

Effect and Evolution of Racial Equity in Moss Point, MS

Sonnetta B. Richardson

City Of Moss Point summer Intern

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Author Note:

This information was gathered for personal reasons due to the interest and dire curiosity of the subject. As a product and permanent resident of Moss Point, I feel obligated to fully understand the city's history and evolution of racial inequity, and to give recognition to those who helped lead the way to resilience.

Abstract

Racial equity can be defined as adding just behavior or treatment to an organization or institution that is unstable. Like many other well-known cities around the country, racial inequality has been a serious threat and ongoing issue here in the small town of Moss Point, MS. These issues go without being televised and publicly acknowledged because they happen within institutions such as schools and places of work where minorities have grown accustomed to these disadvantages without even knowing.

Keywords: Moss Point, Racial, Equity, ongoing, inequality

Institutional Racism Assimilated in Educational History

The graduating class of Moss Point in 1971 was the first class to be completely integrated. Moss Point has been incorporated as a city since 1901, and the first integrated graduation happened 70 years after the birth of the city. About sixty-five years ago, Brown Vs Board of education declared “Separate but Equal” to be unconstitutional. Complete integration within Moss Point’s school district did not happen until approximately forty-nine years ago which was sixteen years after the Plessy Vs Ferguson doctrine of “Separate but Equal” was proclaimed unconstitutional. Illegally, for sixteen years, Black African American children were denied access to resources and opportunities due to institutional racism.

Institutional Racism Emerging as Systemic Racism

Institutional racism is only the root to an even bigger issue. Information is power, and power is what minorities lack in the eyes of their oppressors. Without the access to proper resources and opportunities while in school, can lead to poor performance and high dropout rates. Therefore, creating the systemic contention that Black African Americans have fought against for centuries. Systemic racism is known as the racial unfairness upheld and sustained by society. This kind of discrimination could influence where you live, access to certain resources such as clean air, food, and water, what type of health care you receive, interaction with the criminal justice system, what kind of job you have, how much money you make etc.

Recognizing Some of Moss Point’s Early Civil Rights Activists

- Justice Roberson: (1960s-1980s) Community Leader; Devoted to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as preeminent.
- +State Stallworth: (1961) Employee of the International Paper Company in Moss Point who became president of the paperworkers’ union; member of the Civil

Rights movement; President of the NAACP; Stallworth filed lawsuits against the paper company, banks, post offices, and city halls for racial inequity.

- *Franzetta Sanders*: (1960's) Active member in Civil rights movement and of the NAACP; She was in charge of investigating public eateries and outings to observe the treatment of black customers. Also filed a law suit against Moss Point's school district to allow African American students equal opportunities.
- *Claude Ramsey*:(1959) Claude Ramsey was the second president of the International Paper Company in Moss Point. Ramsey stood for black equity and worked endlessly for Mississippi's national democratic party and labor unions.

Resolution

- Promote psychological research in hopes of alleviating social inequity
- Eliminate processes and procedures that perpetuate racial injustice in research, practice, training and education.
- Dare white people to address systemic racism

Conclusion.

Racism has many obstructive and detrimental cognitive effects on all minorities. Racism has been proven to be a leading factor in self-defeating mental states such as anxiety and depression. Each time that we (the oppressed) let depression and anxiety consume us, it makes our minds more sensitive and susceptible to those feelings. Under these conditions, we make irresponsible decisions which in fact are the link between racism and social development. Humans have never survived as individuals, only through socialization and support of other humans.

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