

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 3 Ethnic differences in achievement

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Activity: Webquest

Do schools disadvantage minority ethnic pupils?

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify factors in schools that may impact on the achievement of minority ethnic pupils.
- Identify how representative heads and teachers are of the ethnic diversity of the UK.
- Evaluate whether the ethnic make-up of the teaching profession has an impact on the achievement of minority ethnic pupils.

Internal factors can have an impact on the achievement of pupils from minority ethnic groups. Complete the activities related to each of the two articles below.

Article 1

<http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2013/mar/10/schools-teacher-minority-ethnic-inequality>

Sameena Choudry is founder of Equitable Education. Her career has been devoted to closing the achievement gap between different groups of pupils. She has worked as a classroom teacher, senior leader, Post Graduate Certificate in Education course leader and head of education services in three local authorities.

A. Make a list of the ways that, according to Sameena Choudry, her school failed to support her in achieving her goals. Which of these link to the following points:

- Labelling and teacher racism?
- Pupil responses and subcultures?
- Institutional racism?

B. In her first teaching job, how was Sameena treated? How might this be linked to her ethnicity? According to Sameena, what proportion of pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds?

Article 2

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/workforce-and-business/workforce-diversity/school-teacher-workforce/latest#:~:text=White%20British%20people%20made%20up,next%20highest%20percentages%20for%20women>

C. Use the link to find the percentages of teachers from each ethnic group. What percentage of heads are from a White British background?

D. Do heads and the teaching profession reflect the ethnic diversity of the country? Give evidence to support your answer.

E. In what ways might the ethnic make-up of teachers and heads affect the experience of minority ethnic groups in school? Give reasons for your answer.

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