Toldson, 2012)
  - Hierarchy between Police and Students (Nolan, 2011)
  - Racial Profiling and a self-fulfilling prophecy (Addington, 2009)

Cultural Forces
In Inner City, Urban Schools

- Stereotypes and repressive measures may impact cultural forces in America's Inner City, Urban Schools (Nolan, 2011).

- Student Behaviors

  – Insubordination or "Disorderly conduct"

  – Violence (Nolan, 2011)

Addressing systemic causes of racial disparities

- Overreliance on punitive responses to discipline (Nolan, 2011).

- Using Cleveland Police training as a model for school policing (Peltzer, 2015)

- Teachers

Implications for Practice

- Sociocultural Factors
  - Teacher Biases and backgrounds
  - Student Cultural and Linguistic Backgrounds
  - Societal and Institutional Factors

Implications for Practice

- Positive Perspectives on Parents and Families
- Communication of High Expectations
- Learning Within the Context of Culture
- Student-Centered Instruction
- Culturally Mediated Instruction
- Reshaping the Curriculum
- Teacher as a Facilitator

Group Discussion

- How will you use culturally responsive behavior supports in your practice?

- What does a culturally responsive classroom look like?

- What are culturally relevant teacher expectations?

- How can we prepare pre-service teachers to be more culturally responsive?

Questions?

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